

The Biblical Examiner

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

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Holding to the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith

BE YE ANGRY

“Ephesians 4:26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: 27 Neither give place to the devil.”

In Ephesians 4:17-19, Paul described what the old man, those hardened in sin, looks like. Following their own vain imagination, they *“have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.”*

But we have not so learned of Christ. Rather the new man is created in righteousness and true holiness as defined by the Word of Holiness.

Paul describes what the new man looks like when, by the grace of God, he follows the perfect law of holiness as given through Moses.

We saw that Christ, in his Sermon on the Mount, was the first one to apply Moses for his followers.

Ephesians 4:19, *“lasciviousness”*, applies the seventh commandment, *“Thou shalt not commit adultery.”* (Ex 20:14.)

Ephesians 4:25 is to be understood in the light of the ninth commandment, *“Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.”* (Ex 20:16.)

Next is Ephesians 4:26, *“Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath; Neither give place to the devil.”*, which is the fifth commandment, *“Thou shalt not kill.”* (Ex 20:13.)

Christ applied the sixth commandment in Matthew 5:21-26.

Matthew 5:21 “Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: 22 But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.”

1 John 3:15 “Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer:

and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.”

The Lord’s message here on the Mount shows us one of man’s basic problems. Because man is a sinner, he desires to take God’s word in its least possible meaning.

Man does not want to closely examine God’s word for its implications.

Matthew 5:21, 22, when the law says, *“Thou shalt not kill,”* sinful man desires to restrict the

definition of kill as much as possible, and ignore the positive, *“Thou shalt preserve life”*, e.g., publicly stand against abortion.

Psalms 119:9 I have seen an end of all perfection: [but] thy commandment [is] exceeding broad.”

As Christ taught his disciples, He was surrounded by the religious leaders and teachers of His day. These men believed that Moses did not record everything given to him by the Lord. They also held that the Lord spoke to the seventy elders who went with Moses part way up the mount. Then those elders passed on by word of mouth what the Lord said to them.

Christ now publicly exposes the thoughts and intent of the heart of these hypocrites.

Our natural tendency is to separate **thoughts** from **action**. Though men refuse to see any connection between thoughts and actions, Christ made the connection very clear when he revealed how the Heavenly Father sees the thought life. Christ made it clear that the Christian warfare takes place in the mind.

2 Corinthians 10:1-6 (“5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedi-

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ence of Christ;“)

The Christian warfare is over who will control the mind, will, emotions and the imagination. Will we be controlled by “*every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God*”, or will we be controlled by perverse imaginations? The issue is basically “self-control” vs “no-control”. There is no “mental illness” defense before God.

Ephesians 4:23 “And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; 24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”

James 1:8 “A double minded man [is] unstable in all his ways.”

For the past 800 years, people have been taught that life is divided into two areas: spiritual and secular. Accordingly, everyday activity falls into the secular area, where man can operate with a clear conscience because he believes the spiritual/secular lie. The idea of religious and secular is appealing and is ingrained from the youth up. The result is the double minded person, “Bipolar”.

SACRED VS SECULAR

Thomas Aquinas, (AD 1225-1274), was an Italian Dominican friar in the Church of Rome, and is one of the most revered theologians of the past. Both Rome and Protestants today regard him highly. Aquinas sought to unite the pagan Greek philosophy of Aristotle with the principles of Christianity.

His answer to the conflict he saw between Greek wisdom, Aristotle, and God’s wisdom was to propose two systems of knowledge. He developed the theory that fallen man could build a reliable system of knowledge upon “human reason”. He laid the foundation of what we have today in the anti-Christian idea of “sacred” and “secular”.

Colossians 2:8 “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.”

The wisdom of the world that God promised to destroy in 1 Corinthians 1:19-23 was the prevailing **secular Greek** wisdom of the day as put forth by **Socrates** (469-399 BC), **Plato** (424-347 BC, who laid the foundation of Western philosophy and political systems) and **Aristotle** (384-322 BC). (All of whom were sodomites.)

• **PLATO’S THEORY:**

Productive (Workers) — the labourers, carpenters,

plumbers, masons, merchants, farmers, ranchers, etc. These correspond to the “appetite” part of the soul.

Protective (Warriors or Guardians) — those who are adventurous, strong and brave; in the armed forces. These correspond to the “spirit” part of the soul.

Governing (Rulers or Philosopher Kings) — those who are intelligent, rational, self-controlled, in love with wisdom, well suited to make decisions for the community. These correspond to the “reason” part of the soul and are very few in number.

In other words, the average person cannot know what is best for himself nor for society, so he must have a leader who is better suited to make decisions for the community.

Vox populi, vox Dei. “The voice of the people [is] the voice of God”. “The people, *i.e.*, god, spoke in the election, which makes me the new god. So now I must decide for the people what is right and what is wrong.”

Aquinas sought to unite the wisdom of the Greek world with the wisdom of God, an impossible task unless one denies that Truth is found only in Christ.

Probably the most important of the church fathers was Augustine (AD 354-430). He refused to compromise, and held that all truth and wisdom is found only in the Word of God. “Many Protestants, especially Calvinists, consider him to be one of the theological fathers of the Protestant Reformation due to his teachings on salvation and divine grace.” (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augustine_of_Hippo)

The Greek wisdom that Paul fought so hard against now controls both the religious and secular world.

(See Apostate, The Men who Destroyed the Christian West. Swanson. See book offer in this mailing.)

We are surrounded with the reminder of the need to “*be renewed in the spirit of your mind*”. (Eph 4:23.)

“I feel spiritual, and I do spiritual things, so I am fine.” But their supposed spirituality does not translate into Biblical, Christian actions, and overlook the broad applications of God’s law.

Christ condemns the division of the individual into two parts, and James condemns that man as a “*double minded man*”. Today this heresy takes the form of “We can love the sinner while hating his sin.” We have heard this lie so many times that it is now accepted as Biblical, even by Christians who should know better. (Our problem is our definition of love and hate, which we will not go into at this time.)

When our Lord said, “*ye have heard*”, he was taking a direct shot at the traditional teaching of the law, which reduced it to merely outward formal action. Throughout

the New Testament, the Greek wisdom of that day, as well as our day, was and is soundly condemned.

Exodus 20:13 “*Thou shalt not kill*”, was against murder. The Jews had reduced this law to no more than a prohibition against intentionally killing someone, and then only if the murdered one was a fellow Jew. As long as they did not kill another Jew, according to their teaching, they were fine upstanding law-keepers, Matthew 5:20.

The righteousness of the religious leaders was purely outward formalism, for their hearts were full of pride, envy and every evil imagination. Their heart’s attitude was an abomination to the Lord. Christ called them whited sepulchers full of dead men’s bones.

Matthew 5:22, *But I say...* (Eph 4:26, 27) Speaking with His total authority as the King of the Kingdom of God and the only true Lawmaker and Lawgiver, King Jesus had the right to change any law, but he changed nothing. Rather, he expands the law, and gives it its proper meaning. Not murdering someone may keep us from man’s judgment seat, but it does not protect us at God’s judgment seat.

There is a clear connection between the nine beatitudes and the “*Ye have heard*”, but we will not develop them now.

• **OBSERVE:**

First, thoughts have consequences. Clearly, the Lord Jesus tells us in these first two “*Ye have heard*” (vv. 21-26 & vv. 27-30), that lawless actions begin with a lawless thought. Thoughts and actions cannot be separated, and the Word of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, deals with the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God [is] quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and [is] a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

Our Thrice Holy God sees thoughts and actions as the same. However, I would much rather have lawless thoughts toward me than lawless actions.

Self-control, which starts with our thoughts, is the most important thing anyone can have, for the law of God holds us responsible for every thought because every thought has consequences.

Second, Matthew 5:21-26, Ephesians 4:23, “*anger...*”

THE BIBLICAL DOCTRINE OF ANGER.

Our Lord clearly tells us that the action of murder is

the result of the harbored thoughts of anger and hate. Implied here:

1) we will be in bondage to that unclean emotion of anger toward a person until we settle the difficulty. The difficulty must be faced and settled between us and the object of anger. If that is not possible, then at least settled between the Lord and us. (See the “Lord’s Prayer”, Matthew 6:12-15.)

2) Matthew 5:23, another has something against us. If we suspect another has a problem with us, we are responsible to try to straighten it out. Bondage to our emotions is like a prison. There is no release from that torture until the anger is conquered.

Anger is an emotion that can motivate either good or bad action. Christ identified anger with murder, Matthew 5:21, and Paul condemned anger. (Eph 4:26, 27.)

• **SINFUL ANGER:**

1. Sinful anger is aroused without any sufficient cause—there is no danger to ourselves, and we do not need protection. We are safe without anger.

2. Sinful anger goes beyond the cause, if a cause really exists. Anger beyond proper response of self-protection is sin.

3. Sinful anger is against the person rather than the offense. The object is not to injure another. Anger should be for self-protection.

4. Sinful anger is attended with the desire of revenge, which is always wrong. (Romans 12:17-19.)

5. Sinful anger is cherished, and the offense is meditated upon, i.e., “He did me wrong, and I just cannot get it out of my mind”.

6. Sinful anger is an unforgiving spirit, and a determination to exact the utmost satisfaction for the injury which we perceive has been done.

Psalms 37:8 “Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.”

“*Let not the sun go down*” on your anger. Not only is it sin to retain anger, but it is very bad for your health. It will be rottenness in the bones.

Proverbs 14:30 “A sound heart [is] the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones.”

TWO TYPES OF ANGER:

First, there is the anger which causes one to act contrary to the word of God. He loses control of his mind, emotions, actions and speech – any one or all of these areas. He then operates outside of what is

permitted by the Word of God. His sin gives place for the devil to work. Modern “road rage” is a good example.

Second, anger which causes one to act in accord to the word of God. We can say that this is a godly anger that causes us to take action according to the commands of God. Christ often exercised godly anger.

“Mark 3:5 And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched [it] out: and his hand was restored whole as the other.”

“*Be ye angry*” requires proper anger. These words imply that **it is a sin not to get angry**.

My wife attacks the weeds in her flower gardens with a hatred and vengeance. Anger at sin and the results of sin requires godly action against sin.

We need professed Christians today to be angry, and sin not; that is, to get angry enough over sin to take godly action against sin.

How many people get angry over an unbiblical message from the pulpit, yet they continue to support the messenger. Or they get angry over the wicked actions of politicians, yet they will not even write a letter to them or a “letter to the editor”.

The lack of godly anger that motivates action against sin is a sin in itself. Godly anger motivates Godly action. Ungodly anger motivates ungodly action. Anger over weeds in the garden motivates action against those weeds. If action is not taken, weeds will take over a garden (nation), and the good fruit is destroyed.

WHEN THY JUDGMENTS ARE IN THE EARTH,
THE INHABITANTS OF THE WORLD WILL
LEARN RIGHTEOUSNESS. ISA. 26:9

There was a woman in Lafayette, Indiana who became angry over wasteful spending by her local school board in needless construction, so she circulated a petition to present to the state tax board against the tax increase. She was angry, but she sinned not. Rather, her anger motivated her to proper action.

• **ILLUSTRATION:**

A local lawyer is representing our small group of citizens who are angry with two county commissioners. Two of the three commissioners have acted outside the law at great expense to our small county. He is angry at what the two commissioners have done to this county,

and he is pursuing every legal action possible to clean out the den of vipers, knowing that he may not receive any payment. However, we are winning in the courts at this point. (See facebook.com/hardycountyinformed)

Where are the angry Christians to attend Town Council and County Council meetings? Where are the letters to the editor, and to those who have the power to change things? If a Christian cannot get angry enough to take godly action in the local community, we cannot expect anything on the national level. Can there be a natural anger—an anger that does nothing?

THE ISLAMIZATION OF GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS.

* Quran should be taught in public schools?

(<http://www.loonwatch.com/2012/07/rep-andre-carson-did-he-say-the-quran-should-be-taught-in-public-schools-no/>)

* Islamizing the public schools.

(<http://www.frontpagemag.com/2013/joseph-klein/islamizing-the-public-schools/>)

* Islam in California schools.

(<http://www.truthorfiction.com/rumors/b/byronislam.htm>)

* The birth of Islamamerica. Our children lost by a California judge ruling. At Excelsior Middle School in Byron County, a handout called [Islam: A Simulation](#) was used to help children “become Muslim.” The handout states:

“From the beginning, you and your classmates will become Muslims.”

Below is the index of the actual handout promoting Islam to public school 7th graders including “becoming Muslim” and worship to Allah in the following prayer in public schools:

“In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Praise be to Allah, Lord of Creation, The Compassionate, the Merciful, King of Judgment day! You alone we worship, and to You alone we pray for help, Guide us to the straight path.”

Christmas and Nativity scenes are outlawed while Clinton’s nominee, U.S. District Judge Phyllis Hamilton, recently approved “Islam: A Simulation” handouts where children learn to “become Muslim, recite the Quran, fast for Ramadan and pray to Allah.” (<http://www.blessedcause.org/protest/Pray%20Allah,%20Recite%20Koran,%20Islamamerica.htm>)

* The Koran is coming to a public school near you. Rep. Andre Carson, a Democrat from Indiana, is a Muslim. He wants government (public) schools to follow Islamic teachings and methods:

(<http://godfatherpolitics.com/6033/the-koran-is-coming-to-a-public-school-near-you/>)

* Public schools teach the ABCs of Islam.

(<http://www.cbn.com/CBNnews/460652.aspx>)

* US public schools teaching children Pro-Islamic propaganda.

(http://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2009/03/us_public_schools_teaching_chi_1.html)

* Colorado public school children forced to bow to Islam

Rocky Heights Middle School in Littleton, Colorado takes students to a Mosque each year and forces them to bow and pray. The principal escalated things this year by demanding that all female students submit to a Sharia law based dress code.

<http://topconservativenews.com/2015/01/colorado-public-school-children-to-bow-to-islam/>

Where are the angry people to stop the evils being taught in our government schools? Where are the angry Christians to attend school board meetings? Where are the angry Christians who will pull their children out of the “hell-holes” of the Government school system? Where are the angry pastors who will tell their people that it is a sin to send their children to the public school?

Christians fail to realize that whoever trains their children will control the future, so they continue to allow the antichrist to train their children.

Sadly, there are not enough angry people to effectively resist the evils that are taking place throughout society.

Not only does ungodly anger permit the devil to work, but a lack of godly anger permits the devil (Allah) to work. With no godly anger challenging the wicked with righteousness, the wicked prosper. Sin and corruption are overwhelming society for lack of godly anger against sin.

“Neither give place to the devil”! Christians who do not want to offend anyone have given place to the devil to work in society.

• **OBSERVE:**

Matthew 5:21-26. Remember that the altar was still standing in Jerusalem where the required offerings were still taking place. Christ taught his disciples in the hearing of the multitude, which included the religious leaders of the day. They taught that God was appeased by the sacrifices appointed by Moses. Christ tells them that God will not accept any man’s offering unless he has a proper relationship with the Father and with his fellow man. (The god Allah is appeased with the death of Christianity.)

First, v. 22, *without a cause* tells us that there are just causes for anger, such as the public schools teaching the religion of Islam. Our Lord condemns unjustified anger

toward others. Has that person done something contrary to the word of God that injured us? If so, then there is just cause for anger. If not, there is no cause for anger. And there is never a time for personal offense.

We must mention here that there is never a time to take up an offense for another. Someone does something to another, but we cannot get angry over what was done. Now, if that action was lawless toward another, then it needs to be brought to the attention of the proper authorities.

The Old Testament is full of instances where God, in His anger and wrath, executed justice and judgment upon the wicked, and where men of God exercised Godly wrath and anger against sin. Did not Elijah execute God’s wrath and anger on Mt Carmel when he beheaded 800 false prophets, 1 Kings 18?

Christ warns us against allowing unholy emotions to well up within us against others. If they have done nothing against the word of God and we are angry with them, our anger is without a cause.

Normally, our “excitement” toward others is not over their violation of the word of God, but their violation of the standard we have established for them.

Godly anger is always under control of the individual; it is always in conformity to the word of God, and godly anger is only motivated by violations of God’s word.

Second, v. 22, “shall say... Raca...” (a term of reproach in Christ’s day, meaning empty headed, senseless), “*thou fool...*” These two harsh terms are motivated by the anger in the heart.

Third, v. 22, “danger of hell fire...” On the surface, it appears one is in danger of losing salvation over angry words. Remember, Christ is speaking to the Jewish mentality. Thus, the Geneva gives a much better understanding: “worthy to be punished with hell fire...”

• **THE GENEVA NOTE GIVES THE BEST EXPLANATION:**

“The Jews used four kinds of punishments, before their government was taken away by Herod: hanging, beheading, stoning, and burning. It is burning that Christ meant, because burning was the greatest punishment; therefore by making mention of a judgment, a council, and a fire, he shows that some sins are worse than others are, but yet they are all such that we must give account for them, and will be punished for them.”

Christ is not speaking of eternal hell, but physical punishment. In all of this section, Christ is emphasizing the importance of controlling the heart, and the anger that so readily dwells there waiting to spew forth from the mouth. Christ issues warnings of several civil penalties over uncontrolled anger, vv. 25, 26.

Fourth, v. 23. The emphasis of the message changes from our anger toward someone, to having done something against someone else that causes hard feelings or anger against us.

“Rememberest”. It is the Spirit who reminds us according to His Word. V. 23 assumes two things:

* The person is sincerely trying to please the Lord.

* The person is not aware of the problem or has ignored it. It is so easy to ignore what we do not want to remember. But the Lord remembers. (All of us have convenient memories.)

If we perceive that someone is justly holding something against us, then we are to find out what it is, and, if possible, make it right. However, if the hard feelings are over our stand on the word of God, then we owe them nothing.

Normally we offend others with our own stubborn, foolish and dumb actions, particularly within our own families and close friends.

There is no longer a physical altar, so the teaching is general. Our service to the Lord will not be accepted if we ignore where we have offended others.

How many times have I tried to pray, only to be reminded of an offense toward someone whom I would have to contact before I could pray.

• **WE CAN “GIVE PLACE TO THE DEVIL”:**

1, the devil will pile false guilt upon us, if he can. As a liar and the father of lies, the devil will use corrupt truth to conquer us. We must be renewed in the spirit of our mind, so we can recognize his lies. Our renewed mind must compare every thought to Scripture, or we will end up “confessing” things that have no Biblical reason for confessing, and only make matters worse.

Some years ago in Louisiana, a person came up to me after a very emotional service, and said “Brother Need, please forgive me for the hard feelings I have had toward you”. That person had never exhibited any hard feelings toward me, so obviously, there was no need for such an outward confession. That confession belonged to God alone.

2, bitterness in the heart toward another. Unconfessed sin toward another will **“give place to the devil.”** The devil will use the truth of bitterness and unconfessed sin to beat us down, which is why we must learn of Christ who alone can properly identify truth.

God speaks to us through his Word, so before we make fools of ourselves, we must **“learn of Christ”**, and let God speak through his Word.

3, bitterness in our heart over someone else’s actions

will give place to the devil. “You did wrong toward that other person, so now I am offended over your actions toward him or her.”

Fifth, vv. 22-24, *“with his brother...”* The Lord takes for granted that people are sinners, and there will be conflicts any time people are together in close associations.

Both Christ and Paul, in Ephesians 4, urge unity in the body of Christ. If there is any place where unity should prevail, it should be among the congregation of the Lord. But, sad to say, this is, more often than not, the place where disunity grows out of control, and does the most damage. It is not uncommon at all to hear of church splits over someone’s hurt feelings.

When I went to Linden, there were three elderly and godly widows in the church. Two of them got along just like schoolgirls. But two of the three them would not speak with each other. Why? I asked both, and neither had an answer. It was not actually a spirit of disunity, but the spirit between the two was not right.

John’s letters tell us that if we cannot get along with our fellow man whom we can see, how can we expect to get along with the Lord whom we cannot see?

If we cannot communicate one with another, we cannot expect to have clear communication with the Heavenly Father. If we do not have a clear conscience with others, we cannot have a clear conscience with the Lord.

Sixth, v. 24. *“leave thy gift...”* Though there is no physical altar today, two things are implied here:

1) The importance of taking care of the problem as soon as it comes to mind.

2) There is no pleasing God until the problem is solved. I have met those whose pride prevented them from humbling themselves to their “opponent,” and stopped serving the Lord rather than make things right.

Seventh, v. 25. *“adversary.”*

Peter identifies the adversary as the devil. (1 Peter 5:8.) So the problem must be dealt with as soon as it is brought to our attention, or we are fair game for the adversary. It may take a while for him to catch up with us, but we are open for him to do his dirty work.

Eighth, vv. 25, 26. *“to the officer, and cast into prison.”* The Lord compares unjustified anger and hard feeling between two people, or even a refusal to humble ourselves to the bondage of debt.

Bondage to emotions like anger, unforgiveness, hard feelings and even guilt are like a prison with many tortments. And our adversary will pile on the tortures in

our mind.

Ninth, v. 26, “*til thou hast paid the uttermost farthing.*” The Lord clearly tells us that there will be no release from that prison until the matters are Scripturally dealt with.

I have met more than a few controlled by anger and bitterness toward others, yet they stoutly refuse to settle the problem. You might say, “But that person I have a problem with does not want to make matters right,” or “I am unable to contact them to make matters right,” or “It has been so long ago that no one remembers,” or “It really is not that important,” or any of a number of reasons why we cannot go to that person and settle the matter. But if we are reminded by the Spirit, and it is according to Scripture, it must be confronted.

The outward “appearance” may be fine, but the heart may harbor all kinds of evil emotions toward another. The Lord judges according to “righteous judgment”, and will deliver the stubborn offender to the officer of the prison.

Tenth, there is no running from the problem. Those of us who have been in and around the “ministry” for some time cannot count how many people, even pastors, who have tried to run rather than deal with anger, bitterness, hard and hurt feelings. They think they can escape their prison by moving.

The physical location has nothing to do with this prison; when the person seeks to run from the situation, the situation follows because the situation is in the heart. The heart is where the bitterness and anger must be settled.

Not all situations are possible or feasible to settle with the other person, as David found out after he killed Uriah the Hittite. But it must at least be settled with the Lord. He is the One whom we sinned against, and He is the one who delivered us to the officer, to the devil who also must answer to the Lord.

Eleventh, the individual has the key to his prison. The prison’s key is in his hands, and Christ identified that key in Matthew 5:3, “*poor in spirit*”. That is, the key is humility before God and man.

Twelfth, as society becomes more humanistic, every man his own god and every man for himself, it is becoming increasingly more difficult to follow our Lord’s admonition in this passage, and Paul’s admonition in Ephesians 4:26, 27. As people think that they are their own god and act like it, the situations described by our Lord in vs. 21-26, will become more common.

There is no worse enemy or prison than anger, bitterness and hard feelings between people. It is a prison from which there is no release except by humility.

But Christ has provided the key in his Sermon on the Mount. In order to be truly free, we must “***learn of Christ***”, and be ***renewed in the spirit of our mind, putting on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.***

Paul’s command is to “*be angry, and sin not*”. We need a good dose of godly anger that will put on the whole armor of God, and attack the very gates of hell with the weapons provided for us by God. That is, the Word of God and the shield of faith.

DEALING WITH THE CHALLENGE OF ISLAM

Thomas Williamson

During the 20th Century, Communism was regarded as the great challenge to the survival of Christianity and Western civilization. Many feared that the Communists would take over America and the world, and that Christians would have to go underground.

With the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, the Communist threat has receded greatly (although Red China remains Communist and could pose a threat to Christianity and the West in the future).

As we enter the 21st Century, Islam is now rising as the greatest apparent threat to Western Christianity. Although America is currently the world’s only superpower, and our current military actions against extreme Islamic terrorists in Afghanistan are going well, the long-term prospects for Islamic ascendance should cause great concern for the future of Christianity and Western civilization.

Islam has many advantages. It is a fanatical religion whose people are almost impervious to Christian missionary activity, and who are willing to sacrifice their lives for the cause they believe in. The oil wealth of Islamic countries gives them vast financial resources to expand Islam and build mosques worldwide.

Meanwhile, the very high birthrate in all Islamic countries presents a time bomb that may explode in our near future. While all Muslim countries are rapidly growing in population, all the white “Christian” countries of the West are suffering from extremely low birthrates, below replacement rates.

From Germany to Spain, from Canada to Russia, all of them have birthrates that are below the rate needed to keep population steady. Only massive immigration, much of it from Muslim countries, is keeping their

populations from collapsing completely. Soon Great Britain will have more Muslims than Anglicans.

Some have suggested that a resurgent Islam will invade Europe militarily in the foreseeable future. This would be nothing new. For centuries, Europeans lived in fear of Muslim conquest of their continent. The Muslims were just barely beaten back at the battles of Tours in 732, Lepanto in 1571, and Vienna in 1683. Until the 19th Century, the coast of Italy was vulnerable to Barbary Muslim raiders who would land and capture slaves.

In recent years, the pendulum of power has shifted to the European nations, but now the Muslims are gaining the ascendancy once again. If present trends continue, we could see a Muslim religious, political and military dominance of the entire planet before the end of this century.

Is there anything we as Christians can do about this? Or should we start memorizing the Koran now?

If we do not want our grandchildren to live in a predominantly Muslim world, then we need a vision, a plan and a strategy for victory. Muslims are very optimistic about their religion, believing that it is destined to sweep across the world. We need to develop the same optimism about Christianity - if we have no faith in the power of our own religion to be victorious against the gates of Hell, then why should anyone else place their faith in Christ?

WE MUST EVANGELIZE OUR OWN TERRITORY. A strategy for victory against Islam must include a vigorous program to evangelize our own communities, and to win nominal Christians to Christ. Islam is converting many white and black Americans who were Christians in name only. Truly regenerated Christians will never convert to Islam.

Black Muslims are still a tiny percentage of the black community, but there is a potential for Islam to grow explosively among African Americans. To prevent this, we must reach out to black, nominally Christian Americans with the gospel message and with the open arms of a more sincere brotherhood than the Muslims can offer them.

If we are reaching out to everybody in our community, then we will also be evangelizing the black and white Muslims in our midst. Some have estimated as many as 6 million Muslims in America, but more realistic figures indicate fewer than 2 million American Muslims. Let us be sure to show kindness to them and avoid blaming them for the deeds of a few extremist fanatics.

We must have a revival and resurgence of Christian family values in our society, which will result in a higher birthrate. As long as homosexuality is honored and promoted as an "alternative lifestyle," and our abortion clinics are busier than our maternity wards, we stand little chance against the Muslim population bomb, and we have little basis (if any) for claiming moral superiority over Islam.

EVANGELIZE MUSLIM COUNTRIES. Muslim nations of the world have been neglected in most of our evangelistic efforts, and this must change. Surely America, the world's wealthiest nation, can afford the resources to provide literature and radio broadcasting to closed Muslim countries, and to assist national Christian workers who are spreading the gospel in those nations.

CONCENTRATE ON THE WORLD'S ANIMISTS. Most conversions to Christianity today are being made among animists, followers of traditional spirit-worshipping "primal religions," not among followers of the "high religions" like Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism and Shintoism.

Once a culture has been converted to any of the "high religions" (including Christianity), it is much more difficult to convert them to any other religion. But animists are much more open to such conversion. In Africa and Asia today, Christianity and Islam are in a race to see who can convert the animists first. Whoever wins this race can expect that these converts will stay with their adopted religion (whether Christianity or Islam) for the foreseeable future.

CONCENTRATE ON AFRICA. Africa has the world's largest concentration of animists. There are also Muslim cultures there, that are more open to Christianity than those of the Middle East. At this time, Africa is a spiritual battleground as Islam, Catholicism and evangelical Christianity strive to be the first to contact and convert the less advanced ethnic groups. Whoever wins this contest will shape the future of Africa, and the world, for generations to come. We need a massive mobilization to pour literature and resources into Africa.

PUBLISH LITERATURE. The Muslims have prolific and productive publishing houses that print Korans and attractive, persuasive literature promoting Islam. This outreach is generously funded with "petrodollars." The books and literature are shipped out worldwide, often unsolicited.

We as Christians must rush to meet this challenge. With the financial resources we have, there is no reason why Bibles and Christian books should not be

made available to national missionaries and preachers anywhere in the world, for distribution to anyone who can read.

This is a strategy for Christian victory that all us can take part in. The Communist takeover of the world was not inevitable, as it turned out. Muslims will not take over the world, either. In Christ we have the victory. The gates of hell will not prevail against His Church.

(Someone should get the zip codes of Muslim communities and send good gospel literature to every address in that ZIP Code)

“a time will come when instead of shepherds feeding the sheep, the church will have clowns entertaining the goats” (CHS)

FEEDING SHEEP OR AMUSING GOATS

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

An evil is in the professed camp of the Lord, so gross in its impudence, that the most shortsighted can hardly fail to notice it during the past few years. It has developed at an abnormal rate, even for evil. It has worked like leaven until the whole lump ferments. The devil has seldom done a cleverer thing than hinting to the church that part of their mission is to provide entertainment for the people, with a view to winning them.

From speaking out as the Puritans did, the church has gradually toned down her testimony, then winked at and excused the frivolities of the day. Then she tolerated them in her borders. Now she has adopted them under the plea of reaching the masses.

My first contention is that providing amusement for the people is nowhere spoken of in the Scriptures as a function of the church. If it is a Christian work, why did not Christ speak of it? «Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature» (Mark 16:15). That is clear enough. So it would have been if He had added, «and provide amusement for those who do not relish the gospel.» No such words, however, are to be found. It did not seem to occur to him.

Then again, «He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some evangelists; and some pastors and teachers .., for the work of the ministry» (Eph. 4:11-12). Where do entertainers come in? The Holy Spirit is silent concerning them. Were the prophets persecuted because they amused the people or because they refused? The concert has no martyr roll.

Again, providing amusement is in direct antagonism

to the teaching and life of Christ and all his apostles. What was the attitude of the church to the world? Ye are the salt» (Matt. 5:13), not the sugar candy---something the world will spit out not swallow. Short and sharp was the utterance, «Let the dead bury their dead» (Matt. 8:22) He was in awful earnestness.

Had Christ introduced more of the bright and pleasant elements into his mission, he would have been more popular when they went back, because of the searching nature of His teaching. I do not hear him say, «Run after these people Peter and tell them we will have a different style of service tomorrow, something short and attractive with little preaching. We will have a pleasant evening for the people. Tell them they will be sure to enjoy it. Be quick Peter, we must get the people somehow.» Jesus pitied sinners, sighed and wept over them, but never sought to amuse them.

In vain will the Epistles be searched to find any trace of this gospel of amusement! Their message is, «Come out, keep out, keep clean out!» Anything approaching fooling is conspicuous by its absence. They had boundless confidence in the gospel and employed no other weapon.

After Peter and John were locked up for preaching, the church had a prayer meeting but they did not pray, “Lord grant unto thy servants that by a wise and discriminating use of innocent recreation we may show these people how happy we are.” If they ceased not from preaching Christ, they had not time for arranging entertainments. Scattered by persecution, they went everywhere preaching the gospel. They turned the world upside down (Acts 17:6). That is the only difference! Lord, clear the church of all the rot and rubbish the devil has imposed on her, and bring us back to apostolic methods.

Lastly, the mission of amusement fails to affect the end desired. It works havoc among young converts. Let the careless and scoffers, who thank God because the church met them halfway, speak and testify. Let the heavy laden who found peace through the concert not keep silent! Let the drunkard to whom the dramatic entertainment has been God’s link in the chain of the conversion, stand up! There are none to answer. The mission of amusement produces no converts. The need of the hour for today’s ministry is believing scholarship joined with earnest spirituality, the one springing from the other as fruit from the root. The need is biblical doctrine, so understood and felt, that it sets men on fire.

(From Robert McCurry.)

HELLO-GOODBYE

“A. W. Tozer wrote: ‘I must confess as a pastor that I have had to say ‘Goodbye’ to people when they have said, ‘We cannot worship here. You are too strict. Your standards are too strict for this day and age. Your message is too strict.’ My only apology is I am not as strict as the Bible. I have to confess that I am not up to the standard of the Scriptures. I am trying, but I am not that strict. But occasionally we have to say farewell to someone who says they have to find a different kind of church, an easy going church, a church that majors in relaxation. What did Jesus say to His disciples, and unless we are ready to die for Him we are not ready to live for Him. The whistle is going to blow for us one of these days and then we will have to appear and tell God how we carried on His work, how we conducted ourselves in the light of what Jesus said. So we cannot afford to let down our Christian standards just to hold the interest of people who want to go to hell and still belong to a church.’ Many professing Christians want a church where there are few if any standards and an easy going, fun filled program. They want contemporary music, no dress standards, fewer and shorter services, twenty minute sermons with plenty of jokes and funny stories. If this is what you want it’s easy enough to find; there are plenty of churches like that out there. Just remember, you’re going to meet the Lord someday — maybe sooner than you would like to think! Then, you will be judged by His standard! Better repent and get right with God and into the right church, a separated church.” (THE CORNERSTONE CHALLENGE)

WHY I DITCHED STATINS FOR GOOD

When I had a routine health check-up eight years ago, my cholesterol was so high that the laboratory thought there had been a mistake. I had 9.3 millimoles of cholesterol in every litre of blood—almost twice the recommended maximum.

It was quite a shock. The General Practitioner (GP) instantly prescribed statins, the cholesterol-lowering drugs that are supposed to prevent heart disease and that strokes. For eight years, I faithfully popped my 20mg atorvastatin pills, without side effects. Then one day last May, I stopped. It wasn’t a snap decision; after looking more closely at the research, I’d concluded that statins were not going to save me from a heart attack and that my cholesterol levels were all but irrelevant.

When I informed my GP of my decision three months later, I wasn’t entirely honest. Rather than say I was

skeptical about the drugs, I told my doctor I’d quit the statins because they were causing pain in my arm.

He didn’t bat an eyelid. Evidence from the drug industry published this month—evidence I suspect was heavily reliant on data from the drug industry, as Dr. James Le Fanu pointed out on these pages last week—may suggest that side effects are uncommon, but previous studies have found that one in five people on statins suffers adverse side effects, from muscle pain and diarrhea to memory loss and blurred vision.

The GP simply suggested I try another brand of statin. The sooner the better, he said, given that I’d already been off my prescription for three months. “Hang on,” I said. “Could you give me a blood test first?” When the results came back, he was amazed that my total blood cholesterol was lower than when I’d been on statins. After three months without the pills, it was 5.4mmol/l (5.4 millimoles per litre of blood) compared with 5.7 mmol/l a year earlier.

The only major changes I’d made to my lifestyle since coming off statins were eliminating sugar (including alcohol and starchy foods such as bread) and eating more animal fat. Many experts now believe that sugar is emerging as a true villain in the heart-disease story; while after decades of demonization, saturated fat has been acquitted of causing heart disease by a recent “meta” analysis of 70 studies by Cambridge University.

Typically, I was eating red meat three or four times a week and enjoying butter, full-fat milk and plenty of eggs. You would have thought that after three months on a diet so high in saturated fat, my cholesterol would have shot back up to pre-statin levels---but no, it came down and has stayed down seven months on. Not only that, but my levels of LDL (so-called bad cholesterol) were also lower than when I’d been on statins, and my ratio of HDL (so-called good cholesterol) to LDL was under four for the first time, an excellent sign, according to medical wisdom.

Not that I cared about any of this.

Yes, it was the statins that originally reduced my cholesterol levels so dramatically. But so what? I believe that high cholesterol has been a scapegoat for too long. Yes, it may, in some circumstances, be an indicator of heart disease but there is no evidence of a causal link. In my view, high total blood cholesterol or high LDL levels no more cause heart attacks than paramedics cause car crashes, even though they are present at the scene.

Just lowering cholesterol with drugs without sorting

out the dietary and lifestyle factors that actually cause heart disease is nonsensical. Besides, there are plenty of other, more reliable indicators of heart-disease risk. What further astonished my GP was that on these indicators I was now apparently better off in other ways than when I'd been on statins. My blood pressure was down. For the first time in years, I was slimmer, especially around the belly. My triglycerides—a type of blood fat with a causal link to heart disease—were lower than at any time in the preceding eight years. My fasting blood glucose was at the optimum level, whereas a year earlier it had been too high. My total white blood count—a marker of inflammation—was lower.

My blood test for a marker called glycated haemoglobin (A1c), high levels of which are associated with heart disease and overall mortality, were bang on normal. Finally, my level of c-reactive protein (CRP)—a protein that rises in response to inflammation—was extremely low. So, biochemically, I was in excellent shape, better than when I'd been on the statins. “Have you taken up running?” asked my bemused GP.

No, I'd always run. For years, I'd exercised three times a week, eaten plenty of fish, refrained from smoking and tried to keep my stress levels low. The only thing I'd changed was my intake of sugar and animal fat.

That checkup was seven months ago and now, at 58, I'm not on a single tablet. My GP is happy. I feel better than I have in years and, at the same time, deeply concerned about proposals advising even wider use of statins.

Until 2005, statins were prescribed only to those with at least a 30 percent or greater risk of having a heart attack within 10 years. This was then reduced to a 20 percent risk. Now, draft NHS guidelines would have them dished out to those with just a 10 percent risk—in other words, most men over the age of 50 and most women over the age of 60.

I am a vascular surgeon. Before founding a private clinic in Dorset 11 years ago, specializing in varicose veins, I worked in the NHS for 13 years. Back then, I didn't question medical guidance on cholesterol, and thought statins were a wonder drug. And so they probably are, for men who have heart disease—not necessarily because they lower cholesterol, but because they may cut other risks such as the inflammation-marker CRP. Exercise, weight loss, and omega 3 supplements also lower CRP.

But what about other groups—women, the elderly, and people like me who have not been diagnosed with

heart disease? The evidence that we will benefit from cholesterol-lowering drugs is ambiguous at best. The 2011 Hunt 2 study, one of the most recent and largest, followed 52,000 men and women in Norway aged 20-74 with no preexisting heart disease, for 10 years.

The results for women were crystal clear. The lower a woman's total cholesterol, the greater her risk of dying, either of heart disease or anything else, including cancer. This reflects findings in previous studies.

For men, high cholesterol was associated with heart disease and death from other causes. But so, too, was low cholesterol—below 5mmol/l. Again, this is only an association, not a causal link. A range of between 5mmol/l and 7mmol/l was the optimum level. Guess what? This is already the national average. In addition, numerous studies have linked high cholesterol levels with increased longevity in the elderly.

As for me, I have not been diagnosed with heart disease, and nobody in my family has had a heart attack. However, all four of my paternal uncles and my sister have diabetes. Research from Canada, published last year in the BMJ, has shown that statins raise the risk of diabetes, so that gives me little faith. The controversy over these drugs was reignited last week when Prof Sir Rory Collins from Oxford University warned that doctors' hesitancy about prescribing them to those at risk could cost lives.

GPs are, by definition, generalists. They don't have time to read and analyze data from every paper on every medical condition. Even so, in a recent survey by Pulse magazine, six in 10 GPs opposed the draft proposal to lower the risk level at which patients are prescribed statins. And 55 percent said they would not take statins themselves or recommend them to a relative, based on the proposed new guidelines.

If that doesn't speak volumes, I don't know what does. •

Dr. Gajraj is a vascular surgeon specializing in the management of complex venous conditions. He is the founder and director of the VeinCare Centre. He was trained at St. George's Hospital and St. Thomas's Hospital in London and has treated patients with vein conditions for more than 30 years.

*Reprinted from the "Samaritan Ministries" newsletter, July 2014.
<www.telegraph.co.uk/health/10717431/Why-Ive-ditched-statins-for-good.html>*

Samaritan Ministries

SHARE REDUCTION GIVEN

A few months after the share increase was implemented, the dollar amount of needs leveled out, so

not all of the increase in the monthly shares was needed. We were able to reduce the assigned shares by 5% in October, 10% in November, and 8% in December. I am glad that our method of sharing enables us to ask our members to share only what is actually needed.

One reason the amount of needs has not been as great in recent months is that fewer large needs were submitted. In October, there were not any needs that exceeded \$65,000. We do not know why this happened, but we are grateful to God for his probation in this way.

We are currently sharing more than \$10 million each month, compared to \$7 million a year ago.

(From the "Samaritan Ministries", January 2015 newsletter. My wife's one person share went down from \$185 last November to \$150 this last January. Remember, belonging to a ministry like "Samaritan Ministries" exempts one from Obamacare. 877-764-2426. Tell them Bettie Need sent you.)

A SHORT PERSONAL NOTE

I mentioned last time about my right shoulder surgery. It seems like therapy will last forever if I want to regain reasonable use of my shoulder. Daily exercises, therapy sessions and hospital visits have and are taking up a tremendous amount of time. In addition, more than 30 years of writing and keyboard use caught up with me. I had to have carpal tunnel surgery. The problem really did not show up until after my shoulder surgery. It got so bad that I could not sleep. Of course, the surgery was on my right hand, and the recovery has greatly interfered with my shoulder therapy exercises. I have had to use the left shoulder exclusively, so now I may be having problems with both shoulders.

I must agree with the many who have said "growing old is not for the fainthearted". But we "rejoice in all things" because I am still able to read, think and write.

WHERE ARE THE MEN?

DIY is in decline because today's men are too soft.

As traditional roles have changed, today's men are more like their mothers than their fathers. No wonder DIY is dying out, says Martin Daubney
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/men/thinking-man/11186150/DIY-is-in-decline-because-todays-men-are-too-soft.html>

CHURCHILL ON ISLAM

Unbelievable, but the speech below was written in 1899. (Check Wikipedia - The River War). The attached short speech from Winston Churchill, was delivered by him in 1899 when he was a young soldier and journalist. It probably sets out the current views of

many, but expresses in the wonderful Churchillian turn of phrase and use of the English language, of which he was a past master. Sir Winston Churchill was, without doubt, one of the greatest men of the late 19th and 20th centuries. He was a brave young soldier, a brilliant journalist, an extraordinary politician and statesman, a great war leader and British Prime Minister, to whom the Western world must be forever in his debt.

He was a prophet in his own time. He died on 24th January 1965, at the grand old age of 90 and, after a lifetime of service to his country, was accorded a State funeral. HERE IS THE SPEECH:

"How dreadful are the curses which Mohammedanism lays on its votaries! Besides the fanatical frenzy, which is as dangerous in a man as hydrophobia in a dog, there is this fearful fatalistic apathy. The effects are apparent in many countries, improvident habits, slovenly systems of agriculture, sluggish methods of commerce, and insecurity of property exist wherever the followers of the Prophet rule or live. A degraded sensualism deprives this life of its grace and refinement, the next of its dignity and sanctity. The fact that in Mohammedan law every woman must belong to some man as his absolute property, either as a child, a wife, or a concubine, must delay the final extinction of slavery until the faith of Islam has ceased to be a great power among men. Individual Muslims may show splendid qualities, but the influence of the religion paralyses the social development of those who follow it.

No stronger retrograde force exists in the world. Far from being moribund, Mohammedanism is a militant and proselytizing faith. It has already spread throughout Central Africa, raising fearless warriors at every step; and were it not that Christianity is sheltered in the strong arms of science, the science against which it had vainly struggled, the civilization of modern Europe might fall, as fell the civilization of ancient Rome."

Sir Winston Churchill; (Source: The River War, first edition, Vol II, pages 248-250 London).

Churchill saw it coming.

MISGUIDED CHRISTIANS & ISRAEL

"Many misguided Christians think that the Bible demands they climb on the pro-Israel bandwagon. Anyone who challenges the position is labeled as anti-Semitic. Elisabeth Elliott and G. Douglas Young present opposing views on the Middle East conflict in the October 6 Christianity Today. Dr. Young defends the pro-Israel position as do most charismatics, millennialists, fundamentalists and neo-evangelicals. The

following is from a lengthy discussion author Elisabeth Elliott had with Harold Lindsell and Harold Myra of Christianity Today: **Q.** You wrote a controversial book on the Middle East. Do you believe that few people in the Christian world are hearing the Arab side? **A.** Yes, I think what I observed when I was there in 1967 is still true — that it is difficult to learn the truth of the Arab side. There is some kind of Jewish media control. I experienced it when the publisher that commissioned my book didn't dare print it. The book simply raises questions but was interpreted as damning. I discovered that certain questions are taboo in this country. For instance, we can't question the morality of Israel. And although Israel is a militantly racist political state we wouldn't be allowed to call it that in print. Americans who are most vociferous about racism in this country seem to be in favor of a racist nation. **Q.** How do you feel about the law passed against proselytizing in Israel? **A.** When Israel claimed to have religious freedom it was a contradiction. The truth is there is no such thing. And now they've admitted it by outlawing proselytizing. When I visited Israel the anti-God feeling of most Israelis shocked me. I understand that less than 10 per cent of the Israelis are religious. And they get furious when American Jews visit expecting to find religion. They ask, 'What has Israel to do with religion? Absolutely nothing.' **Q.** In other words, Israel is basically secular with little commitment to historic Judaism? **A.** The Israelis don't know what historic Judaism is and they don't care. It is not a linguistic or religious category. If you ask them what a Jew is no one can really answer. **Q.** So they view the Old Testament simply a historic book? **A.** They don't even know it. In fact the religious Jews that I talked to know nothing beyond the Pentateuch. That is the Bible. So they don't even know prophecy. **Q.** Would you say that the Arabs are more religious than the Israelis? **A.** Yes, that is generally true. **Q.** It has been said that (the Palestinians) have been 'kicked out for their kindness' and that the evangelicals haven't listened to the Palestinian cause well enough? **A.** It hasn't been listened to at all. Back in 1948 when Palestine was partitioned it was an arbitrary decision the part of everyone but the Palestinians who were not consulted. There is no ethical basis for Zionism whatsoever. Imagine what kind of reception there would have been if it had been proposed that New Jersey would be the homeland for the Jews. **Q.** Why do you think the Evangelicals have accepted this situation? **A.** They have an imperfect and naive notion of the fulfillment of prophecy. **Q.** Does God

have a purpose for Israel? **A.** Certainly. The ultimate purpose would be Israel's redemption. But how that is fulfilled and what signs we see of it in the nation of Israel today I am not prepared to say. The promises of the Old Testament hinge on obedience. I don't see that obedience at all. **Q.** Do you think the consummation of history could be upon us in the foreseeable future? **A.** Well, I certainly think it could be. However, all through history Christians have felt it was the last times. I don't have any reason to believe that this is more like what the last times will be like than in any other era. *When it comes to the Mideast conflict Elisabeth Elliott has taken the correct position."*

(From Hite's Home Mission Outreach, 816 E. Birch St, Palmyra, PA 17078)

Chuck Baldwin

MY THOUGHTS ON THE MOVIE "AMERICAN SNIPER."

As with millions of other Americans, I went to see the hugely popular Clint Eastwood-directed movie, "American Sniper." Here are some of my thoughts:

No one, at least not me, doubts the patriotism, courage, and sacrifice of our nation's military personnel—especially our combat forces. I certainly do not share Michael Moore's opinion that Chris Kyle (and our snipers in general) was a coward. Snipers have been effective in helping to wage America's wars since our War for Independence. In lawful combat, snipers are as needful as any other specialized fighting man.

My issue is not with Chris Kyle, or with any other American fighting man. My issue is with the justness of the war Chris Kyle was ordered to fight. Yes, I realize that we have an all-volunteer army; but let's be honest enough to admit that the vast majority of our young people joining the U.S. military sincerely believe that they are doing their patriotic duty by volunteering to conduct war against America's "enemies." They learn nothing else from family, school, movies and television, and church. The singular message they hear is that everything the U.S. military does is right and righteous and that every military engagement we fight is just and justified. I'm sure Chris Kyle was no different.

However, at the risk of sounding unpatriotic, after watching the real-life military exploits of Chris Kyle on the Big Screen, I left the theater extremely angry.

In the first place, Saddam Hussein and the country of Iraq had absolutely NOTHING to do with 9/11.

G.W. Bush and Dick Cheney unabashedly lied to the American people about the necessity of America invading Iraq. We invaded Iraq under false pretenses; we occupied Iraq under false pretenses; and we took (and lost) thousands of lives under false pretenses.

Secondly, as I watched the depiction of U.S. Marines going house-to-house and kicking down doors, manhandling old men, women, and children, it occurred to me that these exact same tactics are now being employed by American police agencies against the people of the United States. Our so-called SWAT teams are nothing more than occupying military units. The strategies, philosophies, and tactics are exactly the same as soldiers in a war zone.

Thirdly, everyone, ask yourself these questions, what if instead of the place being Fallujah, Iraq, the place was Kansas City, Missouri? Instead of the invasion force being the U.S. military, it was military troops from Communist China or Russia? What if the occupying snipers were killing American women and children instead of Iraqi women and children? Would we still consider them "heroes?" And would we act any differently from the Iraqi people who were trying to defend their homes and communities against an occupying foreign power?

When I left the theater, I was not angry with Chris Kyle, who was apparently the best at what he did, I was angry with the politicians in Washington, D.C., who sent Chris Kyle into an unjust and undeclared war to wage war against people who posed NO imminent threat to the United States.

I am also angry with an American culture that seems to lack the discernment to recognize the difference between just and unjust war. I am further angered by ubiquitous U.S. propaganda against the Muslim people in general (especially by my Christian brethren).

It seems that hardly anyone recognizes that the power-elite are engaged in global conspiracy to pit the Muslim nations of the Middle East against the West and vice-versa. Our own CIA has been manipulating the internal affairs of the Middle Eastern states for decades. The CIA put Saddam Hussein in power. Where do you think those brand new hundred-dollar bills (in the amount of millions of dollars) stored between the walls of Hussein's house, wrapped in Bank of America wrappers, came from?

The CIA put Osama bin Laden in power. The CIA put ISIS in power. And dare we talk about the illegal drug-running operations that have been conducted by the CIA in both Middle Eastern and Far Eastern nations

for at least a half-century?

I am angry with a federal government that cares absolutely nothing about our brave U.S. military personnel. They send them to fight unjust wars only then to treat them like second-class citizens in our VA hospitals. If DC truly cared about our military personnel, they would never ask them to risk life and limb except for those times that are truly necessary for the safety and security of the United States.

America has NO RIGHT to proclaim itself to be the world's policeman. It has NO RIGHT to send U.S. fighting men to vindicate the policies and prejudices of the United Nations. The President of the U.S. has NO RIGHT to invade and occupy foreign countries without a Declaration of War by Congress.

I am angry because in the name of fighting the War on Terror around the world, the American people are quickly losing the liberties guaranteed in our Constitution's Bill of Rights. And out of a misguided spirit of patriotism, the majority of the American people seem fine with it.

I am angry because our brave military troops are being asked to give their arms and legs and families and lives for the selfish, parochial, political, and economic interests of the ruling elite--and are also asked to take the lives of thousands of innocents in the process.

If you ask me, Chris Kyle was the victim of a sadistic and out-of-control federal leviathan that respects nothing. Not the rule of law. Not liberty--at home or abroad. Not family--our own military families or the families of other nations. Not constitutional government. Not national borders--our own or anyone else's. And certainly not the sacredness of life.

Yes, I left the movie "American Sniper" angry.

<http://www.dailypaul.com/332783/chuck-baldwin-my-thoughts-on-the-movie-american-sniper>

(I was in the military, and I am thankful for the medical care the military is now providing. However, I must fully agree with the above article. I am "sick to death" of sacrificing our young people and money we do not have to further the cause of the "Banksters" and the New World Order which was proclaimed by Bush. That Order - D or R, for the establishment does not care - is determined to remove Christianity from the face of the earth, and will use whatever means money can purchase. Jeb Bush is the heir apparent for the next president. The "sheeple" will vote for whomever the crowned "prince" is.)

January 31, 2015

WHY I HATE THE SUPER BOWL

By Jared Taylor

Years ago, when I was living in Silicon Valley, I spent Saturday night at a friend's house and drove

home on Sunday. The freeway was empty -- spookily, worryingly empty. I began to wonder if the Rapture had happened, or if there had been a nuclear war. The next day, I learned why the freeway was a desert. Everyone in California had been watching the Super Bowl.

I have never understood why anyone cares about professional sports. I must have been seven or eight when my father shocked me by explaining that not everyone who plays for the New York Yankees is from New York. "What?" I remember thinking. "They let people from Boston or Chicago play with the Yankees? The whole thing is a fraud." Why do New Yorkers care about a bunch of strangers who are going to defect to some other team if they get a better offer?

Nothing is so colossally, magnificently unimportant as professional sports. Unless you have money on the game, whether the Bumble Bees beat the Polar Bears has real-world consequences that can be measured to a value of precisely, exactly, irrefutably zero. Win or lose, nothing changes. No one has been fed or clothed, nothing has been produced, no problem solved -- it's a gigantic waste of time. And yet the happiness of millions hangs in the balance. There are fully grown adults who seem to care more about a game than the results of a biopsy.

College sports can mean something. The team represents a school, and athletes are friends and classmates -- except when the players are basically professionals who have to take make-believe classes to get a degree, and go to their own separate gyms and dining halls. I was a good deal older than seven or eight when I learned something else shocking: a coach can make more money than the college president. At the University of Alabama, the football coach makes \$7.3 million a year; the president makes \$535,000, or less than one thirteenth the coach's salary. Winning football games is much more important than running the university.

I'm not completely against spectator sports; just meaningless spectator sports. People on high school teams and minor-sports college teams are real students who represent their schools. People watching a high school game care about the school and probably know some of the players; winning or losing means something when there is a genuine connection to the team. National teams make sense for the same reason, except in cases like the French national soccer team that looks more Senegalese than French.

So why do we pay grown men to play children's games? Why do people bother with professional sports?

Some fans say they admire the skill of the players; I admire jugglers and acrobats. A lot of men say it's sublimated warfare. Since men don't get to work off excess testosterone by raiding enemy tribes anymore, they watch overpaid louts smash each other instead. How pitiful is that? You don't satisfy your appetite for steak by watching someone else eat one. If a man really wants the thrill of combat he should get on the field himself. That's what amateur leagues and masters competitions are for.

Sports are a great way to fill an empty mind. People who can't name the last 10 presidents can proudly tell you who won the last 10 Super Bowls. And sports make boobs into experts; people with no discernible opinion on anything else can tell you why it was a mistake to trade away the second-string quarterback. The more a man knows about professional sports the more I wonder about his judgment. The more a woman knows about professional sports the more I wonder if she's a woman.

But there's something deeper at work. Before I was a family man, a friend talked me into going to a bikini contest. The girls pranced out one by one, fully clothed, and stripped down to bikinis -- some of them quite modest. That was pleasant enough, but the men set up a terrible din. They bellowed like bulls and screamed like banshees at every new bit of anatomy that came into view.

This set me to musing. What an exercise in power the evening must have been for the girls. They reduced a whole roomful of men to howling idiocy just by wriggling around. Even at my dreamboat best, I never had that effect on women.

And I was struck that the men in the room sounded just like sports fans. They even shouted the same thing -- "Go, go, go, go!" -- as the girls pulled off their clothes. I don't claim to understand it, but judging from the primitive noises, sports must reach as deeply into the male psyche as sex.

Of all American professional games, the Super Bowl is the most expensive, the most hysterical, and possibly the most vulgar. People actually think that part of the fun is being able to talk about the commercials the next day. *The commercials!* The Super Bowl is certainly the most pretentious game in American sports. The pre-game and half-time shows are as gussied up with patriotic bunting as a political convention. The promoters and commentators act as if it's our *patriotic duty* to watch their silly game.

But maybe they're right. Super Bowl Sunday might as well be a national holiday. Americans celebrate it

almost as earnestly as Christmas or Thanksgiving, and with a lot more gusto than Memorial Day or Presidents' Day.

When is the nation more united than at the kickoff? Blacks and whites are sucked together down the Super Bowl's red gullet. It's an orgy of red-white-and-blue meaninglessness so powerful it could even turn Somalis and Guatemalans into Americans. Nothing else can.

So go ahead and join the crowd in front of the TV set on February first. When you get up four hours later asks yourself if you don't feel soiled. I'll be at the Smithsonian, and I'll have the place to myself.

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(http://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2015/01/why_i_hate_the_super_bowl.html#ixzz3QWOLcJ83)

Book Review

BONDAGE OF THE WILL

by Martin Luther

“If I profess with the loudest voice and clearest exposition every part of the truth of God except precisely that little point which the world and the devil are at the moment attacking, then I am not confessing Christ, however boldly I may be professing Him. Where the battle rages, there the loyalty of the soldier is proved; and to be steady on all battlefields besides is merely flight and disgrace if he flinches at that point.” - Martin Luther

BONDAGE OF THE WILL is about contending for the Faith once delivered unto the saints; it is about Spiritual warfare. NO! Not the kind of spiritual warfare like RECONCILIATION WALKS or national days of prayer and intercession. Those things are nothing more than religious hobby-craft carried out by the self-important purveyors of popular religion. The kind of Spiritual warfare that we are talking about here is the kind where a man, simply and only because of his faith in God; simply and only because of what the Bible says: takes his life in his teeth and goes to war against everything and everyone around him that contradicts his Faith. If this means the loss of family affections: SO BE IT! If it means the loss of career and respect: I'LL COPE WITH IT! If it means ending up alone, rejected, misunderstood and hated by the men who once upon a time plied you with flatteries: REJOICE, AND BE EXCEEDING GLAD, FOR SO PERSECUTED THEY THE PROPHETS WHICH WERE BEFORE YOU!

The impact of Luther's words and actions upon the history of our Faith is a well-known fact. Within months

of nailing up his Ninety-five Sentences on the Church door in Wittenburg, conflicts had broken out throughout all Europe. Men in all stations of life took sides in the conflict and what was hoped would be a Reformation of the Roman Catholic Church turned instead to the disintegration of the Holy Roman Empire, as masses of people defected from the errors of Romanism. The axe laid to the root was THIS BOOK, in which Luther came against THE foremost scholar in Christendom: Erasmus of Rotterdam, the man who was responsible for the Textus Receptus, the text of our New Testament in the KJV, a tremendously valuable work that we all appreciate even to this day.

In this book, Luther utterly refutes Erasmus's Diatribe on Free Will, which was the key and significant controversy of the moment. We will not know until the Judgement seat of Christ just how many Christians, from that time to the present, have been edified, encouraged, and instructed in sound doctrine by this book, but I am one of them. Luther's Spiritual warfare against the foes of our Faith was successful because his warfare was REAL and consistent with the Spiritual warfare of our Lord. When He was tempted by the Devil, Jesus would not turn stones into bread, and neither did Luther serve mammon by keeping silent for want of a paycheck. Jesus would not bow down, and neither did Luther kow-tow to the enemies of the Gospel in his day, no matter who they were. So it is today, that those who are engaged in the fight of faith, are warring against real Lies and real enemies: We are Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ, in the knowledge that we shall be vindicated. God WILL revenge all disobedience, when [our] obedience is fulfilled.

The controversy in particular between Erasmus and Luther was the issue of the Sovereignty of God versus the “free-will” of man IN RESPECT TO SALVATION, but in this review I am not going to reiterate those arguments all over again: those who continue to preach the false doctrine of ‘free-will’ (in respect to salvation), but who have never been able to refute Luther's evidence and who only pretend that this question has never been settled once and for all – are doubly guilty, and Liars every one. Instead, I will focus on the matters that are particularly relevant today. The writer of the Historical and Theological Introduction to this book introduces some of these pertinent issues:

“Has not Protestantism today become more Erasmian than Lutheran? Do we not too often try to minimize

and gloss over doctrinal differences for the sake of inter-party peace? Do we still believe that doctrine matters? Or do we now, with Erasmus, rate a deceptive appearance of unity as of more importance than truth?"

UNITY!

Erasmus's first mewing complaint was against Luther's assertiveness. In the soft tones of a diplomat he begs Luther to have the reasonableness to consider that such dogmatism tends to be unnecessarily divisive. Oh, how reasonable this all sounds - just like the complaint we hear so often, "WHY CAN'T WE ALL JUST GET ALONG? WE ALL BELIEVE IN JESUS, DON'T WE?" We hear these complaints even from those whom we sincerely want to believe are our brethren. But I agree with Luther and I can say that he answers for me when he writes:

"What Christian can endure the idea that we should deprecate assertions? That would be denying all religion and piety in one breath - asserting that religion and piety and all the dogmas are just nothing at all. . . What Christian could talk like that? If you are speaking of doctrines that are unprofitable and uncertain, what news do you bring us? . . . Or perhaps you think that all Christians are people whose dogmas are useless things, for which it is absurd of them to quarrel and fight with their assertions! . . . In a word, what you say comes to this: that you do not think it matters a scrap what anyone believes anywhere, so long as the world is at peace. . . ." (pp. 67-69)

DON'T GIVE AN INCH to those ministers of Satan that would have us to discard our "divisive" doctrines and reduce our faith to little more than the name of Jesus - all in the name of unity. These Liars want to blame US for all of the Denominational schisms in Christendom and say that it is all OUR fault that the prayer of Christ, that we may all be one, has never yet been (they say) answered. Well, my friend, Christ's prayer HAS BEEN ANSWERED, and all of the saints of God in Christ Jesus ARE One, even as we are one with Luther in his masterful defense of our Faith. The doctrines of our Faith, are ASSERTIONS of the Truth of the Gospel, and ANYONE who rejects the ASSERTIONS of our Faith is NOT our brother, and is NOT saved. These complainers against the exclusiveness and assertiveness of our Faith will clap their hands off when Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me," UNTIL, someone like us comes along and preaches that everyone who refuses to believe Jesus Christ is in danger of hell fire! WHY?

Because to say such a thing might offend some other "sincere" and religiously devout folks who just do not "prefer" to yield to the name of Jesus Christ. This includes all of our Jewish Messianics who demand just the slightest concession that THEY be allowed to yield THEIR loyalty to Yeshua, because they are offended at the Jesus that the rest of the world has already heard of. All of you to whom Jesus Christ is STILL the stone of stumbling and the rock of offense should repent NOW, and pledge your allegiance to Jesus Christ our Lord and to His Church! Furthermore, this also goes for you professing Christians who applaud Jesus Christ while making all of your excuses for why it is not necessary to obey whatsoever He has commanded us. Be advised: Luther is not on your side; WE are not on your side; and God is not on your side!

[Editors note: We who stand firm on the Word of God and historic orthodox doctrines are not the "divisive" ones. The "divisive" ones are those who have departed from the orthodox Christian faith, and who try to get others to follow in their pernicious ways, 2 Pet. 2:2.]

YES, BUT WE HAVE MIRACLES ON OUR SIDE!

I'll bet you thought that this was a new argument invented by the Revival Now crowd! No, Erasmus used the same ploy on Luther. He wrote, "The Apostles would not have been believed, had not miracles procured belief for their doctrine. . . When the Apostles shook off vipers, healed the sick, and aroused the dead, then at last they were believed; and yet hardly so. So paradoxical was their teaching. Now, though our opponents put forward teaching that is generally considered to be almost more paradoxical still, none of them has so far appeared who could even cure a lame horse!" (p.110)

Here we are: Do we deny the reality of the reported miracles? Perhaps you agree with the lying cessationists who assert that the days of miracles have disappeared with the death of the apostles, or upon the completion of our New Testament. Had Luther believed such a thing, here was a perfect opportunity to defend himself against Erasmus's challenge by asserting that the time for miracles and the other supernatural gifts of the Spirit was past. But NO! He fully endorsed the possibility of miracles: ". . . God is wont to confirm His doctrine by miracles without respect to the carnality of the age; what moves Him is not the merits or demerits of a carnal age, but just mercy, and grace, and love of the souls that are to be established by solid truth unto their glory." Take note also of the lyrics of Luther's

hymn, A MIGHTY FORTRESS, especially note his clear assertion that, “the Spirit and the gifts are ours!”

Oh, how I wish that I could see the faces of all those who clap their hands off for their hero, Luther, until they find out that Luther does not agree with THEM at all! No, Luther didn't deny the possibility of miracles, or that the miracles reported were real. What he (and we) deny is that these miracles are a confirmation of anything but the doctrine of Christ: Miracles do not confirm the man, as if everything that comes out of his mouth is inspired, and more to the point, miracles do not confirm doctrines that contradict the plain language of the Bible. Those of you who are tempted to think that the occurrence of miracles means that God is confirming one “gang” against another have ignored the warnings of our Lord Jesus Christ and His apostles:

(Mat 24:24) For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

(2 Th 2:9-11) Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, {10} And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. {11} And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

YES, BUT WE SHOULD JUST STICK TO PREACHING THE GOSPEL AND STOP ALL THIS ARGUING.

Oh, yes! Erasmus resorts to the same dodge that so many do these days. In their scramble to find some common ground of agreement, all of these unity mongers try to reduce the cardinal tenets of our faith to nothing more than the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. They cite 1 Cor. 15:1-4 and say, “There's the Gospel! That's all of it!” as if the rest of the New Testament is nothing more than interesting though extraneous details that were only added for our entertainment. Those who say things like this are lying: They have no intention of discarding their own pet doctrines; they only want US to shut up and to stop raining on their parade! Luther answers this absurd and dishonest platitude.

He wrote, and we agree: “And here, Erasmus, I invoke your own advice, given above, that ‘questions of this kind be left alone, and that Christ crucified, and as much as suffices for Christian piety, be taught instead.’ But this is what we have long been desiring, and doing.

What else do we contend for, but that the simplicity and purity of Christian doctrine should prevail, and, that what men have invented and brought in along with it should be left behind and disregarded? But you, who give us this advice, do not take it up yourself; you do the opposite; you write Diatribes; you cry up the decrees of Popes; you vaunt the authority of men; you try every means of carrying us off into these strange pastures and foisting upon us things both unscriptural and unnecessary, so that we may spoil the simplicity and sincerity of Christian piety, and disorder it with man-made additions.” (p.117)

The “simplicity and sincerity of Christian piety” makes no concession to the ever-popular, long-winded bogus arguments against the plain language of our Bible. Such are the hyper-dispensationalists who use their convoluted logic to escape the teachings, commands and warnings of our Lord Jesus Christ - saying that His Words are just a part of the “Law” from which we have been delivered. Anyone who believes this is apostate! The simplicity of Christ is receiving, believing, and subsequently (because we believe) obeying the Words of Christ and his apostles - not inventing theologies that turn these Words into little more than suggestions, and the Bible into no more than a hint of what the will of God is.

[Editor's Note: Point well made. Those who have departed from the orthodox faith and have followed Pelagianism/Semi-Pelagianism want the orthodox, Reformed Christians to stop arguing about doctrine, and just preach the gospel. However, they are the ones who have departed the from orthodox faith, and they are complaining that others are calling attention to their apostasy. They want to retain their pet doctrines, e.g., free will, with no opposition.]

YES, BUT THE BIBLE IS SUBJECT TO INTERPRETATION

Still trying to make his case, Erasmus sidles up to Luther with a suggestion that he knows Luther must agree with, in part. He writes, “Some [doctrines in the Bible] are ambiguous, whereas others are quite plain.” Of course, what Erasmus, and all those like him, mean by statements like this is that ANY doctrine that threatens the hegemony of popular religion shall ALWAYS be regarded as AMBIGUOUS. And today, Ambiguity has become the king of mischief: When any of the “inconvenient” teachings of our Lord are brought up, such as, “Give to every man that asketh of thee,” Ambiguity takes over and begins to argue for

exceptions - explaining this simple command UNTIL, there is nothing left to obey. And woe to the man that brings up the apostle Paul's injunction against women pastors: He will be derided as just another stupid male chauvinist, while it is explained to us "poor simpletons" how it is that the Bible doesn't mean what it says.

Luther answers, "If the words are obscure in one place, they are clear in another. What God has so plainly declared to the world is in some parts of Scripture stated in plain words, while in other parts it still lies hidden under obscure words. But when something stands in broad daylight, and a mass of evidence for it is in broad daylight also, it does not matter whether there is any evidence for it in the dark. Who will maintain that the town fountain does not stand in the light because the people down some alley cannot see it, while everyone in the square can see it? . . ."

Of course, the only people to whom the plain assertions of Scripture are obvious, are those who believe and have obliged themselves to obey whatsoever Christ has commanded us. As Luther asserts to Erasmus, "My good Erasmus, God's church is not so common a thing as the term 'God's church'; nor are God's saints so promiscuously found as the phrase 'God's saints.' The saints are pearls and precious jewels, which the Spirit does not cast before swine; but (as the Scripture puts it) He keeps them hid, that the wicked may not see the glory of God! Else, if they were open to the recognition of all how could they be so vexed and afflicted in the world as they are? So Paul says: 'Had they known him, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory' (1 Cor.2:8)."

Luther did not think that all those who call themselves Christians were members of the body of Christ, and neither do WE. You need to take note that the ongoing campaign to embrace everyone and every group as brethren, just because they favor the name of Christ, is a campaign against the Gospel of Christ. And don't think for a minute that this campaign will stop with those who make some concession to the name of Christ. Already the rhetoric of Apostate Christendom is contriving to promote full acceptance as BRETHERN, the devout Buddhists, Moslems, American Indians who still embrace their paganism, and etc. Unity is the name of the game – the doctrines of our Faith, and those who are loyal to them, are the obstacles. There is no hiding from this conflict and you are a player whether you know it or not and whether you like it or not.

[Editor's Note: The apostates must also include all who rely on anything other than the finished work of

Christ for heaven, as well as those who worship "free will."]

CONCLUSION

Want a primer on what Spiritual warfare in the public arena is all about? Read this book! For those of you who have gotten fatigued by relentless contradictions to sound doctrine from all of the so-called "Christians" around you, I suggest that this book will provide strong encouragement and fresh energy for the good fight of faith. Now is not the time to relent!

I conclude this review with Luther's prediction concerning the final days of this age: "I foresee other, greater upheavals in store for a future generation, compared with which these present are but a whisper of a faint breeze, or the murmur of a gentle brook." It looks like Luther's prophetic impulse is being vindicated now, and the outcome is sure!

(Psa 2:1-5) Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? {2} The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, {3} Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. {4} He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. {5} Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.

(<http://www.apostasynow.com/reviews/bondage.html>)

THE VAIN MIND

EPHESIANS 4:17-19

Ephesus was an important and great Roman city which was given over to vileness, perversity, depravity and every kind of filthiness imaginable. I doubt that our modern crooked and perverse generation is as depraved as was Ephesus when Paul was there, and when he wrote this letter to them. The new church there was primarily made up of converted Gentiles who had walked in the way of the Gentiles.

Paul had urged them to "walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called" in the midst of a city given over "lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness." He tells them that they are now part of the new humanity in Christ, the Israel of God, and their call requires a radical change in their thinking; that is, genuine conversion from the old to the new. Vv. 1, 17.

Note:

Regeneration is a new life; it is a new man who is created after God "in righteousness and true holiness."

"Colossians 3:10 And have put on the new [man], which

is renewed in knowledge after the **image of him that created him**:

Regeneration renews, remakes or restores man into the image of God which was lost in the Garden:

“Genesis 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.”

By regeneration, man is restored to the lost *image of him that created him*, that is, in image of God the Creator. This new man is also given the dominion mandate to take dominion over the whole earth through preaching and teaching the gospel of Christ.

Paul has encouraged the Ephesians to mutual love and unity. He now moves on to remind them from where they came, and what is now required of them in their new *“vocation”*. Their new life in Christ requires unity, purity, and holiness of heart.

Vv. 17-19, describes the actions of the vain mind.

“This I say therefore...” He builds on the fact that they are now members of the Body of Christ, and all are partakers of the gifts of the Spirit, and united under one Head, Christ.

“Testify in the Lord...” Paul reminds them of his authority to tell them of their common duty as believers.

He calls them to purity and holiness of heart, which will lead to purity of actions.

“Not as other Gentiles walk.” Paul goes on to describe the wickedness of the Gentile world out of which the elect are called by the Spirit of God. He reminds all of the Redeemed of what they were before their call to holiness. 1 Corinthians 6:11.

Ephesians 4:17, *“Vanity”*. That is, devoid of truth, perverse, depraved. *“The vanity of their mind”* destroys every area touched by the sinner.

“Mind”. That is, a particular way of thinking and judging.

In other words, the unconverted’s thinking is perverse, depraved, and without truth. In Ephesians it involved the worship of vain idols. Today, it involves worshiping things like self and money.

The *“vain”* mind cannot *“connect the dots”*.

It cannot put two and two together.

It cannot think logically.

Politics: The vain mind is seeking votes with lies, lies and more lies. The vain mind of the voter is unable to connect the spoken lies with the actions of the liars.

Acts 4:19-30.

In **Acts 3**, Peter healed *“a certain man lame from”* birth who was at the gate of the temple called Beautiful. In v. 7, Peter *“took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.”*

When the people saw the lame man walking and praising God, they ran together to the *“porch that is called Solomon’s.”* Peter took the opportunity to preach Christ to the multitude, and told them that their religious leaders crucified Christ, and God raised him from the dead. The healed man stood with them, so they could not dispute what was being preached.

The religious leaders held a council wondering what to do with Peter and John, but because of the miracle which stood before the people, they knew they could do nothing publically. So they commanded Peter and John not to speak nor teach in the name of Jesus. 4:18, but Peter told them they had no choice but to obey God, v. 19.

“Acts 4:23-29, v. 25 Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things?”

The unbelieving Jews who heard Peter preach, and who saw the healed man with Peter were unable to connect the two. The proof of what Peter was saying was before them, yet they refused to believe the gospel.

“2 Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”

As the unconverted mind gladly serves the *“god of the belly”*, the devil keeps it in darkness. That darkness prevails unless and until the Light of the glorious Gospel of Christ *“should shine unto them.”*

“The people imagine vain things.” They *“walk in the vanity of their mind”*, and the vain mind imagines many vain things:

First, it seeks to remove the Lord and His Christ from His throne over all of His creation.

Second, it seeks to be its own god, able to decide for itself what is right and wrong without the word of god.

Third, it seeks to stop any challenge to its godship.

Fourth, it seeks to control history. So even if there is a God, God can be overthrown, and man can control his own history, or destiny. And if he sees history not going the way he desires, he rewrites history to show that man is in control. Of course Arminianism believes man controls history.

Fifth, it seeks for a god who will meet its needs.

It seeks after a god for what that god can do for the individual, not for what is required to serve God through Christ.

Sixth, it seeks personal independence, and resists any challenge to that independence. It requires that everything revolve around it. It does not care how much inconvenience or even pain it might cause others, as long as it is satisfied.

Seventh, it seeks saving faith without the required accompanying godly works.

Eighth, it is a hardened mind, and gives itself over to perverse and depraved thinking which is devoid of the truth.

The vain mind results in the “*understanding darkened.*” The vain mind either cannot or refuses to connect cause and results.

When the unconverted are in authority, vain imaginations must prevail. Their actions will be contrary to the Way, the Truth, the Life and the Light. If they will keep their power, the unconverted must war against righteousness at every opportunity, and the righteous suffer. We are in the midst of such a war, and it appears that the Kingdom of God is losing.

Not only in Ephesians 4 and Romans 12, but throughout the New Testament Scripture, the believer is called upon to radically reform his thinking from self to God through Christ.

Vv. 18, 19, Paul describes how the vain mind of the unconverted works:

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

Lying is the universal face of “*uncleanness with greediness.*” As Christianity has been removed from society, the day of binding oaths, handshakes and even contracts is over. Many people, even Christians, think nothing about not following through with what they said they would do.

We are in the political season for the rest of the summer, and both Christian and non-Christian lies will be as common as flies at a picnic, as each says, “Here is why you should follow me”.

Romans 1:18-32 describes those of Ephesians 4:18 whose understanding is darkened, and who are separated from the life of God. Romans 1:

* **First**, the existence of God is clearly seen in the heavens, so they are without excuse.

* **Second**, fallen man is determined to reject that clearly revealed knowledge so he can convince himself that he can be his own god. This is why man is so determined to prove that the heavens are not an act of orderly creation.

Evidence of the **darkened understanding** is seen in the fact that though man has understood the extremely consistent goings and comings of the heavens, he is still determined that the heavens are simply chance. The Christian thought process cannot grasp such blindness. The redeemed cannot look into the heavens, and all creation, without seeing the Glories of the Creator God.

“Psalms 97:6 The heavens declare his righteousness, and all the people see his glory.” (Psalms 19:1)

* **Third**, they suppress the knowledge of God from the heavens, and refuse to glorify him as God.

* **Fourth**, they refuse to be thankful for what is clearly shown of God from the heavens.

* **Fifth**, they have foolish, vain, imaginations of overthrowing God, so they can be their own god.

* **Sixth**, their hearts being darkened, they serve the creature rather than the Creator, including man the creature.

* **Seventh**, those who willfully reject the inborn knowledge of the Creator God are given over to their vilest desires. They are given over to a reprobate mind.

Reprobate; that is, castaway, abandoned by God. God removes all restraint from their heart, and they are given over to the most evil and vile works they can imagine.

“Genesis 6:5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man [was] great in the earth, and [that] every imagination of the thoughts of his heart [was] only evil continually.”

“Psalms 14:13 They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one.”

“Jude 1:8 Likewise also these [filthy] dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities.”

However, God only allows the amount of wrath that will praise Him. Psalms 76:10.

The wrath of God against Sodom and Gomorrah resulted in raining fire and brimstone upon the cities. **Romans 1:18 & 27** implies that the “*wrath of God*” turns those who hate Him over to their own vile, reprobate imaginations, and they destroy themselves with their vile actions.

America is obviously under the wrath of God, and He has turned us over to the vilest imaginations of those who hate righteousness and justice.

What can be worse than being abandoned by God to

one's most vile imagination?

Separated from the truth that is in God through Christ leaves the unregenerate in their destructive blindness. The darkened understanding prohibits man from being able to connect sin with its results.

This blindness is simply blindness and darkness brought about by one's love for and indulgence in sin. Without self-government, a man will be controlled by his own appetites, whether that appetite is for money, power, women, drink, &c.

* The impure will have no respect for purity.

* The covetous and greedy will not have a proper view of giving to others.

* The morally weak will lose mental powers and his intelligence will be reduced.

Darkness, ignorance and blindness over time leaves a society incapable of serious intellectual effort. (2 Pet 1:5, 6 adds knowledge to virtue.) The result the darkened mind which is "*alienated from the life of God*" is a stupid mind, and a perverted moral sense. Not only did Paul face that darkened mind in Ephesus, but we face that perverted mind and its results today. The mind without God exalts perverseness and depravity of all kinds.

The effects of darkness and depravity on a society that is without God is well known among missionaries. All Christians should see the Moody science film, "Lost Cities", as it traces the fall of highly advanced, degenerate cultures into the "stone age".

Example, Sodomy exalted:

Sports figures, actors, politicians and well known people from all walks of life are applauded for publicly revealing they are sodomites.

On the other hand, HGTV canceled a reality show of two brothers remodeling and "flipping houses" because it was revealed the two men were Christians. Duck Dynasty would have been canceled if it were not for its fan base.

The co-founder and CEO of Mozilla, Firefox, and the inventor of Javascript was forced to resign because he gave \$1,000 several years previously to a California proposition which banned sodomite marriages, back when both Clinton and Obama were voicing support for the "Defense of Marriage Act".

Christianity is openly mocked at every opportunity, while fornication, drunkenness, murder (abortion) and sodomy are exalted.

From the Pentagon, the military is waging war against the Lord and His Christ, not only placing abortion on

the level of a broken leg, but has done the unthinkable concerning sodomy. The result? Suicide is now the leading cause of death in the military, and no one can understand why.

While the military is being charged with letting veterans die, the Army is sinking to a new low:

"Deployed soldier begins sex change" from female to male, as though such a thing were possible.

<http://www.armytimes.com/article/20121015/NEWS/210150309/Deployed-soldier-begins-sex-change>

• **"PENTAGON OKS MANNING TRANSFER FOR GENDER TREATMENT"**

WASHINGTON (AP) In an unprecedented move, the Pentagon is trying to transfer convicted national security leaker Pvt. Chelsea Manning to a civilian prison so she can get treatment for her gender disorder, defense officials said. ...'

(<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/pentagon-oks-manning-transfer-gender-treatment>)

The actions of a perverse and depraved nation are beyond the Christian's imagination, yet pastors refuse to publically stand against the sodomite agenda.

STATIST EDUCATION IN SODOMY

This generation has been reeducated by the education system and the media.

"Gallup Poll: Support for Same-sex Marriage Reaches "Tipping Point""

According to Gallup, support for same-sex "marriage" has now reached a "tipping point," with 55 percent of Americans now voicing approval. ..."

(http://www.thenewamerican.com/culture/faith-and-morals/item/18370-gallup-poll-support-for-same-sex-marriage-reaches-tipping-point?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_campaign=5f13e71a3c-The_Editors_Top_Picks_3_12_143_12_2014&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8ca494f2d2-5f13e71a3c-288838389)

THE STATE EDUCATION SYSTEM NOW TEACHES THE "GLORIES" OF SODOMITE RELATIONSHIPS STARTING IN PRESCHOOL.

Ephesians 4:17-19 tell us what is going on. Darkness, blindness, dumbness, ignorance, stupidity now rule from the top down because the people have become alienated from the only source of life, "*the life of God.*"

Only the light of the Glorious Gospel of Christ can bring life, and stop society's death wish. Only Biblical conversion can bring back intelligent and consistent thinking, and the outward works that go with that proper thinking.

Any honest history must admit that it was the

Reformation and “Calvinism” along with the invention of the printing press that elevated man to where he is (was). As the war against the Reformed faith and “Calvinism” progresses, (even in the church) man degenerates back into the pit of darkness, perversity and death.

The sordid, degenerate, perverted mind is clearly at work today as society works to remove the “*life of God*” from every area of public life and thought.

“Proverbs 8:36 But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death.”

The darkened mind alienated from “*the life of God*”, chooses death over life. Ever before us is the proof of the need of sound Christian preaching and education for our young people. Professed Christians must return to the Christianity as explained throughout Scripture, or continue down the broad road to destruction and death.

“*From the life of God.*” From the life of which He is the source and author.

“*Through the ignorance that is in them*”; the ignorance of the true God, and ignorance of what defines right and wrong, particularly in moral behavior.

“*Because of the blindness of their heart.*” Or hardness. Paul tells us **why** the reprobate live and act as they do. Their heart is hardened, and the hardened heart is incapable of understanding truth. Their lack of understanding is not from a lack of mental capacity. Their heart is hardened because they “*have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.*”

First, the individual is to blame for his blindness and lack of understanding. His lack of understanding is not because of an inferior intellect, but is caused by his love of sin, “*all uncleanness with greediness.*”

Second, Romans 1 clearly lays out **the obligation of all men** to turn from their rejection of the Creator, and to love and serve Him alone.

Third, the way to elevate the understandings of mankind is to purify the heart. The key to better understanding is not a better education as defined by the reprobate and vain minds that are at war against God. “Education without God only makes man more effective in his rebellion.”

Ephesians 4:23 “*And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;*”. A new way of thinking is required, which requires Godly education.

“Psalms 119:98 Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me. 99 I have more understanding than all my teachers: for

thy testimonies are my meditation. 100 I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts.”

Ephesians 4:19. “*past feeling*”. The control of sin hardens the conscience, giving it license to be involved in debauchery of all kinds, such as sodomy and sexual excess of every kind.

Blindness is self-imposed blindness when truth is rejected. Blindness results in outrageous and shamelessly giving over to “Lasciviousness”. Lasciviousness primarily refers to uncleanness and fornication, but refers also to other works of the flesh.

LASCIVIOUSNESS

We can see the lack of preaching against “lasciviousness” by the immorality that is rampant among professed Christians.

The greedy “lawmakers” who are in authority work to make more and more “laws”, enabling them to “work all uncleanness with greediness.” They work to gather more worldly wealth to themselves than they can ever use. They gather that wealth at the expense of the “widow and orphan”. That is, those who are unable to defend themselves from those with impure, vile motives.

TO WORK ALL UNCLEANNESS WITH GREEDINESS.

2 Peter 2:18-22. “15 Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam [the son] of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; 16 But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man’s voice forbad the madness of the prophet.”

Though clearly warned by God not to help Balack, Balaam did it anyway for the promise of great reward.

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

One would think Paul is speaking to unregenerates of our day as we see our society degenerate into uncontrolled uncleanness with greediness. Isaiah 10:1-4

Luke 11:42-52, the Lord pronounces five Woes upon those religious leaders who “work all uncleanness with greediness.”

Ephesians 4:19, their darkened heart is controlled by lasciviousness, resulting in working all manner of uncleanness to satisfy their greediness. Their covetous desire to have more is from their darkened heart. The outside may be very “religious”, but the heart is controlled by the desire to have more.

There are multitudes of people who put on their religious robes to go to church. Every one says how

good of a Christian they are. Yet when they take off their religious robes in their business world, their greediness is evident as they use all their power to rob those who are powerless to stand against them.

There certainly is nothing wrong with the desire to have more, as long as that desire does not violate God's laws concerning getting gain.

"Woe". The promise of God's physical chastisement or promise of great grief—family, business, personal grief is upon those who work "uncleanness with greediness."

A "Woe" came upon Peter Rodger, the assistant director of the very dark murder movie, "The Hunger Games". His son, Elliot, killed 6 and then himself. (The first three were murdered with a knife. Where is the call for "knife control"?) No doubt he was on anti-depressants. The police had been warned of his murderous intentions.

Woe, that is, Great Grief has descended on America. Depression rules and anti-depressants are the largest selling drugs now on the market. Yet the unclean and greedy refuse to make the clear connection of their actions with the mass killings.

As long as the "vain" are exalted, woes will increase.

"Ephesians 4:20 But ye have not so learned Christ;"

"1 Corinthians 6:11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."

Christ teaches us:

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

Our contentment is in the fact that Christ ever watches over his people, and as they seek his Kingdom first, he will supply all their needs.

Books

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

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

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

Kevin Swanson, Hardcover, 320 pages. Retail, \$26.95 + postage.

From The Biblical Examiner, \$15 ea post paid.

What Does The Bible Say About That?

This is an introduction to the "big picture" for young children ages 9-13. At some point, every child needs to see the "forest from the trees." This introduction to a biblical worldview will help kids to make sense of the world around them. *tail \$21.95+postage. From us \$15 post paid. "Apostate" and "What..." are the same price from us. Difference: The number we ordered determined the discount we received. We ordered more of "Apostate" so got a better discount.*

Generations with Vision, 10461 S. Parker Rd, Parker Colorado 80134. 888.839.6132. www.generationswithvision.com

"The Incredible Schofield and His Book," Joseph Canfield. Paper, 394 pgs. Ross House Books. \$17, post paid.

"Death of the Church Victorious" tracing the roots and fruits of modern millennialism. Foreword by R.J. Rushdoony.

Pastor Need. 506 pages, index and 1000+ documenting footnotes. Sovereign Grace Publishers. \$25.95 post paid. \$20 post paid from The Biblical Examiner.

"Identifying Identity's Gentile Corruption" Foreward Joe Morecraft III.

Pastor Need. Saddle stitched, 50 pages. Indexed and documented. Free upon request.

"God Has a Wonderful Plan For Your Life. The Myth of the Modern Message." Ray Comfort. Free upon request. **VARIOUS NOTES.**

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<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/8g549gw6oqv0s/g5AAB8H1JwOd0KGy34TsYpVMRja>

Past PDF issues of The Biblical Examiner from the first of the year are here. <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/u7s71aa9fwj21p0/AADryPu6R6a0PsXkCuNoShxea>

New Online Bible 4.21. Includes the ability to run under Wine on Mac, Linus and Windows. Includes Spurgeon's sermons, and Calvin's Commentary.

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