

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

THE PRUDENT MAN

A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself; but the simple pass on, and are punished. (Pro 22:3, 7:12)

*And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had **understanding** of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment. (1 Chron 12:32)*

Men that had understanding of the times This is best interpreted politically. Compare the marginal reference. (Barnes. By long experience, they knew what should be done. Trapp, Geneva. They rightly estimated the circumstances of the time. K-D)

Charles Hodge:

It is a great part of wisdom to see what God is doing, or about to do. When evil has come, most men can see it. But the prudent foresee if it. Not that God hath given to us the knowledge of futurity. This would only have encouraged presumption. But he has given us prudence, naturally foreseen evil, and forecasting the most effectual means of deliverance. David was thus directed to hide himself from Saul; Elijah from Jezebel. The disciples were taught to flee from impending evil. Paul repeatedly hid himself from threatened destruction. Even our Divine Master acted on this rule of prudence, till his hour was come. (Matthew 25: 46)

Not that the prudent man is gifted with supernatural knowledge. He only uses the discernment which God hath given him. He regards the signs of the times. He studies the word of God in reference to coming judgments; and he acts accordingly. To walk carelessly in the midst of evil, is reckless folly. We stand "not by faith" only, but "by faith" balanced with fear (Rom. xi. 20); yet not the fear of bondage and scrupulosity, but care, watchfulness, and diligence. (He. iv. 1:11.)...

Very different is the course of the simple. (Chap. xiv.15, 16.) Devoid of all prudence; foreseeing no evil; fearing none; giving up to their own ways, and reckless in all consequences, they pass on, and are punished by their own folly. (Chap. vii. 7:22, 23.) Oh! Many such are there, who

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"when the Lord's hand is lifted up, will not see" (Isa. xxvi. 11); who will not hear the distant thunder, betokening the approaching storm; who in their fancied security laugh at those, who are preparing for an evil day; laugh even on the brink of that destruction, which, unless Sovereign grace imposes, will make them wise too late. (Proverbs, Charles Bridges. Pp. 398, 399, 400)

The prudent man perceives an evil standing before him!

[That is] he sees, e.g., the approaching overthrow of a decaying house, or in a sudden storm the fearful flood, and betimes betakes himself to a place of safety; the simple, on the contrary, go blindly forward into the threatening danger, and must bear the punishment of their carelessness. ... (K-D)

Keil goes on to say that the simple go on to go forward, and meet with the punishment. We are given to understand that many simple ones are found for one prudent man. The simple are self-punished for want of foresight.

Though any mention of God's law is absolutely forbidden in the public schools as well as any mention of the Christian God, the San Diego school board has voted to allow Sharia Law to be taught in their schools.

<https://newswithviews.com/san-diego-school-board-cair-to-help-teach-your-kids-sharia-law/>

Simple: 6. Weak in intellect; not wise or sagacious; silly.

The simple believeth every word; but the prudent looketh well to his going. Proverbs 14:15. (1828 Webster dictionary. In other words, the simple are gullible, and will “follow his heart” in spite of warnings and obvious evidence.)

Accordingly, **simple Christians** who leave their children in the State school system refuse simple foresight, as they self-destroy their own future. God’s Word is true; it and common sense proclaims that the house of humanism is decaying, and the resulting storms and floods are quickly approaching.

Christians are sending their gifts from God through the very gates of hell to be trained in the ways of Satan.

LEGITIMATE AUTHORITY

Note that the devil has legitimate power under Christ, to whom all power belongs, to destroy those men and nations that choose to be destroyed. That self-destruction desire is manifested by their commitment to lawless rebellion, *for sin is the transgression of the law*. (Luke 22:50-53, Col 1:13, 14) Believers have been delivered from bondage to the authority of darkness; they have been delivered to the kingdom of Light to serve the King. However, rebellion against that King places them back under Satan’s power.

Believing they can be as god, those men and nations, even professed Christians, who become a law unto themselves by transgressing the Law of God say to Satan, “Here I am. Come destroy me.” Men want to go their own way, and then blame God for the results of their own way. (James 1:13-15) Men and nations insist on going their own way, and God gives them the authority to do so. (Ps 106:15) Rebellion against God gives Satan the authority to work in men and nations.

In other words, legitimate Satanic authority is real; it is legitimate because it is given by Christ himself, but its end is death. Though he destroyed himself with his many wives, the Preacher asks, *“why shouldst thou destroy thyself?”* (Ecc 7:16)

God gives Satan authority to bring shame and destruction upon those who rebel against His Sovereign authority, so men will learn that their ways do not work. (Ps 83:17, 18)

America’s rebellion against God’s law has given Satan an open invitation to destroy this nation, and he is doing a good job.

Safety in Repeated Warnings

Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for

you it is safe. (Philip 3:1)

God does not consider it an “overkill” to issue the same message more than one time. So I will say several things again:

Paper Assets: All paper assets are in grave danger of totally evaporating “overnight”, with no chance of recovery. We are being continually warned from the highest levels that *grievous* evils are quickly coming; we ignore those warnings at our own peril. We are told that the simple continue to ignore the warnings, and are destroyed. There are those in high, unseen places who feel that the time is right to “let it happen”. **Planned Collapse:** Has Trump been set up to be “fall guy”? We certainly know that the Establishment, both Democrat and Republican, is working to make his fall come to pass.

Debt and the End: The modern idea of debt has turned over a vast amount of property to Satan. Some years ago, I received an appeal for funds from a missionary. He had bought a “printing machine” on credit, and was depending (presuming) upon the Lord to pay his bill.

With very few exceptions, Christians are giving and have given education to Satan, and they wonder why their children are being destroyed.

Unlawful covetousness has given Satan authority to confiscate money, as people borrow more and more to obtain their desired status symbol.

The prudent man should seriously consider **trading Paper and Digital Wealth for Biblical Wealth** while he still can; that is, physical property, particularly income producing property and hard metals. The powers that be are doing all they can to digitize all wealth, for it is much easier to steal digits than physical wealth.

[Franklyn Sanders: Hear my words: DO NOT buy silver & gold through pool accounts. Buy physical & take possession. Forget the pools, they ain’t cheap if they take all your money. (Y’all can always call us at 888-218-9226 & buy physical gold & silver -- and get it in your own hands.) *See Franklyn Sanders* (<http://the-moneychanger.com/>) or *Julian Jarvis* (<http://www.yellowpages.com/greencastle-in/mip/julian-jarvis-coins-25564510>). *The advertisers you see and hear concerning “hard metals” will take advantage of the simple.*]

New World Order: Turning from God’s law-order must result in chaos; hence the long awaited New World Order. The Tower rebuilt. But we understand that God is permitting Satan to bring about his chaos in order for our God to institute His New World

Order though conversion rather than through coercion.

God allows evil to prosper. All the humanistic laws man can imagine will not bring about what he desires. Riches, and education, without righteousness must bring trouble and chaos. "You think this will work without Me, so here is the power to try it, and see what happens." Humanistic social laws and laws of finance may prosper for a time, but the end will be total collapse. The wages of sin is death, or there is no Righteous God.

Example:

Remember the Oroville Dam, 2/16/17. Crews worked into the night to bolster eroded spillway as the next storm approached.

<http://www.sacbee.com/news/state/california/water-and-drought/article132905779.html>

200,000 people live below the dam. It is an earth-en dam, built over 50 years ago. 12 years ago, there was great concern about the dam, but the politicians and engineers who built the dam refused to listen. The main spillway's concrete broke twice, and was patched, and it broke again. The emergency spillway is simply rocks that washed away immediately as soon as the spillway was opened. They tried to patch the damaged spillway with large rocks, and the main spillway with concrete. However, such patching measures with rocks was simply for public consumption. Any one with common sense knows that no matter how large the rocks, the rush of water will move them like marbles. There was a massive rain coming in, which could well have caused the dam to wash away. Meanwhile, those below the dam were being assured that all was fine. ("*Don't worry, be happy*") they were told as they face total destruction.)

How like Americans to be oblivious as the various dams are about to break: fanatical chaos, social chaos, religious chaos from false teachers, education chaos as the war against God's law-word continues in the classroom. However, the war in the classroom has already been lost. The "public" education system is in its final "death throes".

The End

The economic collapse could mean the end of the American Empire, which has been the dream of the One Worlders for decades. McCain is complaining that the return to Nationalism as evidenced by Trump, is seriously threatening the New World Or-

der. (There are two humanistic systems fighting for dominance: **Internationalism**, a one-world order which is the Tower of Babel dream promoted by McCain, and **Nationalism**, which is the individual nation first, *e. g.*, Trump. Of course, one world under Christ as established in the Mayflower Compact, is not only ignored, but is fought against by even the church. The job numbers may look good, but they are built on a Nationalistic humanistic dream.

Many past presidents of both parties have worked to bring about the demise of the American Empire; both Bushes were quite vocal about the NWO dream. When Obama doubled the national debt, he set "us" on the sure path to collapse; There is no stopping nor turning it back. Hillary was to take over, and complete the Internationalists' New World Order's dream. Trump "trumped" that dream with his Nationalism, so he must be removed by whatever means necessary for the Internationalists dream to work. However, our allegiance is to the Kingdom of God, which shall prevail.

The Fall Guy

Here are excerpts from two articles that you should at least read:

Trump Is Exactly Where The Elites Want Him

"The staging of the 2016 election might have appeared to some people to be absolute chaos, but to me, it could not have been more perfectly scripted. In later articles covering the election I went on to give Trump a chance. I stated that I had little doubt that he would win the election and that this would be followed by an economic crisis, probably triggered early in his first term. Conservative movements would be set up as scapegoats for a crash the globalists had created. However, I believed it (marginally) possible that Trump was not aware of this strategy on the part of the elites. Today, I no longer hold this view."...

<http://alt-market.com/articles/3095-trump-is-exactly-where-the-elites-want-him>

Looming Economic Crisis to be Blamed on Trump, Experts Warn

An economic crisis of potentially historic proportions appears to be just around the corner, and the establishment may be setting up President Donald Trump and other anti-globalist forces to take the blame for it. So says former congressman and GOP presidential candidate Ron Paul and other economic experts with a proven track record of accuracy who have studied the issue. And at this point, there is probably nothing that can be done to stop it.

While the groundwork for the upcoming financial

chaos was actually laid down early in Obama's term — and even before — by the Federal Reserve system, the figurative chickens will likely be coming home to roost under the Trump administration. "The Federal Reserve's policies of printing trillions of dollars back in '08-09 have locked in place a serious financial crisis at some point in our future," Paul warned. "It's unavoidable, and even Donald Trump can't stop it. Trump will unfairly get the blame though."...

"All empires end and we're the empire. It's going to end and it's going to be for economic reasons," Paul continued, noting that there would be "horrendous increases" in spending and inflation. "This is a monetary problem. This is a spending problem. This is a foreign policy problem. And that is what is going to bring us down, it's going to be financial."... (Actually, it is a sin problem as man seeks to be his own god with his fiat word making man-centered laws that must fail. Ed.)

<https://www.thenewamerican.com/economy/economics/item/25385-looming-economic-crisis-to-be-blamed-on-trump-experts-warn?tmpl=component&print=1>

Men have been forecasting the collapse for many years. The Federal Reserve has brought it on with their fiat money policies. The collapse must come, or God's economic laws are not true. What better time to let it come than under Trump, when they believe that they can accomplish so many things, e.g., the one world monetary system, kill the "Christian" conservative movement and finish an administration that is interfering with their New World Order dreams with his Nationalism? Everyone inside and outside of the federal government, both Democrats and Republicans, is doing all they can to "kill" the Trump administration.

Ephesians 1:11 *"predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will."* **We understand from the Tower of Babel that the one world dream will never come to pass.** One of my favorite verses is Psalms 76:10 *Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain.* When will we learn that politics is not the answer?

There is big money being invested to start another "civil war", and make it look like the "conservatives" are at fault. New York city is even now preparing for serious "civil unrest" when food stamps and welfare payoffs no longer work. Man's efforts must fail regardless of who is in "power".

Trump is trying to cut government spending, including drastically cutting down the "public employees". However, the primary job of those employees is

to protect their jobs. Therefore, out of the unknown bowels of the federal government issues forth everything possible to cause Trump to fail, for their job security depends on his failure.

Trump has identified with "Christian" conservatives, and they have strongly identified with him, so when the economic crisis does come, and it shall come, they will be blamed. Such an event is the **planned** end of the conservative movement by showing it does not work. However, Trump's financial gurus are all highest level banksters, and are a major part of the "swamp". The fox is not only in the henhouse, but has been given rule over the hen house.

The conflict is between humanistic right-wing conservativeism (Rush Limbaugh, and yes, even "Christian" conservativeism), and humanistic left-wing liberalism, with some radicals calling for death to their opposition. In other words, we have two pagan groups fighting for control of society, while the Christians watch the conflict from the sidelines, many of whom are waiting for an easy way out, *i.e.* a "rapture".

Certainly, if it were not for the Spirit of God, Christianity would have been overwhelmed by the sheer numbers of pagans, and the careless attitude of the Christian community that is destroying itself with its corrupt view of sin.

"Our God reigns", and he is working all things toward His preordained conclusion, and He shall subdue all things under the footstool of His Son. (Ps 110:1)

Muslim Births Expected to Outpace Christian Births Within 20 Years

Within 20 years, more babies will be born to Muslim women than to Christian women world-wide, the latest sign of the rapid growth that could make Islam the world's largest religion by the end of the century. ...

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/muslim-births-expected-to-outpace-christian-births-within-20-years-1491400800>

Genesis 1:28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, (not add) and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

We are living in the result of God's people violating God's command to multiply, subdue the earth, and take dominion for the Glory of God.

We went to Bettie's 50th college reunion at a

“Christian” college. Almost all her female classmates could talk about was how great their careers have been. None spoke of how great their families have been. Thus, we saw that Christian women in general are more caught up in secular careers than in home-making careers. Most of the females were excited about teaching in the palaces of Molech (statist education) rather than teaching the ways of the Lord to their own children in their own place.

Christians are choosing to turn society over to Satan, who is coming against them in the body of the Muslim hordes. (Obviously, circumstances may hinder children. However, we know a large family that keeps adding to their family through adoption. In fact, they even had an adoption party, which we attended, to celebrate the adoption of another small child. Also, many women have no choice other than a career, for the world has ensnared many eligible young men, and has made them useless in the Kingdom of God.)

Psalms 127:1-5 (vv. 4, 5) As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.

Covetousness for the things of this world has caused the West to see children as a hindrance to obtaining the desires of the heart. Thus, they are breeding themselves out of existence, while the Muslims are taking over the gates of their enemies.

I must mention here that I understand why many see children as a burden. There is no Christian discipline in the home; the control of the home is turned over to children as the parents seek to please the demands of the children in order to keep peace. Of course, the result is war. Then those career women who chose children must let the state or some kind of child care rear up their children.

Being left in ignorance of the law and its consequences by the blind “Christian” religious leaders, every person is left to do what he thinks is best. In our day as it was *in those days*, there is no king in Israel; there is no binding law, no Godly king, magistrate nor judge. There was and is no fear of God before their eyes. (Ps 36:1, Ro 3:18) Every man is thus left to do what is right in his own eyes, and is choosing his just reward for his lawless ways. (Judges 17:6, 18:1, 19:1, 21:25)

The Christian faith that was so firmly established in the West 500 years ago, has been and is being turned over to the Satanic Muslims by the faithless heirs to the great heritage that has come down to us. *Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. We must pray with Elijah: “Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.” (1 Ki 13:37)*

US FINANCING WAR AGAINST CHRIST

U. S. Government financing ISIS

VIDEO: ISIS Terrorist Admits! “We are being funded by...”

<http://www.thepoliticalinsider.com/video-isis-terrorist-admits-we-are-being-funded-by/>

Secret Pentagon Report Reveals US “Created” ISIS As A “Tool” To Overthrow Syria’s President Assad

<http://www.zerohedge.com/news/2015-05-23/secret-pentagon-report-reveals-us-created-isis-tool-overthrow-syrias-president-assad>

Newly-Declassified U.S. Government Documents: The West Supported the Creation of ISIS

<http://www.washingtonsblog.com/2015/05/newly-declassified-u-s-government-documents-the-west-supported-the-creation-of-isis.html>

Reminder Viet Nam? When we left, we left them one of the best equipped army in the area. When “we” flee from ISIS, we leave them great amounts of war equipment.

Leaked audio: Obama wanted ISIS to grow

Kerry also admitted U.S. helped arm jihadists

<http://www.wnd.com/2017/01/leaked-audio-obama-wanted-isis-to-grow/>

FAR FETCHED?

For many years, the State Department, “Deep State”, has been at war against our country. What would make us think things have changed for the better? It is only logical that the US would finance ISIS’s war in order to drive Muslims into the West for the purpose of changing the culture from its “Christian” foundation to a Satanic, anti-Christ foundation. According to our Lord’s words, the world hates Christ, and will do anything to de-throne him among men. There is no limit to the atrocities the Christ haters will do in their undying and foolish efforts to dethrone Christ. (Consider the **intentional** death of the multitudes of people over they years in order to obtain the One Word goal: WW I, WW II, Korea, Viet Nam, the heartless murder of the unborn for population control, &c. People are simply collateral damage as the wick-

ed attempt to reach their “Tower of Babel” goal.) We have been warned by our king, King Jesus.

CHRIST-LESS CONSERVATISM

By Coach Dave Daubemire

America is a mess and it is getting messier every day. If you think I am wrong I invite you to spend a couple of hours with a group of high school seniors.

I don't care where you find them. I don't care if it is in a school, at a mall, or, dare I say it, a Christian youth group at your local church. You will be hard pressed to find any of those students who hold and are able to defend a truly Biblical worldview.

The fake left has been successful in classifying hard-core Biblical beliefs as “hate” speech. Because the worst thing anyone can do today is hate something even the adoption of Christian values has to be given a different name. It is very unusual to find any young person who will self-identify as a Christian when questioned regarding his/her political ideology.

Christians have modified their Christian beliefs and have instead adopted the much more politically correct identity of “conservative.” Christianity is “hateful” and “judgmental” while conservatism is “tolerant” and “accepting”. Whole churches have become “conservative” or “liberal” based on their political leanings in regards to their acceptance of hard-core Biblical beliefs.

Because the church has refused to get involved in the political debate the fake left has engaged in a cultural rebranding that divides Christians along cultural issues into a conglomerate of a cornucopia of political beliefs. It is so bad today that the term Christian is no longer a standalone ideology but one that requires hyphenization...conservative-Christian, moderate-Christian, liberal Christian.

The divide and conquer strategy has come home to roost. Christianity is no longer a self-describing political position. They have so successfully divided us that Christians no longer identify as Bible believers but as pro-this and anti-that political categories.

You see, Christianity has become a meaningless term...even to those who claim Christ as their Savior. A few years ago I wrote a commentary called Conservatism is Pretend Salt which attempted to explain the sell-out of Biblical beliefs to the murky meaningless term... conservatism.

We now have homosexual conservatives, pro-marriage conservatives, compassionate conservatives, fiscal conservatives, social conservatives, and my favorite,

Christian conservatives.

This all came to a head this weekend when youthful conservative Tomi Lahren was exposed as a new breed of conservative...pro-choice. The Twitter world exploded with social conservatives who had been fooled into believing that Tomi was one of them. Even though they reacted with disgust, they failed to realize that they had long ago forfeited their right to indignation when they subjugate their Christianity to the more politically correct conservative.

Tomi is probably a sweet girl. She certainly knows how to make the conservative argument in a way that makes the Fox News crowd that so loved fake conservative Megan Kelly paddy cake their meat hocks until they realized that she wasn't the type of conservative they were.

That is where the substitution of Christian for conservative has led us astray. A conservatism not based on the foundations of the Bible is a Christ-less conservatism. Jesus is the standard by which all moral law is based. Remove Him and His Name from your political ideology and you find yourself in bed with the Log-Cabin conservatives.

Which brings me to Milo. A few months ago flamboyant homosexual Milo Yiannopoulos was all of the conservative rage until he was exposed as a pro-paedophilia conservative...certainly a new-genre in the ever changing catch phrase of conservatism.

Christians are always looking for the newest hero to carry their banner. But the best banner bearer of all is the namesake of the religion they claim to adhere to. Jesus is the Christian hero. He may not be as flashy as Tomi, or as feminine as Milo, but His political brand has stood the test of time for over 2000 years.

Substituting conservative for Christianity reminds me of the failed rebranding that Coca Cola went through a few years ago. As is often the case, the original is usually the best. Christianity doesn't need to be improved; it simply needs to be applied.

I find it ironic that in the political waters that we swim things have gotten increasingly murky. Trump shocked the world by rising to the top of the political heap and he did it by not fitting into the mold that the political experts told us would be essential for his success. The Republicans told us that he wasn't Republican enough and the conservatives told us he wasn't conservative enough.

The most ironic thing of all is that we were told by the Christians that he wasn't Christian enough. This is the same group of conservatives who rejected His Name in

favor of more politically correct monikers.

As is becoming more and more obvious to those who have eyes to see the Republican Party is top heavy with Christ-less conservatives. All of their years of conservative jabbering...smaller government, anti-abortion, traditional family, school choice...was nothing more than political posturing. I am reminded of what Romeo uttered to Juliet. "A rose by any other name will still smell as sweet."

Biblical Christianity is a standard of morality. Conservatism is a political doxy. According to the dictionary, a doxy is no more than a harlot. Christians stand on principles. Conservatives lay down with harlots. Any questions as to which group is running our government?

Conservative-Christian? Some names simply do not smell as sweet.

<http://www.newswithviews.com/Daubenmire/dave500.htm>

MIKE PENCE

Wash your mind with this:

Mike Pence's Biblical attitude about his wife has thrown the DC establishment into a tizzy. They cannot understand his determination to remain above reproach, particularly around women. Those who have been around the ministry know that women are attracted to men with money or with power, religious power, political power or any kind of power. It is especially bad if the man is a good speaker. Lindsey Williams was a chaplain on the Alaskan pipeline, and wrote about the utter foolishness of any supposed oil shortage. He told the world that there is enough oil in Alaska alone to power the US for hundreds of years. Then a woman entered into the picture, and his ministry was over. (*The Energy Non Crisis*, Lindsey Williams, Worth Publishing, Wheatridge Col. 1980.)

"The religious reasons Mike Pence won't eat alone with women don't add up," says the Washington Post in response to a brouhaha surrounding a quote emanating from an interview with Karen Pence. In the piece, she says that the Vice President doesn't dine alone with women or attend events where alcohol is served without his wife.

<http://www.truthrevolt.org/news/wapo-pences-christian-reasons-marital-decisions-dont-add>

Any man in his right mind, particularly if he has any kind of authority, will do all he can to remain above reproach, particularly with women.

We need to pray for Mr. Pence that his Christian witness will have a strong influence upon the DC crowd, particularly the President.

FROM THE REALM OF THE INSANE

The war against sanity intensifies in the state education system, yet Christians insist in sending God's gift to them, their children, to be turned against God. What a wonderful time to home educate God's children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. They will rule the world as the useless snowflakes melt under pressure of any kind. Obviously, there are advanced occupations that might require education in an advanced, secular environment. Below we see that "higher education" science has found the answer to God's law of gravity:

University declares gravity to be "intolerant" ... removes all weighing scales from the gym to avoid "triggering" snowflake students
naturalnews.com/2017-03-16-university-declares-gravity-to-be-intolerant-removes-all-weighing-scales-from-the-gym-to-avoid-triggering-students.html

Think! It is not the college graduate, computer expert, nor even the doctor that makes the world go around. Rather, the tradesman is the "essential" worker; it is the "blue collar" worker who makes the whole world go around. Without him, there would be no food, electricity, water, buildings, and the list is endless. I will have that article in the next issue.

YOGA & HINDUISM

"Yoga and Hinduism: My question is about yoga and Hinduism. In his beautifully written text *The Religions of Man*, Huston Smith lays out an accessible and fascinating explanation of Hinduism. He says of hatha yoga, "Originally it was practiced as preliminary to spiritual yoga, but it has largely lost this connection. . . . The yogas that do concern us [in the study of Hinduism] are those designed to unite the human spirit with the God who lies concealed in its deepest recesses..."

<http://www.yogajournal.com/article/teach/yoga-and-hinduism/>

We commonly hear of "churches" and "Christian" religious groups holding Yoga classes; they have apostatized from the faith that was once delivered to the saints as they practice Hinduism.

VEGETARIANISM

[My wife took a very short trial subscription to a "health newsletter". The book that came along with the first issue revealed that the author's answer to the health crisis we see today, *i.e.* Vegetarianism. The modern theme of "good health" seems to be vegetarianism, which comes from Hinduism. Hence, it is distressing to see Hinduism invading the church. So I am reprinting one of my old articles that appeared in the November

1995 issue of the *Chalcedon Report*. I met the Editor about 10 years later in VA, and he told me that the article caused quite a stir when they published it. Please note that meat in Bible times was much different than what is normally available to the public today, unless you have a good source for genuine grass fed beef and mutton. Today's meat is full of hormones and who knows what else it contains due to commercial processing.]

VEGETARIANISM: A PREVAILING HERESY

By Ovid Need jr.

The character of the times in which we live is such as to call forth from us even this admonition, that we ought not to be astonished at the heresies (which abound) neither ought their existence to surprise us, for it was foretold that they should come to pass; nor the fact that they subvert the faith of some, for their final cause, by affording a trial to faith, to give it also the opportunity of being "approved." Groundless, therefore, and inconsiderate is the offence of the many who are scandalized by the very fact that heresies prevail to such a degree. . . . [Tertullian, A.D. 145-220, *The Ante-Nicene Fathers*, vol. III, p. 243.]

The prevalence of and the ready acceptance of heresies by believers is neither new nor unexpected. Hence a primary purpose of instruction in God's Word is countering heresies.

Paul, writing to his son in the Lord, Timothy, gave some very explicit instructions. Paul's purpose was both to warn, and urge Timothy to warn, others of the danger of strange, false doctrines that would influence the church, 1:3. Paul warned that demonic doctrines contrary to the Law-Word of God would creep into the church under the guise of Christian doctrine, v. 4. Paul warns Timothy of many teachers who will come in the name of Christ, professing things *contrary to sound doctrine*. (It is interesting that Paul implies an example of *unsound doctrine* is that Christ must reign visibly in order to be the King of the whole earth, 1:17.)

Paul instructs Timothy in several points of sound doctrine in chapters two and three. Having spoken to Timothy in general terms in the first three chapters, Paul gives him some very specific warnings, *i.e.* *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly . . .*, 4:1. Paul thus identifies the following instructions as explicitly from the Spirit, and clearly identifies some of the unsound doctrines that will be accepted by many believers. The Spirit foretells "a dreadful apostasy which should happen in the last times" (John Gill), and gives the apostasy's details, so God's people can easily recognize it.

The author of the prophetic warning is the Spirit of God; the author of the apostasy is the enemy, *i.e.* *seduc-*

ing spirits, and doctrines of devils, 4:1. Hence, the Spirit could not be more candid in identifying the authors of the apostasies he is about to identify, nor in identifying the apostasies' time-frame of appearance.

Paul warns Timothy that the "wily" devil (*Eph 6:11*) tries to convince, by whatever means possible, that it is preferable to *abstain from meats*. Origen, a pupil of Clement of Alexandria, said of 1 Tim 4:1-4:

. . . But these persons, because of the ignorance of their understandings, are not only unable themselves logically to state the truth, but cannot even give their attention to what is advanced by us; and entertaining unworthy ideas of His divinity, have delivered themselves over to errors and deceits, being depraved by a spirit of error, rather than instructed by the teaching of the Holy Spirit, according to the declaration of the apostle, "Following the doctrine of devils, forbidding to marry, to the destruction and ruin of many, and to abstain from meats, that by an ostentatious exhibition of stricter observance they may seduce the souls of the innocent." [*ibid.*, vol. IV, p. 285.]

In his lie, the devil offers believers a higher level of holiness and/or health, *e.g.*, "You can," says the enemy, "be more holy and/or more healthy than what the Lord offered you in His Word. The Lord gave you a good outline, but here is a better way. Do more than what He said." Furthermore, the lying enemy is not above using apparent truth nor subverting truth to support his efforts to seduce the saints to follow doctrines of devils.

[T]o abstain from meats: Though one of the more obvious modern applications of abstain from meats is the Roman practice of "*abstaining from meats*" during Lent or on special days, *e.g.*, Fridays, the understanding of the phrase is clearly "abstain from animal food," *i.e.* vegetarianism. Irenaeus gives us an idea of the background of "abstain from animal food": Under CHAP. XXIV. — DOCTRINES OF SATURNINUS AND BASILIDES:

. . . This heretic [Saturninus, *ed.*] was the first to affirm that two kinds of men were formed by the angels,— the one wicked, and the other good. And since the demons assist the most wicked, the Saviour came for the destruction of evil men and of the demons, but for the salvation of the good. They declare also, that marriage and generation are from Satan. Many of those, too, who belong to his school, abstain from animal food, and draw away multitudes by feigned temperance of this kind. They hold, moreover, that some of the prophecies . were uttered by those angels who made the world, and some by Satan; whom Saturninus represents as being himself an angel, the enemy of the creators of the world, but especially of the God of the Jews. [*ibid.*, v. I, p. 349, *Irenaeus Against*

Heresies.]

Hence, abstention “from animal food,” *i.e.* vegetarianism, strongly implies, knowingly or unknowingly, service to another god, demonism. Thus when one abstains from meat for better health, he says that God did not give in His Word all the details needed for a healthy diet; he, therefore, attacks God, saying that He did not tell man all he needs to know in His Word for good health, 2 Tim 3:16. Vegetarianism, by establishing a “higher” standard than does God, thus serves another god. (Please note, though, that we do not include in this statement those who forego “animal food” for specific medical reasons, e.g., partially removed stomach.)

VEGETARIANISM, its source

[M]any of the health food stores are actually fronts for the Hindu gurus. Much of the New Age Hindu teachings are presented as “scientific.” Diet is a large part of this movement, especially vegetarianism. I have seen a number of people trapped in demonic bondage through frequenting various “herbalists” and health food stores and maintaining a rigid vegetarian diet as prescribed in various magazines and books containing New Age teachings. [*Prepare For War*, by Rebecca Brown, M.D., Revised Edition, 1992, p. 123. Whitaker House, 580 Pittsburgh Street, Springdale, PA 15144.]

Dr. Brown also makes this interesting observation:

Another area of witchcraft which Christians unwittingly use is in the area of herbs. Most of the herbalists and herb shop owners are involved in witchcraft. Incantations are done over the herbs, that is why they work so well. God has given us various herbs which have some medicinal qualities. But if you want to use herbs for medicine, I strongly urge that you grow your own. Most of what you will buy has been involved in rituals of some sort . . . [ibid, p. 122. This writer would suggest that when using purchased herbs one renounce any hidden things of dishonesty that might be connected with them. One knows not the origin of the herbs though purchased from a “neutral” source.]

WHY?

Why, therefore, would seducing spirits and devils, according to Paul’s warning, desire Christians **to abstain from meats?** Again, quoting Dr. Brown:

. . . Spiritual battling results in an acute loss of protein from our physical bodies. If we are not careful to increase our intake of high quality protein during times of intensive spiritual battle, we will become weak. The scriptures have much to say on this subject.

Ever since God’s covenant with Noah in which he gave Noah animals to eat, Satan and his Demons have been trying to stop humans from eating meat. It is interesting

to note that today’s Hindus and many other Eastern religions (all of which are forms of demon worship), believe that the success of either a medium or an adept whose powers come from the demons possessing them, depends on the presence in their bodies of a subtle fluid called “akasa,” which is soon exhausted, and without which the demons are unable to act. This fluid, the Hindus say, may be regenerated only by a vegetarian diet and chastity.

All of the New Age teachings, especially the teaching of the yogis, emphasize vegetarianism. Yogis says that the “vibrations” of meat are harmful and will decrease spiritual sensitivity. A multitude of supposed scientific reasons are put forth in all sorts of media teaching that the eating of meat is harmful. None of this can be backed up by scriptures. Unfortunately, a large number of Christians are accepting these teachings. Why the emphasis on vegetarianism by Satan’s kingdom? [Dr. Brown points out that, “Yoga is for **one purpose only**, union with (the Hindu god, ed.) Brahman. It cannot be separated from the demonic religion which created it.... **Yoga is specifically for the purpose of opening up the practitioner to the entrance of demons. . . (T)he goal of yoga is physical death,**” *ibid.*, pp. 194, 195, 199. Emphasis Dr. Brown’s].

As we study the Old Testament and the laws God gave to his people, the children of Israel, we find that the spiritual warriors of those days were the Levites of Israel. Their diets were clearly high in beef and lamb.

If beef is so harmful, then why did Abraham prepare beef for God Himself to eat when He came to visit him? Abraham would obviously prepare the best he had (See *Genesis 18:1-7*).

If we look at the various spiritual warriors of renown in the Old Testament, we will find that every time, before they engaged in a great battle, God prepared them with the eating of meat. For instance, Elijah. Please note the menu provided for him personally by the Lord during his period of preparation just before he faced all the prophets of Baal [Dr. Brown quotes 1 Kings 17:2-6, ed.].

The Lord speaks very directly through Paul to this point in the New Testament [Dr. Brown then quotes 1 Tim 4:1-5, ed.].

I have searched medical literature carefully, and, despite all the publicity, there simply are **no** good studies that conclusively show that red meat is harmful. (Please note, I am referring to lean meat, not the fat, which the Lord told the Israelites not to eat when He gave them the Law through Moses.) [This writer wonders if maybe the gross violation of Lev. 11 by American Christians has weakened them spiritually and physically?] In fact, much work has been done showing the merits of protein supplements in a very wide range of illnesses. But Satan has such control of the medical field that it is extremely difficult to get the average physician to pay any attention to the merits and necessity of protein. [Yes, this writer heard Paul Harvey

quote a news release that vegetarians live longer. But who controls the media that produced the release? Has not the media proved its usefulness to the powers of darkness in forming public opinion? ed.]

If you will stop to evaluate, you will find that the bottom line in any health food teaching or fad is the abstinence from meat. This is no accident. It is a carefully masterminded plan by Satan, because he knows very well the protein needs our bodies have and the tremendous protein drain caused by involvement in spiritual warfare. If Satan can keep God's warriors from eating meat, he can cause much weakness and illness among them from the lack of protein. The physical body rapidly loses its ability to fight infections when deprived of protein. Many people die unnecessarily in these days of "modern medicine" because their doctors don't supplement their protein intake. [This writer's 80-year-old, very active father was told a few years ago by his doctor that if he did not eat meat, he would not heal from a serious surgery that had just taken place. The length of life before the flood, i.e., over 900 years, shows that illnesses had not been prevalent before the flood. Moreover, the flood may well have changed some things concerning spiritual warfare, ed.]

During times of intense battling we often find it necessary to eat meat at least twice daily. If we do not, we rapidly lose strength and often become physically ill. I have worked with many people who, when under intensive attacks by witchcraft, became excessively weakened and even ill, simply because they did not know about God's simple principles regarding the needed protein intake. All of them were much improved when they increased the amount of meat in their diets. . . .

The whole area of spiritual warfare is a very deep and dangerous one. We must stay close to our precious Captain and follow His orders day by day. As long as we follow and obey Jesus Christ, He will see us safely through all our battles. [*ibid.*, pp. 290-294.]

Though Dr. Brown is a woman, and this author cannot agree with all she says and does as recorded in her book, she certainly uncovers some serious concerns about the rise of the modern Hindu influence in the church, and we MUST NOT IGNORE THE FACTS: The modern increase of Hindu influence in the West, America particularly, has been accompanied with an acceptance of vegetarianism and the influence of *seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils*. American Christianity is under serious attack, and Washington's immigration policy is one of the weapons of attack: Its policy clearly encourages Hindus to immigrate here, compromising and confusing the clear teachings of God's Word.

HINDUISM, its influence

The Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some will say that the Lord did not create "animal food"

for man's use, that the use of "animal food" will make one less healthy than those who do not use it; those who follow the *lies* have departed from the faith, for they have followed *seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils*, for this practice clearly violates the Truth, 1 Timothy 4:3.

It is, therefore, wicked to command men to abstain from meats, and evil in those who do it, for such abstinence attacks God and His Word. Meats are to be received *with thanksgiving* because they have been provided by Divine Providence for man's well being — both spiritual and physical. So far from abstaining from them, man ought to take them, and use them with all thankfulness.

Those *who believe and know the truth* should not be bound by the "New Age" movement's Hindu diet, i.e., vegetarianism; they should be free from its rites, rituals, ceremonies and inventions of men, e.g., "God did not love you enough to give you everything you need to know in order to be completely holy and healthy."

V. 4, *For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused* is the clear command, but those warring against God cannot accept God's Word. Obviously, there is a condition on receiving meats: ***if it be received with thanksgiving***. The vegetarian cannot receive it with *thanksgiving* to God because he is contemptuous against God: He believes that God provided meat for man's ill health.

V. 5, *For it is sanctified*, or set apart by God's Word for man's use (See *Gen 9:4*). The meats *sanctified* are listed in Leviticus chapter 11. It would be redundant to go over the list found in Leviticus 11, so this writer urges the reader to check *The Institutes of Biblical Law*, vol. I, p. 297 [1973, The Craig Press, R.J. Rushdoony].

Would the Lord permit His people to eat something injurious to their health?

Deut. 12:15, 16: Notwithstanding thou mayest kill and eat flesh in all thy gates, whatsoever thy soul lusteth after, according to the blessing of the LORD thy God which he hath given thee: the unclean and the clean may eat thereof as of the roebuck, and as of the hart. Only ye shall not eat the blood; ye shall pour it upon the earth as water.

Would the Lord command His priests to eat something injurious to their health? See Ex. 12; Lev. 6; 7:23.

• CONCLUSION

The spiritual battle is real; the Lord God has provided all that is needed for victory over the enemy of our souls, and the primary portion of *the whole armor of God* is the *truth* as revealed in the totality of God's Word, Eph 6:10-18.

We must, accordingly, confront the doctrines of devils with the Word of God not only outside our churches, but also in our personal lives.

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DOCTRINES OF DEVILS

Doctrines of devils result in actions of devils: **First**, forbidding to marry has resulted in social acceptance of fornication and sodomy, and **second**, forbidding meat has resulted in Christians with neither the physical nor spiritual strength to engage in the spiritual warfare, for they have established a standard other than God's.

QUESTIONS

We will address a few points used to justify an extreme opposite of vegetarianism: eating *every creature*, e.g. swine, &c. **First**, Acts 10 clearly illustrated taking the gospel to the unclean beasts of the field, the Gentiles, Acts 11. **Second**, 1 Cor 10 refers to Scripturally "clean" meats that had been offered to idols. **Third**, Acts 15:29; 21:25, &c. Concerning Col. 2:16, 17, Rushdoony says:

The significance of this has been noted with respect to the sabbath law. The sabbath law is no longer law for us, in that it no longer is a civil and religious offense to fail in one's observance, but it is a principle of life and a moral rule. Similarly, the dietary laws are not legally binding on us, but they do provide us with a principle of operation. The apostles, as they moved into a Gentile world, did not allow diet to be a barrier between them and the Gentiles. If they were served pork or shrimp, they ate it. On their own, they maintained the kosher rules as God's rules of health and life. St. Paul rebuked St. Peter to his face when he withdrew from the Gentiles, with whom he had been eating, because of fear of criticism on the part of some Judaizers (Gal. 2:9-15). With reference to our salvation, the laws of diet have no significance, although Phariseeism gave it such a significance (Gal. 2:16). With reference to our health, the rules of diet are still valid rules... Both [Sabbath & dietary laws, ed.] remain, not as laws but as principles for the health of man, the sabbath for man's spirit, and the rules of diet for man's body. Our observance of these dietary rules should never be to place a barrier between ourselves and other men but for our health and prosperity in Christ. [Institutes, pp 301, 302.]

The spiritual battle is real; the Lord God has provided all that is needed for victory over the enemy of our souls, and the primary portion of *the whole armour of God* is the *truth* as revealed in the totality

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We must, accordingly, confront the doctrines of devils with the Word of God not only in our churches, but also in our personal lives.

The enemy may have been stabbed at the heart; yet will he get up, and renew the fight. Thou must walk - yea - sleep - in thine armour. It must be worn, not laid up. There is 'no discharge from this war,' till the body of sin and death is laid in the grave. Meanwhile victory is declared, before the conflict begins. Let every day then be a day of triumph. The promises are to present victory. With such stirring, stimulating hopes, thou shalt surely have rule, if thou wilt but dare to have it. And if thou hast not courage enough to be a Christian, thou must be a slave for life to the hardest of task-masters.

This bloodless victory, so contrary to the turmoil of war (Isa ix. 5), is the crown of Christian grace. (Rom xii. 19.) No other grace of the gospel can be exercised without its influence. Yet the daily conquest anticipates the final victory, the spoils of which will be reaped throughout eternity. (*Proverbs*, Charles Bridges, 1846. 1981 reprint by The Banner of Truth Trust, p 251, 252.)

MEDICARE PART G

If you are an older senior citizen and can no longer take care of yourself and need Long-Term Care, but the government says there is no Nursing Home care available for you, what do you do?

You may opt for Medicare Part G.

The plan gives anyone 75 or older a gun (Part G) and one bullet. You may then shoot one worthless politician. This means you will be sent to prison for the rest of your life where you will receive three meals a day, a roof over your head, central heating and air conditioning, cable TV, a library, and all the health care you need. Need new teeth? No problem. Need glasses? That's great. Need a hearing aid, new hip, knees, kidney, lungs, or heart? They are all covered!

As an added bonus, your kids can come and visit you at least as often as they do now!

And, who will be paying for all of this? The same government that just told you they can't afford for you to go into a nursing home.

And you will get rid of a useless politician while you are at it.

And now, because you are a prisoner, you don't have to pay any more income taxes!

Is this a great country or what?

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KING JAMES VERSION

I know that many of my Baptist brethren may consider me a heretic, but some time ago, a dear friend of mine, a Baptist pastor and evangelists, gave me a container of a good number of CDs containing hundreds of lectures by R.J. Rushdoony. As we have spent and do spend a great many hours on the road, we have listened to a good number of his lectures, with many more to go. From time to time, I will share some important points he makes in the Examiner. Here is an excerpt from a question at the end of his lecture on *The First Temptation: "Stones Bread."* (He is speaking, so the wording may be awkward at times.)

[Rushdoony, concerning the many translations we are confronted with today.] Yes, quite a change, and the reason for these drastic changes is simply this. For centuries, the church has used, every branch of the church, the received text. Now, the received text has been abandoned, and they are going to defective and waste basket manuscript texts for all these new readings. As a result, you can expect almost any kind of reading, very often senseless variations from the text as well as verses left out. These modern translations, because they are uniformly based on anything but the received text, are defective. Now, what is the received text? It is the text that was accepted by the early church, accepted by the orthodox churches and all the eastern churches, or the Roman Catholic church, by the Lutherans, the Calvinists, the Episcopalians, everywhere in Christendom was accepted until the end of the last century, and it was accepted because it was the standard text. It had always been the established text. Behind it also is a question of faith. Do we believe that God, having given us an inspired and infallible word, will not then protect the transmission of that, and the church has believed that. Now, the principle is that anything but this received text. In other words, there must be something wrong with this text precisely because the church has accepted it all this time. So we've got to go to all these defective manuscripts, and any time they have variation, we can be sure it's the truth, because the church couldn't have the truth. The church couldn't keep it. There's a diabolical premise in all of this which has to be challenged, and the sad fact is that this diabolical premise now is being incorporated into all the translations used by the church everywhere, and that's why, for example, you can go to the older translations, whether they are the Dewey or the King James, or any others, and you will find that in all the translations say, before 1870, there is a basic similarity. Occasionally, there will be a difference, but it is a difference that is theological, depending on the ecclesiology, the doctrine of the church, and the way they translate a particular word. They are agreed as to the

original. No difference.

For example, the King James translates and the Dewey, penance. They don't disagree as to what the word is in the Greek. They say it's this word, identical, but now, of course, they do not agree that there is a text to be translated, so what they are doing is to reconstruct a text and they say, "This is what Mark, or Matthew (although they don't believe Mark or Matthew wrote those gospels, that's another point), but this is what the Gospels originally said." We have reconstructed it on the basis of these defective manuscripts, and on the basis of our thinking and our reasoning. This is substituting something imaginary for something that the church, for 1900 years approximately, and before that, with regard to the Old Testament, for another 2000 years, has accepted, and I say again it is diabolical. Yes?

[Audience] Along the same line, would you comment on Martin Luther commenting on alterations of scripture way back in his day. He referred church to the Old Testament alterations, and I believe that it was in, if I remember correctly, his Table Talk.

[Rushdoony] I've read Table Talk. I don't recall that. Table Talk isn't always accurate, you know, because the Table Talk was made up of notes of various students, and we do know that, very often, they garbled things, because they did not take the notes down at the time. They took them down from memory at a later date, and the thing was a little amusing. Katie was boarding these students, and they were coming there and trying to get free lectures. At the university, they had to pay. So the thing to do was to ask Dr. Luther at the table a question, and get him to talk and get a free lecture that way. Then they would hurry to their room and take notes on it, and sometimes their note-taking was a little garbled. So, whenever we quote anything from the Table Talks, we've got to make sure it's verified by other things elsewhere in Luther's writings.

[Audience] Along the same lines, some people say, "well, you don't take the text of the Bible literally, do you?" I wonder if you could comment on that? I would take it literally, except where common sense makes it impossible, in other words, ... (?)

[Rushdoony] Right. When we say that we accept the literal text of the scripture, we accept it in the sense in which it was intended, and we cannot allow people to say that figures of speech and similes are to be taken in a crudely, literalistic sense. No one does that in their everyday speech. Do you use figures of speech and similes continually? Analogies, and so on? And we do take the text of scripture literally, in the sense in which it was intended. There are no problems in that sense. The problems are in the imagination of the critics.

FLORIDA SCHOOL UP TO ITS NECKLACE IN

LEGAL TROUBLE

April 21, 2017

Making a fashion statement wasn't the point of a ninth grader's cross necklace in Florida. Making a statement of faith was. And to her LGBT activist teacher, that was the problem. At Riverview High School in Hillsborough, a freshman girl barely set down her books on her desk when Ms. Lora Riedas pointed to her small cross pendant and said, "I need you to take your necklace off." Stunned, the girl asked why. The teacher refused to answer and instead barked that it was "disrespectful" and repeated her demand. Not wanting to seem disrespectful, the teenager did what she was told.

Upset, her parents contacted our friends at Liberty Counsel who sent a letter to the superintendent explaining that it was the teacher who was disrespectful. "In banning cross necklaces from three different students in her classroom, Ms. Riedas has "intentionally violate[d] or den[ied] a student's legal rights." The right to wear a cross necklace is clearly established. There is no question that students have the right to wear religious jewelry, despite any specious claim of 'gang affiliation' by Ms. Riedas. Subsequent to her cross ban, Ms. Riedas has subjected at least one of the students 'to unnecessary embarrassment or disparagement,' in singling the student out for false allegations of student behavior violations."

This is exactly the kind of anti-faith hostility that flourished under the Obama administration. Of course, one look at Ms. Riedas's classroom and it's obvious where that hostility stems from. Plastered with rainbow flags, buttons, and propaganda, the teacher is a forceful LGBT advocate. At the beginning of the year, Liberty Counsel points out, she even put rainbow stickers on her students' folders without their permission. When one student peeled hers off, she noticed that she was treated with more hostility than her peers. Talk about hypocrisy! This teacher is banning crosses on one hand and engaging in "wholesale LGBT activism" on the other. If anything's offensive, it's that! "Ms. Riedas has further engaged in impermissible LGBT political activism in the classroom, and has indicated her intent to further do so during instructional time," the letter claims. "Ms. Riedas is planning to promote GLSEN's 'Day of Silence' coercive political activities during instructional time in her classroom this April 21, 2017."

None of this is a surprise to Ms. Riedas's Twitter followers. The teacher's feed is full of advice about "how to talk to kids about what it means to be an LGBT ally" and

how to engage on the transgender bathroom issue. And according to school policy, posting these things isn't the problem -- posting them during class hours *is*. As Liberty Counsel reminds Riverview High, "It is the policy of the Board that students, staff members, and District facilities not be used for promoting the interests of any non-school agency or organization, public or private, without the approval of the superintendent."

Together with her attorneys, this brave ninth grader is asking for the right to express her faith, which is already guaranteed to her by the Constitution. Students should never have to check their beliefs at the school house door -- or anywhere else for that matter.

<http://www.frc.org/updatearticle/20170421/florida-school>

KIDNAPPED BY THE POPE

THE STRANGE CASE OF EDGARDO MORTARA

By Thomas Williamson

The year was 1858, and there was a flurry of activity at the home of Momolo and Marianna Mortara, a Jewish couple in Bologna, Italy. (Actually, Bologna was in the Papal States, under the direct rule of the Pope from Rome - Italy was not unified in its present form until 1870).

There were loud wails of distress from Marianna and her children. The police, acting on orders from the local Roman Catholic Inquisitor, who got his orders from Church headquarters in Rome, had come to abduct 6-year-old Edgardo, one of the 8 Mortara children.

The policemen were clearly unhappy about what they had been ordered to do - they were respectful and apologetic, and had tears in their eyes, as they bundled little Edgardo into a carriage in which he was immediately trundled off to Rome.

The reason for this abduction was that Anna Morisi, a teenaged girl who was a servant of the Mortaras, had secretly baptized Edgardo about 5 years earlier. According to Catholic doctrine on baptismal regeneration, and the law of the Papal States, this meant that Edgardo had become a Roman Catholic and could not be allowed to be raised by Jewish parents.

Over the years, many Jewish children had been snatched from their parents for this reason in the Papal States, and Jewish families lived in fear that it would happen to them also. The Mortara case was different, though - this time, the network of Jews all over Italy sounded the alarm of protest worldwide.

Enlightened public opinion in Europe now regarded Jews as having the same basic human rights as all other

people. Newspapers all over Europe loudly criticized the Mortara kidnapping. Even in staunchly Catholic Spain, a prominent newspaper denounced the abduction as “a kidnapping and a crime.”

In the United States, Jews and Protestants joined in rallies held across the country from Boston to San Francisco, to demand that Edgardo be returned to his parents. The American government was bombarded with letters demanding that an official protest with the Vatican be filed.

President James Buchanan declined to get involved, saying that it was not his place to protest the actions of another sovereign ruler. Perhaps he felt that such a protest would be hypocritical. Buchanan was a strong supporter of slavery, so he had no moral basis to protest the removal of an Italian child from his parents, when the same thing was being routinely done all the time to black children on plantations of the American South.

One ruler who did file a strong protest was French Emperor Napoleon III, whose troops were propping up the shaky Vatican rule over the Papal States. (If not for occupation troops from France and Austria, the restive peoples of the Papal States would have long since overthrown the Pope and joined the new Kingdom of Italy that was then in the process of formation).

Napoleon had his ambassador file a demand for Edgardo's release with Pope Pius IX. The Pope rejected Napoleon's request, and ignored the storm of protest from all over Europe and America, insisting that he had a sacred duty to keep Edgardo in his custody and have him raised as a good Catholic.

How did the Pope get to be the absolute civil ruler of a wide swatch of central Italy? This situation went back to the early Middle Ages. As the Roman Empire gradually broke up and the capital was removed to Constantinople, the Eastern Roman emperors, from the 5th Century onwards, simply did not have the military or financial resources to protect their Italian territories from barbarian invasions or maintain order there.

Civil authority, by default, fell into the hands of the bishops of Rome, who did the best they could to protect their people and to provide for their needs. In 453 AD, Pope Leo the Great went forth from Rome to meet Attila the Hun, and successfully persuaded him to spare Rome from invasion. The record of Pope Gregory the Great, who reigned from 590 to 604, reveals a story of

benevolent and self-sacrificing service and enlightened rule over the people of Rome and surrounding

areas.

Unfortunately, it was true, as Lord Acton said (speaking about the Popes) that “Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.” Over the centuries, the rule of the Popes degenerated into a travesty of cruelty, corruption, immorality, sheer terror and general misrule. It would take a book, or many books, to tell the sad story of Papal rule. Consider, for instance, the fate of the philosopher Giordano Bruno, who in the year 1600 was sentenced to be burned at the stake in the nude in Rome, by the Inquisition.

Some historians believe that the infamous Mortara case strongly influenced Napoleon III, who had previously provided the military muscle needed to prop up the shaky regime of the Pope, to gradually withdraw that support.

The final collapse of the Papal States came in 1870 when Napoleon withdrew the French troops from Rome. Very shortly afterwards, the Italian army blasted through the walls of Rome and easily defeated the outnumbered Papal forces, ending forever the Pope's rule of Rome and surrounding areas.

The independent Vatican state disappeared for 59 years, but in 1929 dictator Benito Mussolini agreed to give the Pope sovereignty over a tiny territory of 1/6 of a square mile around St. Peter's Square. Once again there was a sovereign Vatican state, and the United States of

America recognized it and sent an ambassador in 1983.

Meanwhile, what became of little Edgardo? He was raised as a Catholic, and Pope Pius IX took a strong liking to the tyke, presenting him to visitors as a trophy of grace, and sometimes playfully hiding him under his priestly robes and asking “Where's the boy?”

When Italian troops conquered Rome in 1870, a detachment of soldiers, including one of Edgardo's brothers, rushed to the convent where Edgardo was living, to liberate him. But Edgardo had become a devout Catholic and was preparing for the priesthood. Now 19 years old, he refused to go with his brother or to meet his father who had come to see him. To avoid his family, Edgardo sneaked onto a train and fled to Austria. From there he went to France where he completed his theological studies and became a missionary monk who preached all over Europe on behalf of the Catholic Church.

His Jewish mother traveled to Perpignan, France to hear him preach and they were finally reunited for the first time in 20 years. Edgardo tried to convert his moth-

er but she declined his entreaties and died in the Jewish faith. Edgardo lived to age 88 and died in a monastery in Belgium in 1940, one month before the Nazi invasion of that country which might have cost him his life, since the Nazis would have regarded him to be still a Jew.

LESSONS FOR TODAY. The Edgardo Mortara affair is an example of the abuse of religious power, and the misuse of authority by those who claim to be God's servants. It is a black mark on the Roman Catholic Church and on the institution of the papacy. A church that perpetrates such injustice deserves to be rejected and repudiated by everyone.

But the Mortara episode stands as a warning to Baptists and Protestants, that we must not practice, allow or tolerate, in our own ranks, the misuse of religious authority, for purposes of controlling or manipulating people.

No, we are not snatching children or burning anyone at the stake, but there are other forms of spiritual abuse that leave lasting scars on the victims and that bring evangelical Christianity into disrepute. Let us be on our guard to avoid and reject all forms of religious abuse in our movement. All of us who have positions of respect, whether clergy or laity, must be on our guard to avoid exercising authority over anyone (Matthew 20:25-27) or lording it over anyone (1 Peter 5:3).

I'll Try to Read It

JOHN BROWN OF HADDINGTON

The sheep grazed quietly as the sun slowly sank behind the Scottish hills. A sixteen-year old lad named John stared into the sunset, his eyes fixed upon the brilliant sky. The clothes of the shepherd boy were ragged, his face was brown from many days spent out in the hills watching the sheep, and his feet were bare. But as he watched the sunset, his eyes glowed with hope and promise as he thought about the mission that lay ahead of him that night.

He slid his hand into his homespun knapsack to make sure his money was still there. It had been carefully saved up for a long time. At the meager wages of a shepherd boy, it had taken many weeks to accumulate all he needed.

The brilliant orange of dusk was replaced by the deep purple of night, revealing that the time had come to set off on his mission. Leaving his flock under the watchful eye of a trusted friend who had been informed of his intention, he headed westward toward the coast of the sea.

On and on he walked into the night, winding his way silently through villages and countryside. The moon and stars illuminated his path as he walked mile after mile. By the time the sun peeked above the sky, his feet were sore and weary, but he could see his destination.

The coastal town of St. Andrews lay just in front of him. It was a university town, full of doctors, lawyers, and other great and famous men. The year was 1738, and the French Enlightenment had infected the land of Scotland. New ideas, new methods, and new philosophies had replaced the old truths of the Reformation. Reason had pushed out revelation. Human knowledge had exalted itself over divine truth.

Into this university town walked John, a barefooted lad from the hills. He seemed out of place in the streets of St. Andrews. University students, just his age, passed him by on their way to class. They hid their smiles. His old and sun-faded bonnet contrasted sharply with their scholastic caps. His bare feet and dusty clothes revealed his poverty. John ignored their amusement, and boldly asked where the best bookshop in St. Andrews was.

He followed directions to South Street, and walked to the door of one of the best bookshops in Scotland. Inside the shop that morning happened to be several professors of the university, for the bookshop was a typical meeting place for scholars.

All eyes turned toward the lad who walked into the shop. Boldly, the boy approached the counter and asked if the owner had a Greek New Testament for sale. The bookseller looked down at John's bare feet and replied in wonder, "What would you do with that book?"

The boy looked earnestly at the bookseller. "I'll try to read it, Sir."

For a moment, the room went silent. Then a dignified man stepped up to join the shepherd boy at the counter. The shepherd boy did not know it, but this man was the professor of Greek at the University of St. Andrews.

The professor asked the bookseller to get from the shelf a Greek Testament. Placing it on the counter, the professor said with a smile, "Boy, if you can read that book, you shall have it for nothing."

Eagerly, John took up the prize and with trembling hands opened the book of God. All eyes were fixed upon him as he began to read.

The eyes of the professor widened in astonishment as the barefooted boy flawlessly read an extended passage from the Sacred Volume. The professor dutifully paid the bookseller. John did not linger to receive the praise

or the questions of the bystanders. Cradling the treasured volume under his arm, he walked out onto the street and headed eastward toward the hills of Abernethy.

The sun was low in the sky when John returned to his flock. The New Testament was still under his arm. He resumed the charge of his flock, dismissed his friend, and read a few verses from his Greek Testament before joining his slumbering sheep in a long-needed rest.

Little did the bookseller, the scholars, and the professor know that they had met a man who would shake the tenets of Rationalism to their foundation, a man of Scripture who would not be swayed by any means to abandon the old faith once delivered to the saints.

John Brown of Haddington would become one of the most beloved pastors Scotland ever produced. His prolific pen would author over fifty books, tracts, and pamphlets. Included in these writings were major works on church history, a catechism for children, a Bible dictionary, a book on the danger of religious toleration in government, a book on the proper use of Bible prophecy, a dissertation on the imputed righteousness of Christ, a series of biographies, and his famous Self-Interpreting Bible, a cross-referenced Bible that used other passages to explain difficult texts. John Brown of Haddington would indeed be a shepherd, but a shepherd of men, women, and children—pointing them to the Good Shepherd who gave His life for the sheep.

As the boy began to preach in the rural, hillside villages of Scotland, a storm of opposition soon arose. The preachers who leaned toward the new rationalism of the universities hated the youngster who simply preached Bible truth.

Soon, hurtful stories began to circulate concerning the lad. Some suggested that he had learned Greek by witchcraft, that the devil himself had taught the boy to read Greek up in the hills. How else could a shepherd learn the language of the New Testament?

For many years, this charge of witchcraft hovered over the head of the young minister. He explained later how he had learned Greek. He had borrowed a Greek testament from a kindly pastor in a rural church. Taking it with him to the hills, he compared the English version with the strange characters he saw on the page. He opened first to Matthew 1, noticing that it was full of proper names.

He could find the word Ἀβραάμ in the Greek text, and it looked enough like “Abraham” that he could make the

connection. Learning the letters of this one name, he was able to identify four letters of the Greek alphabet. Knowing that $\mu = m$ and $\rho = r$ and $\alpha = a$, he could then identify names like Θαμάρ = Tamar. This gave him a new letter to work with. Slowly, painfully, name by name, he worked through the passage until he had all the letters learned.

Then he needed to learn the vocabulary. Using similar methods, he worked through familiar passages, learning Greek words by their English translations. Relying upon a little Latin he had picked up already, he began to sketch out his own rough grammar, comparing Greek endings he saw with the Latin cases. Over time, with much effort, he was able to identify the cases of nouns, the tenses of verbs, and something of the verbal moods.

Knowledge gave him a thirst for more, and this thirst never ceased in life. He eventually learned Hebrew as well, although in a more orderly and orthodox manner. John Brown’s earnest piety and Godly zeal soon dispelled the rumors that had shadowed his youth, and the young preacher became welcome in country churches all through his native hills.

At the age of 31, John Brown was married to Janet Thomson, the daughter of a Godly merchant in his church. Brown’s biographer says that Janet “brought fidelity and piety” to the home of John Brown. She turned the stone parsonage at Haddington into a warm and happy home, a center of hospitality, encouragement, and edification. In his study surrounded by his children, John Brown wrote his many works, prepared his sermons, shepherded his flock, and raised his family. Seven children survived to adulthood, and his sons and daughters all lived productive and Godly lives. Three sons followed their father into the ministry. One became a medical missionary. The other children faithfully served the Lord in their stations, raising up many grandchildren to walk in the path of truth.

Today, the descendants of John Brown of Haddington number in the thousands. One of their most precious possessions is the leather-bound Greek New Testament read by their patriarch when he was a shepherd boy.

Shunning the intellectual fountains of human wisdom, John Brown had found the source of truth in the revealed Word of God. From the pure fountain of life he had drunk eternal truth. In his life, John Brown became a champion of the old truths of the Reformation. Scotland experienced a revival that was due, in no small way, to the labors of John Brown—a faithful pastor who was willing to combat the rationalism and modernism

of the Enlightenment with the revealed truth of the eternal Word of God.

A. T. Robertson, a pastor and professor of Greek who lived and wrote a hundred years after John Brown, said this of him,

“John Brown’s story puts to rout all the flimsy excuses of preachers today who excuse themselves for ignorance of the Greek New Testament or for indifference and neglect after learning to read it. The example of John Brown of Haddington ought to bring the blush of shame to every minister who lets his Greek New Testament lie unopened on his desk.”

—Drawn from John Brown of Haddington by Robert Mackenzie and *The Minister and His Greek Testament* by A. T. Robertson reprinted by Solid Ground Christian Books

April 2017. John Huffman, Mighty Men Herald. cbcbelleville@gmail.com

PERSONAL

My spleen surgery has been put off until May 4, so I wanted to get another mailing out before then. I may be laid up for a while.

As I have mentioned, the surgery will be at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base hospital. Because it is so far away, they will supply a room for Bettie to stay in while I am there. (They were fearful of doing “micro surgery”, for they did not want to chance opening the growth, so they must go in the hard way, with the knife.) They told us to allow 6 to 8 days recovery before I will be able to leave. The disquieting part of the whole situation is that they have told me that if my temperature gets to 101, I will need to go to an emergency room. I will definitely check again on that. One of the nurses at the Chillicothe VA told me her husband had his spleen removed several years ago, and has had no problem. (I pray that I will have access to e mail there.)

It looks like spring is here, which means yard-work and maintenance. I despise “daylight savings time”, for it neither adds more daylight nor saves anything. The only thing that I have found that it does is require an hour later bedtime, and we old people need our rest.

I believe we are going to forgo a garden this year, and just raise enough tomatoes for eating and a good amount of beets for the beet top greens. We will let the Amish do our gardening for us, and get what we need from an Amish auction maybe 45 minutes from us.

Though I have had the supposed “painkilling” shots in my lower back, my back is still quite sore. I am

scheduled in for an MRI to see if anything further can be done. The problem is that with my pacemaker, the MRI people must be given a two week notice so they can have the right technicians in at the right time. It almost makes me fearful of having the MRI with my pacemaker.

We have a new granddaughter, which is number 11 for the family close to the Chillicothe VA Hospital. We have a new grandson, which is number 12, in South Africa. We pray that Bettie will be able to go to SA with the other grandmother (who goes down every year) this year for a few weeks.

The shots in my left eye seem to have accomplished what we had hoped. Now I need a new prescription and glasses, which will be accomplished as soon as we can work it into the schedule with the VA.

The Lord has been better to us than we could have ever hoped for or imagined, and we praise His name for His grace and goodness to us. He is working His divine and foreordained plan out in our lives.

LETTERS

Brother Need, thank you for all the work you do. Where next? I’m noticing the trend of post modernism is still growing, pastors of large churches down playing the importance of scripture, saying things like, “we don’t teach doctrine or theology because it gets in the way of evangelism...”

But Christ said, “make disciples and teach” (Matt 28:19).

I recently had a conversion with a Christian brother who caught his wife in an affair years ago. She still shows no sign of repentance. She claims to have gone to see a “Christian counselor” at a local vineyard (liberal charismatic) church and insists that “God has forgiven me, I’m right with God, now you need to go get right with God, forgive me and trust me”. Where’s the repentance in that attitude? Where’s the dependence on the word of God? How can you be right with God, yet unrepentant in a marriage that is bordering on divorce from your own infidelity?

This antinomianism is rampant, people just believe whatever they want and are encouraged to do so by their pastors. The same pastors who are charged by the scripture (Eph 4) to build up the saints.

So... Where next? I don’t know. I see these things happening and it hurts to watch. American Christians are living in sin and taking psychiatric drugs to numb the pain from the consequences of those sins.

I love you brother, I love the work you do. I'm not in despair, and I'm not wallowing in the sin of discontentment. Yet I see serious movement away from the word. Not by laymen, but pastors! Not by obvious heretics but men that I thought would know better.

That's the work I see in my life brother Need. I'm thankful for your ministry it is very helpful to my generation in these battles.

I hope you find my little note helpful and encouraging. I hope to see you again, perhaps another Ohio conference will happen this year.

B.W. Columbus Ohio

• **FROM FINLAND:**

Intoductory note: We have been attending Trinity Presbyterian Church, which is about 75 minutes from us on the South side of Cincinnati. It is a good, orthodox, postmil reformed church, that hopes to start a Sunday AM service not far from us. They only have a Sunday PM service every other Sunday there now. The church is close to the Creation Museum, and some men from the church work there. So they often get visitors who are in the area for the Museum. We are close enough to the museum for you to visit us for a few days and have an early start to the Museum. We are also close to the Ark Encounter. Pay us a visit.

On 3/28/17 9:29 PM, G. M. Wrote:

Hi Ovid, we just met last Sunday at the Trinity Presbyterian Church in Ludlow, KY. I was visiting from Lynchburg, Virginia with my wife and daughters, and you gave me your card.

I was surprised and encouraged to see from your card that you are a Reformed Baptist. We also are Reformed Baptists. In fact, from your website I gather that you are also {correct me if I presume wrongly} a preterist postmil and Christian reconstructionist. Well, in that case it's even more amazing, because we are also that kind of rare Baptists.

It would have been great to sit down and talk more. We seem to have so much in common!

Were you just visiting at Ludlow KY last Sunday? From the website I understand that you pastor a church in West Virginia -- again, correct me if I misunderstand.

As I may have mentioned to you, I am Italian, my wife is from Finland, and we have lived in Finland for more than 20 years. I work as a software engineer, but I have also started and led a small international English-speaking congregation there -- the first Reformed

church in Finland from the Protestant Reformation, as far as we know. We will return there in June, and I will resume leading the congregation.

See here, I have written both pages:

www.ouluchurch.com/what/

www.ouluchurch.com/vision/

You have an impressive website, with a lot of excellent resources. I will take some time to browse around!

All the best in Christ,

- G.M.

Comment: Their doctrinal statement is as reformed as any Baptist statement I have read. **First Reformed church in Finland!! What wonderful news.** Please pray for the Lord's work there. The Orthodox, Reformed truth is igniting world-wide among younger families especially.

(Note that biblicalexaminer.org has been updated.)

• **FROM TEXAS**

The March biblical examiner was just what we needed at just the time when we needed it! People sending "helpful" booklets and material while I am healing from cancer. All of it seemed off but I did not know why. Now I know. The info in the book was man centered. It made perfect sense as to why it bothered me after reading your material. Thank you so much.

V.G. Texas

Of course, watching the news, one can become very disquieted over what is going on today as the battle of Nationalism versus Internationalism, and both united against the Kingdom of God, takes place. However, my wife and I in our Ohio location are seeing an encouraging "awakening". The groups we have been worshipping with, Baptist and otherwise, are experiencing an influx of young families, primarily homeschoolers, who are hungry for and seeking the truth as found in the Orthodox historic Christian faith. Though there a very informal family oriented fellowship just a few minutes from us every other Sunday evening, it is not an organized worship. The closest Orthodox worship service is over an hour from us, which certainly is not uncommon for those who desire to hold to the Orthodox faith and practice.

A good pastor friend of ours whose congregation was outgrowing their small church building has been given, free and clear, a beautiful building with all its furnishings, tables, chairs, sound and video equipment, &c., including an expensive grand piano. The building came

with several acres, and a very large, nicely paved parking lot in a prime location.

From all outward appearances, the church in America is in sad shape. But we see the rustling in the mulberry trees as the Spirit of the Lord is raising up and equipping his army to battle the Enemy. What a wonderful day in which to live. (2 Sam 5:23, 24, 1 Chron 14:15.)

THE INEVITABLE FALL

Read the following with the understanding that I do not even begin to think that Trump, as a humanistic pragmatist, is the answer to the sin problem that has brought all the current events into focus. He will fall victim to “Potomac Fever” in the swamp that engulfs Washington. Though he has promised to drain the swamp, he is becoming part of it. The world is in its current situation because men have willfully turned from God’s law: the wages of sin is death, and men willingly choose death over life. Humanistic answers must fail, or God’s word is untrue. Be not deceived, for when the wages come due upon the deceived, it will rain on the just and on the unjust.

34 And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation: 35 And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou? (Dan 33)

And thus the pagan ruler of the world of his day, the head of gold, understood what many Christians refuse to admit today; that is, it is God who raises up and puts down the civil powers of the day.

FINCH: IS THE FALL INEVITABLE?

[And we must say yes! unless the Spirit of God turns men from their wicked ways.]

The euphoria conservatives felt from the November election has evaporated. The left is at war with President Trump, the very left that has fully taken over the Democratic Party. We know that the establishment media are in bed with the Democrats. Even the establishment members of the Republican Party are colluding with the Democrats. There seems to be no doubt that many of the Republicans on the Hill would love to see Trump unseated, and it would not matter to them if Mike Pence or Hillary Clinton or Paul Ryan were to

take the reins.

I have no idea if Trump can save the Republic. But I do know he is the best and perhaps only and last hope that we have. Trump is the enemy of everything the corrupt two-party oligarchy represents. He is a dire threat to their existence and, most critically, to their grip on power.

Washington, D.C. has become Imperial Rome, the richest and most powerful city known in the history of the world. And what seduction and corruption lie behind that power! The treachery today emanating from the halls of power in D.C. would make even the most corrupt Byzantine emperor blush.

How did it come to this? Was this inevitable?

Everything we know and understand, our lives as free citizens, everything is on a knife’s edge. What needs to be understood is that power is fleeting; empires crash, and they crash hard. There will be no picking up the pieces and starting America over. The collapse will be the end, and the world will be flung into chaos. We would be lucky to have a China or Russia take over; instead, the world will descend into a long period of tribalism and war.

But the world is not our first concern; it is what we will lose here at home. American liberty is fragile, under attack since the Founders put pen to paper. The thirst for power, to centralize, to control is the human norm. This experiment in liberty and individual freedom is the wondrous single exception. We were birthed by a tradition, from the English and Greeks and Romans before them, from Christianity and its roots in Judaism. Those are the bedrock. But how firm is it? The West is disintegrating, its churches are empty, we have forgotten our past and our heritage, and what we haven’t forgotten, we have been taught to loathe. Our self-hate knows no bounds.

So what to do? The enemies of liberty are many and strong. But they are also false. Their rule and power bring misery, poverty, and death by the millions, with enrichment for only the few. The story is always the same. We know that [God’s Truth, ed.] will win in the end. But what desolation must we go through to get there?

This will not be an easy fight.

The temptation of many is to retreat, to pull within ourselves, our faith, and our families and protect what we have. I use the word “retreat” not in a disparaging manner at all; the protection of home and hearth should always be our first instinct. But what of home

and hearth will survive if we lose our Republic? What part of our lives will not be fully under the control of our masters?

We need to fight as if this is the last day. We have the forces; we have the truth. And we have one man standing who in his gut understands exactly what is at stake.

We need to rally behind him and those who are called to lead. Yes, this is our Yorktown, our Gettysburg. It is the ultimate battle of ideas. Our ancestors fought and died on those battlefields so we could fight this battle in the arena of words, ideas, and elections. Pray that we won't need our own literal Shiloh. But pray also that He will be with us if that day comes.

<http://www.truthrevolt.org/commentary/finch-fall-inevitable>

CAN DEMOCRACY SAVE US?

By H. Rondel Rumburg

People cannot save! A “democracy” means a rule by people. Only God's eternal Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Prince of Peace can save. That means save souls from sin, families from division, churches from heresy, society from perversion, and nations from destruction. “Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just,” Thomas Jefferson.

We have a sad society today. We have people who look at their sex organs and think they are something other than what God made them. We have people who claim to believe in free speech that will threaten life, destroy property, maim individuals, and run amuck as a mob to keep others from expressing themselves. We have people who do not believe in any rules for behavior. We have people who believe law and order is to be abolished in favor some kind of a supposed love. We have a people who believe every other nation is superior to their own. We have a people who believe policemen should be shot down. We have a people who protect lawbreakers and aliens. We have a people who spit on those they dislike. We have a people who believe they should have a right to murder their offspring, their elderly, their chronically ill, etc. We have a president who uses an expletive frequently. Is he declaring where he will spend eternity? We live in a culture that is not willing to embarrass any people or view except God and His people. We have a society that has essentially banned the Bible. Our first president George Washington declared, “Without the Bible it would be impossible to govern the world.” What has happened? We have spiritual and moral chaos.

To some, having a “democracy” is the answer to all problems governmentally. We have heard this senti-

ment pronounced in any number of ways. However, what government is safe if it is in rebellion against God and His moral rules for behavior? Today there are certain elements required in good selling novels and movies. One of those elements is the taking of God's name in vain. When did you ever hear them take the name of non-gods like Buddha, Allah or Satan in vain?

John Quincy Adams explained, “This principle, that a whole nation has a right to do whatever it pleases, cannot in any sense whatever be admitted as true. The eternal and immutable laws of justice and morality are paramount to all human legislation. The violation of those laws is certainly within the power of a nation, but it is not among the rights of nations.”

Thomas Hooker the English minister said, “Democracy I do not conceive that ever God did ordain as a fit government either for Church or Commonwealth.” We should have the rule of true law. This is what a republic should be about.

Is what we have more accurately tyranny? “I believe there are more instances of the abridgement of freedom of the people by gradual and silent encroachments by those in power than by violent and sudden usurpations.... The means of defense against foreign danger historically have become the instruments of tyranny at home. If tyranny and oppression come to this land, it will be under the guise of fighting a foreign enemy,” declared President James Madison. John Taylor, in his “Tyranny Unmasked,” defined tyranny as “something which takes away our money, transfers our property and comforts to those who did not earn them, and eats the food belonging to others.”

Pastor William Lynn of the Reformed Dutch Church dealt with the relation of government and Christianity on May 9, 1798 in a sermon. He declared, “But if they (possible critics) mean, that the love of country, the duty of citizens, and obedience to lawful government, have no connection with religion, and that a Preacher ought not inculcate these, ‘I have not so learned Christ.’ Religion, morality, and obedience to government are inseparably connected.” And later in the message he said, “No army need invade, if licentious principles abound. These will do the fatal business, and blast by an untimely death, the American Republic, the last and noblest work of God.”

No, a democracy cannot save! Only the Lord God almighty can save! Do we live among a nation of people that would, or spiritually could, publically pray to the true God for salvation? It is precluded now, for

it is against the law of the land. True or false?

Patrick Henry warned, "It is when a people forget God, that tyrants forge their chains."

"The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God" (Psalm 9:17).

GOOD NEWS

Trump Vows to Tackle Common Core, Return Education to Locals

President Donald Trump reiterated this week his desire to abolish the controversial K-12 schooling scheme and get the federal government out of education.

Ben Carson Audits HUD, Finds Over \$500 Billion in Errors

Cutting the size of government isn't brain surgery. However, as Dr. Ben Carson has just proved over at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, it doesn't necessarily *hurt* to have a brain surgeon doing it.

According to an audit report released by HUD on March 1 — just a month into his tenure in Donald Trump's cabinet — Carson's department found a staggering total of nearly \$520 billion in accounting fraud http://conservativetribune.com/hud-sec-carson-obama-era-failure/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=PostUp&utm_campaign=WJConservativeBrief&utm_content=2017-04-08g_errors.

Trump is planning to cut the "Obamaphone" program. "In the 1980s, during the Reagan administration, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) created the Universal Access Initiative. The goal was to "promote the availability of quality services at just, reasonable and affordable rates for all consumers." After years of study, they proposed what we now call the "Obama Phone." It started with "free" landlines, and as time progressed, it expanded to where it now provides "free" cell phones and minutes to those below a certain income level. Obama promoted it, and it greatly expanded.

This court just ruled Coca-Cola products are POISON

<http://www.naturalnews.com/2017-04-06-this-court-just-ruled-coca-cola-products-are-poison.html>

"Regular consumers of these soft drinks, however, have more to worry about than just its high sugar content. A Nigerian High Court judge has ruled that some of the soft drinks sold under the Coca-Cola brand could be poisonous when consumed alongside Vitamin C-rich foods, drinks, and supplements...."

But we hear nothing of this ruling. Money Talks, or stops Talking.

MOVING BEYOND SPIRITUAL BABY FOOD

By Bob Slane

Imagine trying to feed a baby solid food before it is ready. Not a happy idea, and I don't recommend trying it. Now imagine feeding baby food to a grown adult. Not something we would recommend for healthy adults.

Now imagine one more scenario. After moving a child onto solid food, the parents decide to take him off it, and go back to feeding him milk from a bottle and pureeing his solid food.

All of these scenarios are not what we would normally want, and yet at the end of Hebrews 5, the writer uses exactly this kind of imagery to chide his hearers. They have clearly been Christians for some time, and so ought to have moved on from the basics. In fact, he says that by this time, they ought to be teachers (verse 12). They should be having a spiritual 12 ounce ribeye steak with fries and pepper sauce. Instead, they are so immature that they still need spiritual baby food.

But what is this baby food? The beginning of chapter 6 says that it is the elementary doctrines of Christ that have just been presented in the previous chapters. He goes on to tell his hearers that they should not be forgetting these truths so much that the foundation needs to be laid again and again, but to get on with building the rest of the house. What is that foundation? The fact that we were dead in trespasses and sins and have been saved by faith in God (verse 1. Christ, ed.). He even includes instruction about washings (or baptisms) and the laying-on of hands. These things, says the Apostle, are the basics: church baby food.

The point he is making is that there are things which are foundational to Christianity, but while these things are essential—the baby will die without them—their purpose is to form a firm foundation to build upon, and not to be a foundation which we keep on laying and laying and laying ad infinitum.

What is interesting about all this is that for many Christians and many churches, the things that are mentioned as being food for babies, are assumed to be meat for adults. I know of churches where the congregation is fed only baby food, week after week, month after month, year after year. It is presented in a very weighty—or we might say "meaty"—manner, with the gravitas that the foundational matters deserve. But according to Hebrews, this is weekly milk and not weekly meat. (Then after these "milk" messages, "Just as I am" is sung many times trying to get the same people to the altar. Ed.)

I suspect that possibly millions of Christians may find

themselves in a similar position. They hear sermons on the deity of Christ, or justification by faith alone, or the death of Jesus on the Cross, which are all needful from time to time to remind us of the foundations of our faith. Yet Hebrews says that these things are basics, and we need more. Otherwise it's like signing up for a course in advanced mathematics and getting the multiplication tables every week.

But if those fundamental truths mentioned above are milk, what is the meat? Are there things even more weighty than them? The answer is no, it's not that they are weightier. Those foundational truths are as weighty as things get. However, solid food is simply the things that we are meant to learn, having been taught the basics.

He tells them the answer to this in verse 14 of chapter 5: *But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.*

Meat, or solid food, is therefore wisdom and discernment built upon the foundational doctrines. Another way of stating this is that the solid food is the stuff that Paul talks about after the "Therefore's" in his letters. For instance, in his letter to the Ephesians, he devotes the first three chapters to talking about the foundations of the faith, before going on to state at the beginning of chapter 4:

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

His message throughout the rest of the epistle is basically, "now go and build on this foundation using wisdom and discernment in all areas of life." And so he goes on to instruct his hearers how they should speak, how they should think, how they should walk before God. He tells them that since they are no longer in the kingdom of darkness, they ought not to behave as if they were, but rather they should live like the new creations that they are.

He then goes on to some specific examples: how wives should relate to husbands; how husbands should relate to wives; how parents (and fathers in particular) should relate to their children; how children should relate to their parents; how slaves should relate to masters; how masters should relate to slaves. And finally he issues a battle speech, telling the Ephesians who and what they are up against, how they ought to prepare themselves,

and how they should pray fervently. And then he's done.

All that is the solid food, and yet what Paul gives is not an exhaustive list of rules of conduct, but rather a set of overarching principles which—if we have digested our

milk---are meant to form the basis of us going on to learn how to use wisdom and discernment in any and every situation we find ourselves in.

Churches can fall into a number of traps, and each one of them hinders our ability to exercise this solid food of wisdom and discernment, preventing us from being the people that God wants us to be in relation to the world around us. I think this particular problem may be more likely in churches where we might pride ourselves on our consistency in Biblical practices, possibly the kind of churches that members of Samaritan Ministries might attend.

As I have mentioned earlier, there are churches that give out nothing but baby food. Week after week, the people are fed with foundational doctrines, and the church pats itself on the back that it is preaching on the weighty matters. Well, those matters are of course weighty—ininitely so—but since they never go beyond them, to teach their people how to live as Christians, according to Hebrews this is not maturity but perennial babyhood.

Then there are churches that have taught the foundational truths and have moved on to the solid food stage. But instead of teaching wisdom, Paul's general principles are turned into a set of rules to be used in every situation. I have lost count of the number of times I have heard this type of thing:

- This is the way (the only way) to deal with a child in situation X.
- This is the way (the only way) to define the roles of men and women in the family.
- This is the way (the only way) that children should be taught.

These rules may be many things, but they are not wisdom and discernment. They are counterfeit wisdom and discernment, like Jesus and the apostles faced from the religious leaders of their day, that thinks all life situations can be lived according to a formula which apparently worked for one family in situation X.

This approach is meat in the same way as a rather memorable meal I had on the second night of my honeymoon. It was billed as a steak, and it undoubtedly came from a cow. But it was more the part you'd normally use for making shoes than making steaks.

Real solid food in the life of a Christian and in the

life of the church works like this: After setting out the orthodox doctrinal position of the church, and ensuring that the congregation understands and accepts this as foundational, the church keeps helping its people to develop discernment and wisdom.

How is this maturity developed? The same way that Jesus “increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man” (Luke 2:52). By searching the Scriptures, by asking questions, and by seeking understanding.

New converts need to be given milk. They need to be taught elementary doctrine until it becomes second nature. Then they need to be moved on to solid food, which is to say they need to be taught the great overarching principles of living like a Christian in such a way that their “powers of discernment are trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil” (Hebrews 5:14).

Understanding and acting in this way is surely key to how bright our light-shines-in-this world.

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(Samaritan Ministries News Letter, 2/17. Tired of insurance? Check samaritanministries.org. Tell them bettie.need13@gmail.com)

Comment: Hebrews 5:14 *But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil* tells us that because of the lack of strong meat from the pulpit, there is a lack of workable knowledge in the pew. Thus, Christians are not only blown around by the strong winds of false doctrine, they do not know how to do all things to the glory of God: that is, how to apply God’s word to EVERY activity of life, e.g. social and political issues of the day. Christians may be strong in their commitment to Christ, but have no idea how that commitment translates into Godly action.

I find it distressing to sit in “religious services”, both “worship” services and Bible conferences, and hear a good message, but no instruction how to apply the law-word of God to social and/or political issues of the day.

Maybe: 1) there is fear of losing people if the law-word of God is made too applicable, 2) the speaker does not know how to apply the law to everyday activity, 3) fear of being accused of being legalistic.

Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge:

because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

God called His Nation to be a wise and understanding people because they know, understand and apply his law. But because His covenant people have “forgotten the law of the God of the covenant”, he has given Satan power over them.

Both wisdom and knowledge cry out from the streets for His covenant people to learn and do His covenant-laws, and they will again become the exalted Nation according to their calling in Christ:

Deuteronomy 4:5 Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the LORD my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it. 6 Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people. 7 For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the LORD our God is in all things that we call upon him for? 8 And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day? 9 Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons’ sons;

(See <http://biblicalexaminer.org/The%20Church.html#Covenant-Promise>)

AN IMMIGRATION COMMENT

The recent news is that the “millennial’s” are starting to put emphasis on the family. That emphasis was stated as being due largely to Hispanic influence, as the Spanish normally have strong family ties which, evidently, is rubbing off on “Americans”.

We hear a good bit about enforcing immigration laws against the Hispanics. However, we are hearing nothing about enforcing immigration laws against the Muslims.

Consider: The establishment’s goal is to tear down the family which must be accomplished before the New World Order can be fully instituted. The Spanish families normally have a strong and orderly influence, which is a great hindrance to the NWO. However, the Muslim influence will bring about the chaos that is needed for the NWO.

Why are not the “radical Muslims” who are preaching and practicing hate against the US not being deported? What about US citizens who are trying to overthrow the US? I certainly am not against deporting illegals of

all kinds, but treason is far more serious than an illegal hard worker. Why are the treasonous allowed to continue in their overthrow efforts? Draw your own conclusion.

TEACHING YOUR KIDS SHARIA LAW

By Senior Political News Writer, Jim Kouri

A school board in the United States that refuses to allow any symbols or images regarding Christmas and the birth of Jesus Christ, voted to allow an outside group of Muslim activists to begin the process of indoctrination of young American children, according to a former police official, Norman Thomas Gargan, who served as a training adviser in Iraq.

Members of the Board of the Unified San Diego School District voted last week to cooperate with the Council on American-Islam Relations (CAIR) in their introduction of a number of precepts of Sharia law in classrooms throughout the school district, according to Gargan and other law enforcement sources.

“This is just the beginning, a test case to see if they get away with this. And believe me, it’s coming to your school next.” said Editor Paul Walter ...

<https://newswithviews.com/san-diego-school-board-cair-to-help-teach-your-kids-sharia-law/>

The above is clearly subversion against the Christian foundation of this nation. I am angry, particularly at parents who allow such strong subversive indoctrination to be forced upon their children.

The NWO requires that Humanism and chaos replace Christianity and lawful order, which must start in the minds of the population. With the great influx of Muslims who were paid to come here, what better law than Sharia Law to replace Christian law. (Though primarily Catholic, the Hispanic Mexicans who have come here have a basic love for Christian law and order, so they must go.)

Men will allow any law except Christian law, so all traces of Christian law must be removed if the wicked will control the future for Satan and the glory of man.

The state with its education system is in an all out war against Christianity, yet “Christian” parents send their children into that den of iniquity, the lion’s den to be consumed by the roaring lion that is walking about seeking whom he may devour.

“But my school is different” say the simple. Read the text books that are required by the State. If in the early 1900s, the spirit of the anti-Christ had revealed his destructive educational plan, parents would have been up in arms. But by chipping away at the Christian foundation of American education at a little time, he has been

able to slip in with little notice by those parents who wrongly assume proper instruction is being provided. The result is that he has been able to totally destroy that foundation, and turn out uncontrolled young adults, intent on subverting our once lawful society. “If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?” All of society, including Christians, are paying the price for the “Snow Flakes” who have been educated in humanism; they are totally determined to have their own way, or they will destroy everything and everyone in their path. The education system has trained our young people very well in subversive actions.

I do not see how Christians who teach in the subversive, pagan public school system can Scripturally justify themselves before the Christian God they claim to love. (*If you love me, keep my commandments.*)

What saith the Lord?

BOOKS

Books by Pastor Need at <http://www.biblicalexaminer.org/Book%20store.html>

Both my first wife and myself committed ourselves to live within our means, debt free. Our income was minimal, but sufficient, which permitted me to be “full-time” though our church was very small. However, I did have a print shop in the basement of the church which provided some extra income. The Lord provided the means to make the church and the parsonage debt-free. Rising very early in the morning gave a great amount of time to search out the many questions that came up. All of the large books were put together during that time, 1983 to when I had my heart attack, 2000.

All articles by Bro Need unless sotherwise noted.

OBAMACARE

Do you enjoy ObamCare? Do you like paying for abortions, the results of drunkenness, sodomy, &c.? Check into <http://samaritanministries.org>. SM is the closest to Scriptural health care that you will find, and is a fraction of the cost you encounter in various insurance plans, especially in ObamCare, and especially with the IRS breathing down your neck. Log on, check it out, and tell them that Bettie Need (bettie.need13@gmail.com) sent you, and we will get one month paid for if you join.