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VENGEANCE AND JUSTICE

Romans 3:5 *But if our unrighteousness commend the righteousness of God, what shall we say? Is God unrighteous who taketh vengeance? (I speak as a man) 6 God forbid: for then how shall God judge the world?*

The vengeance of God is not a popular word today in or out of the pulpit. However, we see in v. 6, that without vengeance, there can be no justice of the world.

I speak as a man. Hodge tells us that Paul was simply speaking not as an apostle, but as was typical of his day.

Typical of Paul, he answers a question before it is asked: "I am part of God's chosen people. And since my unrighteousness reveals the righteousness of God in all he does, even as sin takes its natural course, then why does God take vengeance against me?"

V. 5. That is to say, *But if our unrighteousness proves the righteousness of God, then is not God unrighteous to take vengeance against us?*

Answer:

V. 6, *how shall God judge...* Paul is speaking to the Israelites in Rome who were secure in their supposed blood tie to Abraham, and in the fact that the Israelite nation had been chosen by God out of Egyptian bondage.

The Old Testament gives us the record of God's dealing with his "chosen people." They were proud and confident that they were special in God's eyes. Their false pride and self-confidence led to their hardness in sin, and God's final judgment against the Israelite nation in 70 AD. The Jewish-Roman war erased the ancient nation of Israel from history. (Modern Israel officially disclaims any connection with ancient Israel. However, they do claim heirship to the spirit of the Pharisees of Christ's day.)

V. 6, Paul's answer: How shall God judge the world if

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he does not judge all sin even among his chosen people?

1 Peter 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

Though fallen man overlooks his sins, God does not. God cannot act as if nothing is wrong. Chapter 2 told us that God, in his patience, grace and mercy often postpones the just rewards of sin, or vengeance against sin as he gives man the chance to repent and submit his heart to the Lord Jesus Christ. But though it may be very long in coming, God's righteousness requires vengeance, or justice.

V. 5, Is God unrighteous who taketh vengeance?

The word of God is clear that vengeance and Christianity do not go together. ("Entertainment" involving blood and vengeance sells. It is becoming very difficult to find "entertainment" that is not about very violent

vengeance.)

Modern Dispensational Christianity tells us that the Old Testament God was a God of wrath and vengeance. It says that the New Testament God is a God of love. However, both Testaments speak very clearly of both vengeance and of love.

Three times the Tri-une God tells us he is a consuming fire: Deuteronomy 4:24, and 9:3. Hebrews 12:29 brings the warning forward to the Elect: *For our God is a consuming fire.*

The Hebrew word for vengeance means to vindicate, to reestablish the cause of justice.

Vengeance is a defense of justice; vengeance is retribution against evildoers. Without that vengeance, evildoers prosper at the expense of the innocent.

Therefore, those who speak against the ministry of vengeance deny justice, and support evil. The attitude of our day is that justice must be set aside in the name of love. However, love that avoids vengeance destroys justice, and will result in anarchy.

The Christian God is a God of vengeance. The Christian God is a God of love because he provided his only Son that his people might avoid his righteous vengeance.

Jeremiah 15:15 O LORD, thou knowest: remember me, and visit me, and revenge me of my persecutors; take me not away in thy longsuffering: know that for thy sake I have suffered rebuke.

Nahum 1:2 God is jealous, and the LORD revengeth; the LORD revengeth, and is furious; the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth wrath for his enemies.

2 Corinthians 10:6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled. 7:11 For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

(Numbers 35:19, 21, 24, 25, 27, &c.)

God has various methods of exacting vengeance.

First, civil magistrate

The ministry of vengeance or the ministry of justice is not placed in the hands of individuals.

The law tells us that personal acts of vengeance are forbidden to man. In the same verse, the law does spell out our responsibility instead of vengeance, *“thou shalt*

love thy neighbor as thyself” and keep his statutes.

Leviticus 19:18 Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD. 19 Ye shall keep my statutes.

Romans 12:19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

“[T]he command is, to avoid a spirit and purpose of revenge. But this command is not to be so understood that we may not seek for justice, in a regular and proper way, before civil tribunals. If our character is assaulted, if we are robbed and plundered, if we are oppressed contrary to the law of the land, religion does not require us to submit to such oppression and injury without seeking our rights in an orderly and regular manner.” (Albert Barnes)

give place unto wrath.

“Leave room for the civil magistrate to do his duty, he holds the sword for this purpose; and if he be unfaithful to the trust reposed in him by the state, leave the matter to God, who is the righteous judge: for by avenging yourselves you take your cause both out of the hands of the civil magistrate and out of the hands of God.” (Adam Clarke)

“*Vengeance is mine* This fixes the meaning of the apostle, and at once shows that the exhortation, Rather give place to wrath or punishment, means, Leave the matter to the judgment of God; it is his law that in this case is broken; and to him the infliction of deserved punishment belongs.” For God will repay in his own time and in his own way. (Adam Clarke)

In other words, we must not avenge ourselves, but leave room for divine justice either through the civil magistrate or through God’s divine justice: *“for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.”*

We must imitate Paul in Philippians 4:11, and *learn to be content* in whatever state we find ourselves, and wait for God’s day of vengeance.

Deuteronomy 32:35 To me belongeth vengeance, and recompence; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste.

The Lord promises payback to the evil doer according to his timing.

Romans 13:4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

God shares his exclusive right of vengeance only with the civil government. He gave the state alone the right to take life. That right can only be according to his law-word or it is murder. Our command is “*Avenge not yourselves, vengeance is mine saith the Lord, I will repay*”

Our obligation is to love our neighbor and our enemy, which clearly means fulfilling the 2nd table of the law as the Lord told the rich young man in Matthew 19:16-22:

And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? 17 And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. 18 He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, 19 Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 20 The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? 21 Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. 22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.

Paul says the same in,

Romans 13:7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour. 8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another; for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. 9 For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

That is, “*Thou shalt not Kill.*” Respect your neighbor’s right to life. “*Thou shalt not commit adultery.*” Respect the sanctity of his home. “*Thou shalt not steal.*” Respect his property. “*Thou shalt not bear false witness.*” ←Respect his reputation. “*Thou shalt not covet,*” respect these things in thought as well as in word and deed.

Accordingly, we are given only two requirements in order to maintain social order:

First, vengeance and justice which must be left up to God, and his established representative here on earth, the state.

Second, faithful fulfillment of the second table of the law.

What has happened? Why is our social order falling apart?

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

The people, even many professed Christians, do not want godly vengeance and justice, so God gives them leaders after their own hearts. That spiritual decline in the church results in the decline of Godly vengeance and justice in society.

People profess a desire for godly justice, yet they do not vote what they profess. They have no biblical basis for their political vote, so they follow men according to what those men say, rather than according to godly precepts which require men of good reputation.

However, the ungodly state is not interested in godly justice for several reasons:

First, the general attitude of the people is against godly justice. The breakdown of godly law and order in the state is because there is a breakdown of law and order in the people. The people may want vengeance and justice for others, but not for themselves.

Second, the breakdown of lawful justice works to benefit the ungodly state. Without biblical vengeance against the evil doer, anarchy must reign. That breakdown of justice results in anarchy, which allows the state to increase its power over people, at the request of the people.

Third, the dream of the ungodly for four thousand years has been to create their own world order. So, the ungodly foment chaos so they can bring about their imagined perfect world order.

Chaos is being encouraged by the state today. Example: The chaos that reigned in Richmond not long ago was the result of the anarchists attacking those who were peacefully demonstrating. Law enforcement was told to stand down, and let the anarchists have their way. That story has been repeated all over the country.

The eternal desire of fallen man is to succeed where the tower of Babel failed. So, the Nimrods of our day encourage or even create chaos, with the goal of bringing about their New World Order according to their vain imagination as described in Psalms 2.

It seems as though the sinful chaos described by Jeremiah 5:7-9 – as spoken to God’s professed people – is

being fulfilled right before our eyes:

7 How shall I pardon thee for this? thy children have forsaken me, and sworn by them that are no gods: when I had fed them to the full, they then committed adultery, and assembled themselves by troops in the harlots' houses. 8 They were as fed horses in the morning: every one neighed after his neighbour's wife. 9 Shall I not visit for these things? saith the LORD: and shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?

Covetousness reigns in the hearts of God's people, so covetousness reigns in the hearts of those who are in authority, both in and out of the Christian community. Lack of vengeance allows covetousness to reign.

His final, complete and total vengeance and justice shall be accomplished in the final judgment when all men must stand before him and face righteous just judgment. To deny the vengeance of God is to deny the final judgment.

The denial of vengeance not only denies Christianity, but it denies justice, and destroys the social order.

V. 5, *Is God unrighteous who taketh vengeance?*

God has various methods of executing vengeance.

First, vengeance through the civil magistrate. Vengeance and justice go hand in hand. We see that justice is now very seldom enforced by the civil magistrate, and anarchy is taking over the streets.

Second, vengeance through Divine Providence.

As we saw concerning the 1629 Mayflower Compact, that a covenant was made with God through Jesus Christ. Though that covenant was erased from history and all memory, it was not erased from God's memory.

God uses natural events, such as rain, floods, hurricanes, tornados, earthquakes, to execute his vengeance.

God uses foreign invaders to execute his vengeance. We are in the midst of a foreign invasion from the south.

God uses wicked rulers to execute his vengeance.

God uses judicial blindness to accomplish his vengeance against the ungodly. That is, he blinds them to the natural results of the death in their plans.

God even uses false teachers who profess to represent him to execute his vengeance. They give false hope to the wicked as the wicked willfully and contentedly march toward their self-chosen destruction.

Though his people cannot seek self-vengeance; we are told to seek God's vengeance:

Luke 18:1 And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; 2

Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: 3 And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. 4 And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; 5 Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. 6 And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. 7 And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? 8 I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

Some important points as we talk about the vengeance of God.

First, the context is prayer in response to the lack of proper vengeance and justice by the judge.

Second, the judge had no interest in justice.

Third, rightful vengeance and justice was granted only because of the continued cry for righteous vengeance. Because the widow continued in her plea and pestered him endlessly, he finally granted her justice.

Fourth, God's people have forgotten to pray for God's vengeance against the wicked.

7 And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? 8 I tell you that he will avenge them speedily.

Our lesson here is that in the face of no justice, we are to pray for God's avenging justice against the evil doers. Luke 18 tells us that we are to pray for God's vengeance upon evil. We are to pray for God's vengeance against those who seek to undermine his command-word, whether that undermining is done by the ungodly, or whether it is done from supposed "Christian" preachers and teachers who proclaim man's imaginative ideas in place of God's truth.

We should pray particularly for God's vengeance against those people, societies and states as well as individuals who are guilty of the theft of property. It is becoming common to hear of the state stealing children from families who are obeying God's command concerning children.

The vengeance of God is also proclaimed against all who are guilty of taking the name of the Lord in vain or blaspheming God:

Blaspheming is made evident in every kind of false doctrine presented in the name of the Lord: Modernism and unbelief, the death of God, the social gospel, so-

cialism, communism, welfareism, and the toleration of all kinds of evil such as homosexuality and false modesty in the name of the Lord. Not only do these things call for the vengeance of God against them, but people who bear the name of Christ yet do not live what they profess also are asking for the vengeance of God.

We should be praying for God's righteous vengeance against the workers of iniquity.

• **THREE TIMES WE ARE TOLD THAT OUR GOD IS A CONSUMING FIRE.**

God also declares that part of his ministry of justice, or vengeance, is to separate his people from those who are ungodly. That line of separation is brought about by judgment and by the providence of God. God makes clear that his day of vengeance and justice is about to come.

Every day, the false professor of Christianity and false Christian churches become more obvious for what they are. The evil that lurk in the heart of professed Christians is becoming increasingly obvious as they openly separate from the Christian faith which they profess.

As God and his justice continues to show the truth about the false "Christian churches," and institutions, the flow of honest Christians out of them must increase.

I do not have much contact with Orthodox Presbyterian churches, but the Orthodox Baptist community is growing.

As we face the world of our day, we need to rejoice that it is under God's judgment, that his ministry of vengeance is in operation today. We need to be mindful of our responsibility to be in prayer that God's justice or vengeance will be accomplished.

We need to be crying with the widow, "Oh Lord, avenge me of mine adversary."

A NEW FLAG

I took down my Rebel flag (which you can't buy on ebay any more) and peeled the NRA sticker off the front door.

I disconnected my home alarm system and quit the Neighborhood Watch.

I bought two Pakistani flags and put one at each corner of the front yard. Then I purchased the black flag of ISIS (which you CAN buy on ebay) and ran it up the flag pole

Now, the local police, sheriff, FBI, CIA, NSA, Home-

land Security, Secret Service and other agencies are all watching my house 24/7. I've NEVER felt safer, and I'm saving \$69.95 a month that ADT used to charge me.

Plus, I bought burkas for my family when we shop or travel. Everyone moves out of the way and security can't pat us down.

Safe at last — Ain't America great or what?—
(Copied)

SUBVERSION

By H. Rondel Rumburg

What is happening when people deny the veracity of God's Word? What is happening when human life, especially in the prenatal period of development, is being extinguished so lightly? What is happening when immorality is made the norm? What is happening when people destroy the Constitution? What is happening when history is being rewritten to fit the liberal narrative? What is happening when monuments built in a former generation are being destroyed? What is happening when authority figures are being accosted?

How do we answer those questions! There is subversion of "thus saith the Lord." There is subversion of "thou shalt not kill" to support the convenience of death. There is the "calling of evil good and good evil." There is the practice of anarchy to replace a republic. There is an attempt to change what has been the acknowledgment of our forefathers to the active repudiation of the dead. There is an embracing of lawlessness as the new norm. There is a repudiation of God, the ultimate authority.

We are witnessing the subversion of right for wrong, subversion of truth for error, subversion of life for death, subversion of righteousness for wickedness, subversion of law and order for crime and chaos, subversion of reality for make believe, subversion of honor for dishonor, subversion of history for fantasy, subversion of liberty for bondage.

Webster, in his first edition, defines SUBVERT', v.t. [L. subverto; sub and verito, to turn.]

1. To overthrow from the foundation; to overturn; to ruin utterly. The northern nations of Europe subverted the Roman empire. He is the worst enemy of man, who endeavors to subvert the Christian religion. The elevation of corrupt men to office will slowly, but surely, subvert a republican government.

This would subvert the principles of all knowledge.

2. To corrupt; to confound; to pervert the mind, and turn it from the truth. 2 Tim. 2.

Subversion is nothing new! It was clearly visible in the Garden of Eden. It began with Satan, the father of lies and the daddy of depraved humanity. Jesus knowing all things exposed the pretention of the religious leaders of His day with this confrontation, “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not” (John 8:44-45).

The first subversion was manifested verbally in the Garden of Eden by that old serpent the devil (Ez. 28:13-19; Rev. 12:9; 20:2). The serpent said unto Eve, “Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?” (Gen. 3:1). Here the character of the devil is on display when he used very subversive language to question the veracity of what God had said to Adam and Eve previously (Gen. 2:16-17). He must have been eavesdropping. Edward J. Young explained:

With the serpent’s first utterance it becomes apparent that an enemy of God is speaking.... The first words uttered form a question, which seems designated to cast doubt upon God’s goodness.... Perhaps we can to a certain extent bring out the force of the question if we render, ‘Is it really a fact that God has prohibited you from eating of all the trees of the garden?’ [Anyone wanting to do a thorough study of Genesis 3 should read the book by that name written by Edward J. Young.]

The subversive nature of this intervention in the garden was to plant a seed of doubt in the mind relative to the nature of God and the truthfulness of His words. Eve’s reply to the serpent was to try and correct an error, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die” (Gen. 3:2-3). Eve was correct up to the last part of verse 3 where she became guilty of adding to the Word of God when she said, “neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.” Now she was taking unlawful liberty with God’s word by embellishing what God said; so the serpent recognizing her error replied, “Ye shall not surely die: for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil” (Gen. 3:4-5). So the serpent adds to God’s word and accuses God of envy and provoking her to pride and curiosity. The serpent was saying, “God does not want you to become a god in knowledge.”

The promise is, that they shall resemble the Supreme God, their Creator and Governor; and this is farther amplified or illustrated by the assurance of their being put in possession of the knowledge of good and evil, that is, being made to participate in the fullness of knowledge. This last suggestion was exceedingly insidious....

And yet, though every word of this statement was a lie, and every thought horrid blasphemy and rebellion against the Eternal Lawgiver and Judge, and might have been seen by the woman to be supported by no other evidence than the bold assertions of him who gave them utterance, the representations are believed, and the implied though not expressed counsel is followed. [Donald MacDonald, *The Biblical Doctrine of Creation and the Fall*]

What did Eve do? She “saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat” (Gen. 3:6). This disobedience brought immediate death spiritually as God had warned and physical death began its reign. “Wherefore, as by one man [Adam] sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned” (Rom. 5:12). Thus mankind was subverted! This subversion was evident in Cain’s murder of his brother Abel because God rejected the false worship of Cain but received the true worship of Abel. Cain became a wanderer trying to escape the presence of God. Cain’s subversion was to be at cross purposes with God. Cain’s wish was that there be no God, and the Cain-complex consisted of hatred of God. He had the same attitude as “the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains: And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb” (Rev. 6:15-16).

Being possessed of the Cainitic wish that there be no God, the sons of Cain, his spiritual heirs, seek to eliminate every trace of God from reality. Order, design, intelligence, purpose, and meaning are all denied in principle, because God is denied in principle. But man can only eliminate God, and all sign-posts pointing to God, by eliminating all reality, including himself, for all things witness to God, their Creator. The result is ... an “integration into the void.” Man dissolves himself whenever he seeks to dissolve God. [R. J. Rushdoony]

Why are the university students, the progressives and the drug dependent crowd seeking to destroy society

as we know it? The old society has the vestiges of God and God's people, law and order, which the new descendents of Cain want obliterated. Responsibility is renounced because it is too Biblical for responsibility shows there is an authority outside of self. The reason is it recognizes God's authority. The primary demarcation between paganism and Biblical faith is its concept of responsibility. Thus these rebels feel hurt, oppressed, and cast off. What do they do? They agitate, demonstrate, aggravate, and remonstrate against people of law and order to maintain their sense of being persecuted. Remember Cain saying, "My punishment is greater than I can bear" (Gen. 4:13) even though he had murdered his brother. He considered his brother's life of insignificance compared to the god of self. Cain was the offender but claimed to be offended. The Cainites were vagabonds from God, from righteousness, from lawfulness, from civil society these were the elements they were working against. They avidly sought the destruction of the God ordained way of life and all monuments to it.

Satan, the father of fallen mankind and father of Cain, has put his subversive plan to work in every avenue of our culture in order to destroy morality, truth, righteousness, justice and honor. He is the enemy of God and man. "Your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Pet. 5:8). Since this is the modus operandi of the devil, he is the number one subversive with millions of his children walking about seeking who and what they may destroy. They leave destruction in their wake!

Clearly the stakes are very high in the contemporary culture war. It is a war for dominion over today and control over tomorrow. As Hunter succinctly puts it, "culture conflict is ultimately about the struggle for domination." In shaping the culture both camps seek to shape this generation and influence (if not define) those that come after. The progressive camp is set on destroying cultural values that the orthodox hold dear, and vice versa.... The outcome remains in the balance. [Dr. Robert D. Stacey]

In this light what should a child of God do? "Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen" (1 Pet. 5:9-11). The first Adam was the representative of the lost world and the second Adam

Christ is the representative of the redeemed world. "For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil" (1 John 3:8). And that He might save His people from their sins. That they might repent to the acknowledgement of the truth and be recovered out of the snare of the devil who now takes them captive whenever he so desires (2 Tim. 2:25-26).

Search Savvy

DUCKDUCKGO

Each time you do a web search using Google, the company archives the details of that search, alongside data on your web-browsing history, to help target you with personalized ads. (The company serves ads to millions of sites, and it can note each time you go to those sites, too.) With DuckOuckGo, you can avoid that tracking. The search engine delivers the info you request without building a user profile, generating revenue by showing you ads related only to that single query. Type in "women's running shoes" and appropriate ads pop up on DuckDuckGo's results page-and nowhere else.

Consumer Report. 10/19

TRUTH FROM THE MANHATTAN DECLARATION

Declaration of Independence and Constitution on life

"In the gospels, our Lord says . . . 'be not afraid.' As we stand boldly for life, marriage, and religious liberty, let us heed His admonition. It is not for us to know when or even precisely how the victories will be won. Our task and duty is simply to be faithful and obedient—to bear witness and do what is right . . . When things look bleak, we must not give up hope, for to yield to despair is to fail to trust in Jesus." Dr. Robert George, one of the contributors to the Manhattan Declaration.

The above is to the point of exactly where the primary emphasis of the Christian endeavors must be in our time. The foundational essence of civilization is on the line and people who claim Christ must come to grips [with] the warlike spirit of Anti-God and Christ are deigning to destroy not just the idea of God, but God Himself.

As the last few weeks flew by, the moaning of Christians about how bad things are have flooded the media with the woe is me verbiage. When paying attention, it dawned on me that Christians, the vessels that are re-

deemed to demonstrate the power of God and the Glory of Jesus Christ, are intimidated by the boasting of a modern Goliathan Giant. Where are the Davids?

I am deeply moved by the words of Dr. Robert George in italics in the Manhattan Declaration:

“When things look bleak, we must not give up hope, for to yield to despair is to fail to trust in Jesus.”

We Christians must face the obscured fact that the center on the modern argument in our nation is NOT Political, but spiritual. Abortion is not a legitimate political subject. It is a matter of life and death! Marriage between A man and A woman is not political but a matter of life and death for the family and civilization. Notice Paul on our times:

2Timothy 3:1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:

2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! (NKJV).

LLV19 8-8-2019 Larry Lilly Share with friends. For Twitter <http://www.larrylilly.net/blog>

A GENERATION OF COWARDS

Hero Soldier Saved Children's Lives During El Paso Shooting

An Army soldier is being hailed a hero for saving the lives of several children during the shooting in El Paso, Texas, on Saturday.

Army Pfc. Glendon Oakley Jr., 22, said he was inside a sporting goods store at the Cielo Vista Mall when a child ran inside and began shouting that there was an active shooter nearby.

Oakley then exited the store and made his way to Foot Locker when he heard gunshots and immediately pulled out the Glock 9mm he said he occasionally carries with him.

This is Glen Oakley.

He was in the @FootLocker when the El Paso shooting happened. When he ran to leave, he saw kids in the mall without their parents, scared and alone.

So he picked up as many as he could and carried them to safety.

Focus on the heroes.#ElPasoShooting pic.twitter.com/1NofPvegjL

— Muhammad Lila (@MuhammadLila) August 3, 2019

“I am in the military and I’ve got my license to carry, so all I think about is get my gun out and think fast,” Oakley told reporters.

Breitbart News reported that the alleged shooter killed 20 people and wounded 26 others during the tragic event on Saturday morning.

Oakley said once he exited the store, he saw children running everywhere. A group of them were huddled together in the mall’s play area, screaming for their parents. He said he tried to get others to help him get them to safety, but no one stopped.

“I try to get a couple of other people too, you know, grab other kids, but parents are so worried about themselves, they’re gone,” he commented.

“I’m just thinking about the kids, so I pick up as many as possible and carry them with me and another guy does as well,” he said, adding, **“I wasn’t really worried about myself. I was worried about the kids.”**

Oakley told reporters that he does not have children, but said in the circumstances, he did “what I would want somebody else to do” if he was a parent.

Once the group made it back inside the Foot Locker, employees closed the metal security gate but then decided to open it and make a run for the mall’s exits.

“I didn’t even think. I just grabbed as many kids as I could and ran five stores down to the exit,” Oakley said. “We got there and ran into a whole batch of police pointing their guns at us. I wasn’t focused on myself, and I wasn’t focused on my surroundings ... I was just focused on those kids.”

After police secured the area, Oakley said he wished he could have done more for the children whose lives were taken so suddenly.

“I heard four kids died,” he said. “I wish I could have gotten more kids out of there. I wish those guys who ran would have stayed ... I just think, what if that was my child? How would I want some other man to react?”

Oakley, who recently returned from a deployment to Kuwait, is stationed at Fort Bliss and his awards include the National Defense Service Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

MANDATORY INJECTIONS OF ALUMINUM

There have been some stories in the news lately that show the parents of small children running from danger with no effort to save their children from that danger, e.g. the shooting in the Dayton OH where a total stranger risked his life to save some children while others ran.

Those of us who have a “sound mind” stand amazed at the outright stupidity of society in general, especially if we were born in 1940-1970. We have seen and are seeing a tremendous dumbing down, stupefying of society. Not all of that dumbing down can be attributed to the State’s education system, though it plays a large part.

Video Evidence

I saw the video “Your Children. Your Choice.” The video brought many things to mind. Many of us have been knowledgeable of the **danger of Aluminum** over the years, and this video called for a word or two. (Our son-in-law says, “Why use three words when ten will do?” That has been the story of my preaching and writing career.) So here are my “ten words.”

According to the HHS, less than 1% of vaccine injuries are actually reported, suggesting that the annual injuries could be more than 6 Million.

Example:

“The FDA requires newborns not to exceed 5 Micrograms of Aluminum per KG per day by IV. Research clearly demonstrates serious developmental delays in children who receive more than this amount of Aluminum. The average newborn of 3.5 KG should not receive more than 17.5 micrograms per day. The HEP B vaccine (advertised for all children at birth) contains 250 MCG of aluminum per dose. That is 14.3 times the FDA’s own maximum limit.”

You will not find it on youtube, but it is on facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2325821697679985>, and at <https://www.brighteon.com/945074b3-520e-4edb-85fd-f52d782d3508>.

The FDA will say a certain percentage of children are unvaccinated, but they will not say whether or not the sick child has been vaccinated. The “medical industrial complex” cannot allow such a comparison. The truth would free mankind from the medical industry’s deadly fraud.

• A NEWBORN

Vaccines deliver 4,925 mcg of aluminum by 18

months, safe limit is 25 mcg

Within two months, a newborn is injected with 1,225 micrograms of aluminum just in the HEP B vaccines. At four and six months, the cycle is repeated.

“In reality, there is strong evidence the U.S. government has documented aluminum toxicity, while at the same time it continues to push for childhood vaccination programs. According to a document generated by Department of Health and Human Services on behalf of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), instances of aluminum toxicity is not considered rare in newborn babies, as well as other patients who receive certain injectable medications and IV solutions containing aluminum.”

<https://www.naturalhealth365.com/vaccines-aluminum-neurotoxicity-1536.html> Also, <https://www.naturalhealth365.com/aluminum-toxicity-2260.html>

Dangers of Aluminum Toxicity

* It is particularly poisonous to the nervous system with a range of symptoms that can include disturbed sleep, nervousness, emotional instability, memory loss, headaches, and impaired intellect.

* It can stop the body’s ability to digest and make use of calcium, phosphorus and fluoride. This prevents bone growth and reduces bone density. Aluminum can also cause conditions which actually force calcium out of the bones. Either of these situations can bring on weakness and deformation in the bone structure with crippling effects.

* Toxicity can also result in aching muscles, speech problems, anemia, digestive problems, lowered liver function, colic and impaired kidney function.

<http://www.drpepi.com/aluminum-poisoning.php>

“Aluminum is one of the most abundant metals on earth and it has permeated mainstream products to the degree that it’s virtually impossible to completely avoid exposure.”

It is found in more products than we can imagine: Most obvious is cookware and aluminum cans; it is also in antacids, aspirin, and many other over-the-counter drugs. It has a very high presence in process cheese such as is used on a cheeseburger. (Aluminum is even used in processing public drinking water. <https://www.waterbenefitshealth.com/aluminum-in-water.html>)

“Aluminum accumulates in the kidneys, brain, lungs, liver and thyroid where it competes with calcium for absorption and can affect skeletal mineralization. In infants, this can slow growth.”

“According to Washington DC’s Department of the Planet Earth, United States and Canadian regulatory agencies are interested in aluminum as a potential risk

factor in elderly cognitive impairment. It makes sense, research shows aluminum can produce toxic, oxidative stress in the brain and a brain autopsy study of elderly persons found them to have aluminum levels 20+ times higher than a middle-aged group. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, recognizes aluminum as one of several metals known to affect the neurological system. As far as aluminum is concerned, the supreme brain-health concern is Alzheimer's disease."

<https://www.globalhealingcenter.com/natural-health/concerned-about-aluminum-dangers>. <https://www.quora.com/What-are-the-effects-of-aluminium-on-the-human-body>

Question: Why have various states made major moves to force all newborns to be injected with so much Aluminum? If they have nefarious motives and knowing the results of injecting aluminum, the state will move to attach jail time for refusing the mandated injection of aluminum.

There is obviously huge profit to be made by forcing aluminum injections, both in the "injection," and in the resulting medical problems from what is contained in the injection. As long as the public tolerates the injections, they will continue, as will the shame of not having injections.

5 G DANGERS

Forward-thinking cities like Brussels, Belgium, have already stopped the rollout of 5G on account of its negative health effects, but that's unlikely to happen in a U.S. where the government is often more friendly to companies' profits than people's safety.

A Minister of the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region, Celine Fremault, commented: "I cannot welcome such technology if the radiation standards, which must protect the citizen, are not respected, 5G or not. The people of Brussels are not guinea pigs whose health I can sell at a profit. We cannot leave anything to doubt."

Offering download speeds that are as high as 30 times faster than the already-dangerous 4G, 5G is expected to hit every American city by the year 2021. You'll see 5G towers and mini stations everywhere, with some experts estimating that one tower will be needed for every two to eight houses. It's pretty easy to imagine just how exponentially your exposure to RF radiation will rise when this happens.

While phone companies and internet providers might dismiss these concerns, those who know better are

speaking out about the dangers. Hundreds of respected scientists who research the topic recently signed a letter called the International EMF Scientist Appeal. In the document, they expressed their concerns about the technology and called for tighter regulations and protection for vulnerable populations like children and pregnant women, along with the establishment of radiation-free zones.

If your city doesn't appear on the map, it's probably just a matter of time before it does. Moving to Brussels might not be an option, but you can limit your exposure to some extent by keeping your cell phone as far away from your body as possible when you're not using it, especially while sleeping, and invest in EMF shields.

<https://www.naturalnews.com/2019-09-08-map-shows-the-cities-where-deadly-5g-cell-towers-are-being-rolled.html>

Note: 5G speed is required for AI to work nationwide. The speed is needed for self-driving vehicles and population control. Don't forget, there is no limit to the cost in money and human health that might be needed by the wicked to institute the New World Order.

Genesis 11:5 And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. 6 And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. 7 Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. 8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.

("4 things about 5G technology that the cell phone industry would like hidden from the public" <https://www.naturalhealth365.com/5g-network-radiation-3091.html>)

WHY STUPIDITY REIGNS

Romans 3:11. With no fear of God, there can be no understanding of God.

Deuteronomy 32:29 O that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end!

Job 32:9, Isa 1:3, Jer 4:22, 10:14

First: They do not understand who God is. That understanding can only come from the Spirit of God.

Second: They do not, or cannot, understand the latter end; that is, the logical implications and results of their ungodly thoughts and deeds.

The Christian looks on in amazement at the total lack

of logical thought of the unsaved. They cannot see the logical implications of their foolishness.

Example 1: In 2017, a high school girl sued her school under Title IX in order to play on a boys' football team:

June 27, 2017, "**Sam Gordon, other Utah teen girls sue school districts to play football.**"

"These teens, including 14-year-old Sam Gordon, and their parents, are suing three school districts at the Utah High School Activities Association, claiming it's a violation of Title IX to not allow girls the opportunity to play football."

In 2019, a high school girl is suing her high school for allowing boys to compete under Title IX on her girls track team (August 11, 2019):

"ADF said the CIAC policy "regularly results in boys out-performing and displacing girls in competitive high-school track events across Connecticut. Throughout the 2018-19 track season, males consistently deprived the female athletes who are part of the complaint of multiple medals, opportunities to compete at a higher level, and the public recognition critical to college recruiting and scholarship opportunities. The complaint notes that CIAC's policy and its results directly violated the requirements of Title IX, a federal law designed to protect equal athletic opportunities for women and girls."

Anyone in their right mind should have been able to see the implications of the 2017 case.

Example 2: May 2013, "Boy Scouts to allow gay youths to join."

<https://www.cnn.com/2013/05/23/us/boy-scouts-sexual-orientation/index.html>

July 2015, "The governing body of the Boy Scouts of America voted Monday to end its decades-long ban on gay scout leaders."

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/boy-scouts-america-allow-gay-scout-leaders-n399241>

August 12, 2019, "Boy Scouts have a 'pedophile epidemic' and are hiding hundreds in its ranks, lawyers claim. Corky Siemaszko. 5 days ago. The Boy Scouts of America are continuing to cover-up a 'pedophilia epidemic within their organization,' a group of lawyers alleged Tuesday in a new lawsuit."

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/boy-scouts-have-a-pedophile-epidemic-and-are-hiding-hundreds-in-its-ranks-lawyers-claim/ar-AAFr42b>

A Christian should be astounded at the lack of understanding found in the unbeliever, but we cannot expect those who hate God to be bound by any godly standard.

Many Christians do not pay attention to what is going on around them. And if they do understand, they keep

quiet.

We as Christians look on in utter amazement that those who are wise in their own eyes and understanding cannot see the end of their utterly stupid actions and ideas. However, those who hate God cannot be expected to be bound by any godly principles. Sin has separated all mankind from God. Without God moving in the heart of the sinner, there can be no understanding of God.

Deuteronomy 32:29 O that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end!

Psalms 36:9 For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.

Either Christ or stupidity will reign.

A "PRE-TRIBULATIONAL RAPTURE"?

By Thomas Williamson

"Neither post-tribulationism nor pre-tribulationism is an explicit teaching of Scripture. The Bible does not in so many words state it." - John Walvoord, in "The Rapture Question," foreword to first edition, 1975.

"One objection to the pre-Tribulation Rapture is that not one passage of Scripture teaches the 2 aspects of His Second Coming, separated by the Tribulation. This is true. . . . No single verse specifically states, 'Christ will come before the Tribulation.'" - "Left Behind" co-author Tim LaHaye, in "No Fear of the Storm," pages 69, 188.

"Neither pre nor post-tribbers have a proof text for the time of the Rapture." - Thomas Ice, in "The Origin of the Pre-Trib Rapture, Part II."

"There is no single verse in the entire Bible that supports a pretrib Rapture." - Gary DeMar, in "End-Times Fiction."

The Pre-Trib Rapture is not taught or mentioned by any of the Church Fathers, nor is it found in any of the early church creeds such as the Nicene Creed, Apostles' Creed, etc.

None of the 16th Century Protestant Reformers, 17th Century Puritans, or the great revivalists of the 18th Century taught or held to a Pre-Trib Rapture.

The Pre-Trib Rapture is not mentioned in any of the great historic Baptist confessions of faith. The First London Confession of 1644, the Second London Confession of 1689, the Philadelphia Confession of 1742 and the New Hampshire Confession of 1833 do not mention the Pre-Trib Rapture. Nor is it mentioned by

any of the lesser Baptist confessions of this period.

The modern confessions of faith used by the Southern Baptist Confession, American Baptist Association and Baptist Missionary Association of America do not require belief in the Pre-Trib Rapture, nor do they even mention it.

Many prominent Baptists over the years have rejected the Pre-Trib Rapture theory, including Charles Haddon Spurgeon, John A. Broadus, Herschel Hobbs, J.L. Dagg, B.H. Carroll, J.M. Pendleton, T.T. Shields, Adoniram Judson, John Bunyan, William Carey, Arthur Pink, John Gill, Robert Cameron, Pat Robertson, Roy Culley and J. Sidlow Baxter.

Prominent non-Baptist evangelicals who have rejected the Pre-Trib Rapture include G. Campbell Morgan, Charles Finney, Matthew Henry, Adam Clarke, C.T. Studd, Horatius Bonar, Harry Rimmer, David Livingstone, Kenneth Kantzer, J.C. Ryle, Andrew Murray, J. Gresham Machen, Francis Schaeffer, Nathaniel West, Benjamin B. Warfield, A.B. Simpson, Robert Dick Wilson, Walter Martin, R. C. Sproul and Oswald Smith.

At least 3 of the editors of the original Old Scofield Reference Bible (Henry G. Weston, William J. Erdman and William G. Moorehead) rejected the Pre-Trib Rapture position.

Charles Brokenshire, Dean of the School of Religion at Bob Jones University in Greenville, South Carolina from 1947 to 1950, was an opponent of the Pre-Trib Rapture theory.

For the first 18 centuries of Christian history, no one imagined that there was anything in the Bible about a Pre-Trib Rapture. The Pre-Trib Rapture was heavily popularized by the Plymouth Brethren movement in 19th Century Britain, but many of the greatest Plymouth Brethren leaders, including George Mueller, B. W. Newton and S.P. Tregelles, rejected the Pre-Trib Rapture theory.

There is no need to go into a detailed examination of all the alleged proof-texts for Pre-Trib teaching in the Bible, since leading dispensationalist authorities such as John Walvoord, Tim LaHaye and Thomas Ice have admitted that no such proof-texts exist (see above).

The only way to obtain such proof-texts is to snatch certain verses out of context and read them in a nonliteral, allegorizing and spiritualizing manner.

The main proof-text used by Pre-Trib advocates is Revelation 3:10, "*Because thou hast kept the word*

of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth."

These are the words of Christ addressed to a literal local assembly in the town of Philadelphia in Asia Minor, in the First Century, telling them that Christ will preserve that congregation through an "hour" (not 7 years) of temptation or trial that is to come upon them in ancient times. There is nothing about a Rapture here. In fact, there is nothing about a lengthy Tribulation period as such.

To make this verse teach a Pre-Trib Rapture, dispensationalists spiritualize the 2nd and 3rd chapters of Revelation, making them refer to 7 church ages rather than 7 literal churches. They say that Philadelphia is not a literal First Century Church, but a church age, and that the Rapture occurs at the end of the Philadelphian age. They say we are now in the Laodicean Age, which raises the question, why has the Rapture not already occurred?

As for Revelation 4:1, in which the Apostle John was called to go up in the spirit in order to receive a revelation from God, this is not a reference to a bodily Rapture of all saints, any more than similar experiences of Ezekiel (Ezekiel 8:3) or Paul (2 Corinthians 12:4) were indications of a general bodily rapture of all the saints.

John Walvoord has said, concerning Revelation 4:1, "It is clear from the context that this is not an explicit reference to the rapture of the church, as John was not actually translated. In fact, he was still in his natural body of Patmos ... there is no authority for connecting the Rapture with this" (From "The Revelation of Jesus Christ)."

There is no need to waste time looking at the other alleged Pre-Trib proof-texts, since the most prominent and trusted authorities of modern dispensationalism have publicly admitted that none of those so-called proof-texts really teach a Pre-Trib Rapture.

Some may wonder, what is the point of this article? Am I saying that we should head for the hills, dig out a bunker, store a 7-year supply of food and prepare for the terrors of the Great Tribulation?

The answer is no - contrary to the ravings of sensationalistic "prophecy teachers" on television, there is no scriptural evidence that we will be entering the Great Tribulation period any time in the foreseeable future.

For hundreds of years, believers have been convinced, based on the alleged "signs of the times" in their era, that the Great Tribulation was just around the corner, or

that they were already in the midst of it. So far, all such predictions have been 100% wrong.

There is no particular need for us to fear going through the so-called Great Tribulation. However, we should be prepared for the possibility of having to go through localized times of tribulation and persecution. (see Acts 14:22, John 16:33, 1 Peter 4:12, Revelation 1:9). God never promised that Christians would never go through times of tribulation and suffering here on earth; actually the Bible teaches us to expect tribulation here on earth.

The point of this article is to commend the wisdom exercised by the founders of the BMA movement when they left the Pre-Trib Rapture out of our 1950 and 1988 Doctrinal Statements. The Pre-Trib Rapture theory should not be considered a dogma of the faith or a test of fellowship among fundamental Baptists. Godly wisdom teaches us that we do not really know the exact course and timing of future events for certain, and that it would be foolish to fight and condemn each other over such doubtful end-times scenarios that cannot be established from the Word of God.

LETTER

Hello Bro. Need, I am proud to say that I have known such a man as yourself. Before I go off on a rabbit trail, I have come to the belief that if you DO NOT have an open mind about the Bible and what it must say to the believer, you are in trouble! I hope that I can visit with you before we get to the point of having to sit in our wheelchair and be covered with a blanket, and you can talk with my oldest son Brett about all these things. I know it would be a hoot because both of you have a like mind about all the events unfolding in our day. You have been blessed beyond measure with your family and I believe it is because of your devotion to our Lord and Savior, Yeshua! Please continue being who you are and putting out the TRUTH! Thank you for your life! David (David is one of the young AF men stationed at Barksdale AFB in Louisiana who we worked with in the 1970s)

PROSPERITY BUILT ON DEBT?

Families Go Deep in Debt to Stay in the Middle Class

Wages stalled but costs haven't, so people increasingly rent or finance what their parents might have owned outright.

The American middle class is falling deeper into debt to maintain a middle-class lifestyle.

Cars, college, houses and medical care have become steadily more costly, but incomes have been largely stagnant for two decades, despite a recent uptick. Filling the gap between earning and spending is an explosion of finance into nearly every corner of the consumer economy.

Consumer debt, not counting mortgages, has climbed to \$4 trillion—higher than it has ever been even after adjusting for inflation.

“The debt surge is partly by design, a byproduct of low borrowing costs the Federal Reserve engineered after the financial crisis to get the economy moving. It has reshaped both borrowers and lenders. Consumers increasingly need it, companies increasingly can't sell their goods without it, and the economy, which counts on consumer spending for more than two-thirds of GDP, would struggle without a plentiful supply of credit.”

Complete article, <https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/markets/families-go-deep-into-debt-to-stay-in-the-middle-class/ar-AAFbEHE>

Note: Those of my generation can easily remember the learned “economists” telling of the glories of shipping manufacturing to China to help preserve a cleaner environment here. We remember being told that the goal was to change the American economy from a manufacturing (wealth producing) economy to a consumer (debt producing) economy. A few years ago in WV, I remember reading that the US government had upgraded a major steel mill which was then shipped to China. We have known for years that the State Department has been intent on destroying our nation. Over the years, we had hoped that a new president would clean it up, but none have dared to touch it. Bro Need

Bankruptcy filings rising across the country and it could get worse

By John Aidan Byrne, August 11, 2019

“Meanwhile, record American household debt, near \$14 trillion including mortgages and student loans, is some \$1 trillion higher than during the Great Recession of 2008.

Credit card debt of \$1 trillion also exceeds the 2008 peak.

Americans are spending heavily, again — and often recklessly, say analysts.”

<https://nypost.com/2019/08/11/bankruptcy-filings-rising-across-the-country-and-it-could-get-worse/>

In order for Trump to be able to brag on “his” era of “prosperity” for the 2020 election, the FED must keep people borrowing so they can foolishly spend to stay in the “middle class.”

Trump says Fed ‘boneheads’ should cut interest rates to zero ‘or less,’ US should refinance debt

President Donald Trump on Wednesday continued his verbal assault on the Federal Reserve, which he blames for slowing the economy, tweeting that the central bank should cut interest rates to zero or even set negative interest rates. The president also called Fed officials “boneheads” in the tweet. ... That debt load has grown \$2.6 trillion, or 13% under Trump, due in part to the 2017 tax cut that the president shepherded through Congress. Taxpayers have shelled out \$538.6 billion in interest costs in the 2019 fiscal year, easily a record....

<https://www.cnbc.com/2019/09/11/trump-says-fed-boneheads-should-cut-interest-rates-to-zero-or-less-us-should-refinance-debt.html>....

As we have watched Trump over the years, we know that his “empire” has been built on debt, including bankruptcy.

United States Gross Federal Debt to GDP The United States recorded a government debt equivalent to 106.10 percent of the country’s Gross Domestic Product in 2018. Government Debt to GDP in the United States averaged 62.31 percent from 1940 until 2018, reaching an all time high of 118.90 percent in 1946 and a record low of 31.80 percent in 1981.

<https://tradingeconomics.com/united-states/government-debt-to-gdp>

There has been talk of not even having a debt ceiling that must be verified by a vote in congress. Another trillion dollars added this year. How long can an economy “prosper” that is built on debt? We are on the verge of learning the truth of Paul’s words,

Romans 13:8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another; for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

Because of our debt mentality and the FED feeding that mentality, almost all real property, cars, housing, &c., belongs to the banks or to foreigners.

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

Are we ready for the sure and severe results of our servitude to covetousness?

What in the world is going on?

See interview with Franklyn Sanders at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jwGbd-DOFvQ>

A CONFEDERATE SERMON

Submitted by Chaplain Kenneth Studdard

Rev. Moses Drury Hoge, D.D. (1818-1899), was a Virginian and a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ who served as Presbyterian pastor (54 years in Richmond, VA), Confederate Chaplain as well as long-time Editor and Writer defending the Christian Faith and its principles applied to life and society.

THE DEATH OF CHRIST SHEWN FORTH

For as often as ye eat this bread and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord’s death till he come. 1 Cor. xi. 26.

Between the natural and the spiritual world, there appears to be a beautiful and striking analogy. We must, by no means, imagine that the plan of the visible creation was instituted with an exclusive reference to so transitory a state, as that of innocence proved to be. Known unto God are all his works and all the events of time from the beginning of the world. When the sun was brought into existence and suspended in the firmament of heaven, to give us the light of day, he was also intended to be an emblem of the sun of righteousness, the spiritual light of a benighted world. It was not merely to administer to our temporal necessities, that water was made to spring from the earth in ten thousand refreshing and fertilizing streams. This salutary element was, we may assuredly conclude, intended to afford us a very interesting representation of the still more salutary influences of the Spirit of God upon the heart of man. Nor do the materials of bread rise from the ground, nor is the fruit of the vine impregnated with so rich a juice, only for the support and comfort of this mortal life. No, my brethren, bread and wine were intended to be emblems of the body and blood of our Saviour, or in the language of the text. To shew the Lord’s death till he come. When invisible interests are thus embodied, as it were, and presented to us under sensible forms, it has a tendency to make a deeper impression upon the heart, at the same time that the mind is assisted in forming clearer conceptions of their sacred import. This is, we have reason to think, one reason why the children of men are so desirous to have every invisible object, of much interest, presented to the eye under some visible resemblance. And it was, no doubt, in conformity to this principle in our nature, that spiritual blessings have in every age of the world been exhibited by sensible signs. Even in a state of innocence, the tree of knowledge of good and evil and the tree of life, were appointed to be tokens and seals of the divine favor. And if such representations were necessary in that state, how much more so must they be now in our present state of deep apostasy. Let us then, with the most serious attention, consider the nature of the ordinance we are this day to celebrate, as it is presented to our view in the words of our text. For as often as ye eat this bread and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord’s death till he come.

As the death of Christ is an event of the last importance to the children of men, it is necessary that it

should be shown forth, that it should be proclaimed and made known to all nations, to the end of time. It has been customary over all the earth to erect monuments, to institute festivals, and a variety of other memorials to perpetuate to succeeding generations the memory of illustrious deeds, and transactions of peculiar interest. And what, my brethren, are the battles that have been fought and the victories which have been obtained; what are the rise and fall of empires; what are all the exploits of the most illustrious heroes; what are all the most celebrated transactions of mortals, in comparison with the redemption of the world by Jesus Christ? Nothing has ever been done; nothing has ever taken place on earth of equal, of comparable importance, to our guilty race. It is, therefore, with the greatest propriety, that a solemn memorial of this great work has been instituted to perpetuate its memory to the latest ages.

We naturally wish to be remembered by the living, when we shall be numbered among the dead. The thoughts of having our memory forever blotted out from the earth, is far from being agreeable to the mind of man. And a variety of vain, expensive and foolish measures have been resorted to, by short sighted mortals, with a view of preserving their names from oblivion. The proudest monuments, which have been reared for this purpose, have perished from the earth. And even where the monument is still to be seen, the name it was intended to eternize has for the most part been erased from it, as well as from the memory of man. But our Jesus had only to take bread and wine, as he was celebrating the last paschal supper with his disciples, and set them apart to be memorials of him in the character of a crucified Saviour, and these simple elements have testified of him — have shewn forth his death in the worshipping assemblies of his disciples, in every age and nation to the present day.

When a beloved friend or relation is about to be separated from us by death, how anxious are we to have some tender memorial of his friendship and affection, which it will be in our power to preserve while we live. And it was, when our Lord was about to be separated from his affectionate disciples, that he instituted this holy ordinance. What must have been their distress and apprehensions, upon finding that He was going to leave them without any visible Head or Protector, in the midst of their numerous, powerful and most inveterate enemies! But he did not leave them comfortless. No, he assured them, that he would not be unmindful of them

after his departure; that he would still be with them in a spiritual sense; in a manner much more important and interesting than a man can be with his friend on earth: and as a memorial of his unchangeable love; as a medium of endeared communion with them after his ascension to heaven; and as a pledge of his coming again to receive them to the mansions he was going to prepare for his humble followers, he instituted the ordinance we are this day to observe in remembrance of him. We must not, however, imagine that it was exclusively for the sake of the beloved companions of his tribulation on earth, that this holy ordinance was appointed. No, my brethren, it was for us as well as for them. It was for the comfort, the edification and establishment of all his disciples to the end of the world, that he consecrated the elements of bread and wine to be the memorials of his dying love and grace.

But to be more particular: These elements are happily calculated to shew forth the sufferings and the death, which our Redeemer endured for sinners of our apostate race. The breaking of the bread, and the pouring out of the wine, constitute very expressive emblems of the agonies he endured, when his body was broken on the cross, and his blood was shed for us. What he endured, however, from the hands of his enemies, was, we have reason to believe, far from being the whole of his sufferings. And it has been supposed by many pious men, that the processes ordinarily observed in the preparation of these elements for our use, are intended to assist our conceptions of this solemn and inexpressibly awful mystery—the sufferings he endured from his Heavenly Father. It must, however, be observed that it was bread and wine, and not the materials of which these elements are composed, that were appointed to be symbols in this ordinance. Besides, I am very doubtful whether such remote analogies, will accord with the divine simplicity of scriptural allusion. But, however this may be, I am persuaded that such allusions would afford us very little assistance upon this interesting subject. There are no resemblances in the universe, that can furnish us with adequate apprehensions of what our Redeemer endured from the justice of his Father, when the chastisement of our peace was laid upon him. But should any one enquire, Why did the innocent Redeemer submit to such incomprehensible distress?

This holy institution will furnish us with a very satisfactory reply. For his body was broken and his blood was shed for us. Not merely or chiefly to confirm the

truth of the doctrines he taught, but also for the remission of our sin. The Lord was pleased to lay upon him the iniquities of us all. Much zeal has, I well know, been employed in opposition to this fundamental article of our holy religion—the justification of a sinner through the imputed righteousness of a suffering Redeemer. With a view of divesting the blood of Christ of all its meritorious and atoning virtues, arguments have been most adventurously drawn from sources which lie beyond the comprehension of man. With the same view, some of the plainest texts in the Bible have been tortured upon the rack of criticism. Nay, for the invidious purpose of reducing our blessed Saviour to a level with an ordinary martyr, a bold and impious blow has been aimed at the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures. But in vain. For as long as the pious and unsophisticated Christian shall sit down at a communion table, to eat consecrated bread, as an emblem of the body of Christ which has been broken for him, and to drink consecrated wine, as an emblem of the blood of Christ which has been shed for the remission of his sins, he must be so irresistibly led to consider the death of Christ as an expiatory sacrifice for human guilt, that no sophistry will ever be able to banish the impression from his heart.

And what sentiments, my brethren, ought we to entertain of that personage, who has been able to make an adequate satisfaction to the justice of God, for the transgressions of an apostate world? Shall we consider him nothing more than a mere creature? A careful attention to the nature of sin, may be sufficient to convince us, that such a sentiment is utterly inadmissible. What should we have thought, had we been told that Stephen shed his blood for us, or that Paul died to expiate our transgressions? Could we rest our salvation upon such a foundation? We dare not. It is easy to see that a mere creature, could render no higher obedience than the law of God requires of him, and consequently, that he could make no satisfaction for the sins of any other creature. No blood but that of a divine person, could satisfy the justice of God for the sins of men. Christ, it is true, suffered only in his human nature, but his Divinity must be considered as imputing an inconceivable virtue to all that he did, and suffered for us in that nature. I must be permitted to add, that while the doctrine of atonement maintains its ground, that of human depravity cannot consistently be given up. For were man by nature innocent, he would stand in no need of the interposition and death of an atoning high Priest, to satisfy for his sin. To

preserve him from ruin, nothing in this case would be necessary, but the preservation of his innocence. And the providence of God Almighty would certainly be sufficient to do this, without the interposition of a suffering Redeemer. Thus we may see, that this holy institution is happily calculated to establish the belief, at the same time that it perpetuates the memory, of some of the most fundamental articles of the Christian Religion.

The emblems of bread and wine, afford us a very interesting representation of the glory and fullness of the salvation of Jesus Christ. The nourishing and strengthening virtue of the bread, is well calculated to assist our conceptions of the life-supporting and invigorating influences of his grace. We must not imagine that a sinner is raised to a state of independence upon his Saviour, as soon as the image of God which had been lost by the fall, is retraced upon his heart. No, my brethren, the most eminent saint on earth, has no more power to preserve from destruction the principle of divine life communicated to him in the day of regeneration, than he has to preserve his mortal body from the grave. And it would be well for every disciple, were this important truth deeply impressed upon his heart. For it might preserve him from much fruitless toil and from many a severe disappointment. Our utmost exertions in the Christian life will be absolutely fruitless, or at least attended with little advantage, unless we labour and strive, in reliance upon the grace that is in Christ. The most advanced Christian on earth is utterly incapable of doing anything acceptable to a holy God without the aid of his Saviour. But the weakest can do all things, through Christ strengthening him. Let not then the strongest presume, nor the weakest despond. Christ is the bread of life. He will do more for the soul that trusts in him, than the bread we eat can do for our mortal bodies. Bread with all its nourishing virtues, cannot always preserve from the grave. But he that lives a life of faith upon Jesus Christ, shall never die. Nor is the reviving, the cheering and cordial influence of the wine, less happily calculated to represent the comfort and peace, the joy and gladness of heart, which spring from faith in a crucified Saviour. Are any of you, my brethren, ready to sink into despondency on account of the number and the aggravations of your offences? Take this cup of salvation and give thanks to the name of the Lord for the efficacy of the blood of your Saviour, for the efficacy of the blood which cleanses the foulest stains of sin. Are any of you in heaviness by reason of manifold in-

firmities and imperfections? —Does the too frequent prevalence of guilty unsanctified affections, disturb your peace and disquiet your minds? Are you distressed because you cannot love your God and Saviour more, and serve him better? Here is a sovereign remedy for all your complaints. A balm for every malady, and grace to help in every time of need. Jesus Christ is the great physician of souls. Apply to him in that character and you shall be made whole. —You shall be delivered from the guilt, and domination of sin.

From the *Chaplains' Corps Chronicles of the Sons of Confederate Veterans*. Anno Domini 2019. September. Issue No. 165

Knives Account for 3 Times as Many Murders as Rifles Do, According to the FBI

https://www.westernjournal.com/ct/knives-account-3-times-many-murders-rifles-according-fbi/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=WJBreaking&utm_campaign=ct-breaking&utm_content=western-journal

JUVENILE ADULTS

Adults are acting like kids, and it needs to stop

By Kyle Smith, July 15, 2015

Hot trend in publishing: coloring books for grownups, with 1.4 million copies of Johanna Basford's "Secret Garden" sold.

Hot trend in schooling: In Brooklyn, people closer to middle age than middle school are going back to kindergarten to hone their skills at dressing up in monster costumes, finger-painting and singing "Wheels on the Bus."

Hot trend in fashion: Celebrities are posting pictures of themselves having a night on the town while wearing matchy-matchy pajamas.

Hot trend in America: It's becoming toddler nation. The bald eagle is being replaced by a Teletubby....

<https://nypost.com/2015/07/15/adults-are-acting-like-kids-and-it-needs-to-stop/>

Wall Street Journal says adults are rediscovering recess because 'being a grown-up is hard'

Posted at 3:09 pm on August 20, 2019 by Brett T.

We're not sure if these are technically millennials (though they sure sound like it), but the Wall Street Journal reports that "adult recess" is booming and it's all because "being a grown-up is hard."

We hope none of the adults are getting sore muscles playing with Lincoln Logs while they wait for their student loans to be forgiven, 'cause being a grown-up is just too difficult these days. ...

<https://twitchy.com/brettt-3136/2019/08/20/wall-street-journal-says-adults-are-rediscovering-recess-because-being-a-grown-up-is-hard/>

When work involves what one loves to do, he never goes to work, and no recess time is needed.

Note: Compare the Juvenile Adults with what we see in public pictures of the Chinese Army.

REDEEMING THE TIME

The Lord judge... (1 Samuel 24:15.)

The LORD judge between me and thee, and the LORD avenge me of thee: but mine hand shall not be upon thee. (1 Sam 24:12)

We all know the circumstances, (read it if you do not) where King Saul, seeing David as a threat to his throne, spent more time chasing David than he did following God's will and war against the Philistines. In this chapter, after pursuing the Philistines, he was told where David was in the wilderness. Saul took three thousand of his best men, and sought to kill David. Rather than David being delivered into Saul's hands, Saul was delivered into David's hands. Saul went into a cave to rest, not knowing that David was in the cave. David quietly "cut off the skirt of Saul's robe. Saul awoke and left the cave. Out of danger from Saul, David revealed himself to Saul, and told Saul that men have been lying to him when they said that David sought his hurt.

As I was thinking on this passage, I realized that among other things, the Lord will judge how we use the time he has given us. Both Bettie and I have come to realize the value of time, for we know not how much we have left. We both lost our spouses very unexpectedly, proving again that man *knoweth not his time*, so we must use what we have left to the fullest:

For man also knoweth not his time: as the fishes that are taken in an evil net, and as the birds that are caught in the snare; so are the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falleth suddenly upon them. (Ecc 9:12)

How many under 50 or 60 years old think about their time suddenly stopping, and having to give an account for their use of time? But as one gets older, particularly above three score and ten, God's idea of time becomes more real.

We are not here discussing slothfulness, though that would be a good subject. We are discussing the misuse of time. Life is a race against time. We will only win that race if we realize the following:

- 1) Time is limited, and it is no respecter of persons – no one will get more hours in a day than another.
- 2) The maximum number of productive years is established by God. (Ps 90:10)
- 3) Days must be counted. (Ps 90:12)

- 4) Time is given to us to do God's work. (Jn 9:4)
- 5) Time is unrecoverable. A lost hour is gone forever.
- 6) Death is certain.
- 7) Time requires accountability.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. (2 Cor 5:10.)

In Isaiah 55, the Lord raises this question:

1 Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. 2 Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. (Isa. 55. See also, Ecc. 4:8.)

Why do we spend our time on those things that have no eternal value, and very little, if any, value here on earth? The Spirit warns us twice about the use of our time.

Two points to consider

First, *Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.* (Eph 5:16.)

Second, *Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.* (Col 4:5.)

Across the street from my church in Linden was a man who, evidently, only worked a 40 hour week, and evidently had worked at his occupation for some time, for he seemed to get a good amount of vacation time. He spent a lot of time working in his yard, washing and waxing his truck (he seems to have a new one every few years), and washing his motor home. He took his motor home out for the weekend 2 or 3 times a month. I watched him for over 19 years while we were there, and there were times when I "envied" him. He had 40 hours a week job that evidently paid well, and he pursued his pleasure the rest of the time. But I knew I could never follow that path, for there was too much to do in the ministry.

One of the most distressing things for a pastor is the general lack of desire in the people to **redeem the time**; that is, exchange their personal pleasure time for Kingdom work time. (There certainly is a time for godly rest.) A godly pastor understands and is many times distressed over the **evil days** in which we live, for the allurements of the world prevent people from **redeem-**

ing their time for the cause of Christ.

In 1 Samuel chapter 24, Saul spent his time pursuing David, with no success. In Saul's unwarranted pursuit of David, not only did Saul waste time, for which he gave an account, but he caused David to spend his time fleeing. And thus we see that we never waste time at our own expense. It always costs others:

If on the job – others must work harder to make up our waste; if in our relationship with the Lord – those under our protection will have to work harder to avoid Satan's destruction in their lives; if we are just being lazy – the example we set will be picked up by our children, and somewhere it will be paid for.

Not only will we lose the race against time – the race to accomplish something for the Lord with our life, but we will greatly hinder those watching us from running their race effectively. (Heb. 12:1.)

Most people think the race is to see who can achieve more of this world's goods, the most leisure time, or even the earliest retirement, but nothing can be further from the truth. ("The difference between a man and a boy is the price of the toy. And the one with the most toys wins!") No matter how much we might gain of these things held important by the world, it will not be enough. I think one of the most revealing books

on of human nature is the Book of Ecclesiastes. It ends thusly:

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

Saul wasted his time pursuing David, forcing David to spend his time fleeing.

1 Samuel 24:14, David asks, "What is a great king like you with 3,000 men doing out here chasing me? If you catch me, you only have a dead dog to show for all your efforts. What credit is that to you, to be able to return with a dead dog as your spoil of war? What pleasure is it to hunt a single flea? Even if you seek it, it isn't easily found. If you find it, it isn't easily caught. If you catch it, it isn't easily killed, and it is certainly a poor prize for a king and 3,000 of his chosen men."

The heat and humidity in Louisiana seemed to breed bugs. Someone gave us a big, beautiful, and very friendly Persian cat, which was a house cat. Needless to say, fleas were a natural, and those fleas infected the carpet.

Have you ever tried to find a flea on a long-haired pet or in a shag carpet? It is a waste of time.

We are far more like Saul than we are like David. We spend our time, energy and money on the unimportant and insignificant things. We waste a lot of time pursuing things that are of no earthly value – useless activities that lose all their value in eternity. If we had to live for eternity on the treasures we lay up with the proper use of our time, most of us would live in poverty.

• TIME AND THE WORD OF GOD

Though the Tri-une God lives in eternity where there is no concept of time, we do not. We are trapped in time, which we find very constraining. (C.S. Lewis said that the constraint of time we feel here shows that we were made for eternity.)

First, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. (Eph 5:16.)

Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: (Gal 3:13.)

Christ hath redeemed us. He **bought** us back from destruction. Christ has commanded us to redeem our time from destruction also, and it is destroyed in front of the TV, among many other places.

The metaphor is of a merchant who eagerly and willingly exchanges his personal pleasure time for time to buy and sell to get gain. (James 4:13.) The successful businessman **avoids** those things which hinder his business. We have all known businessmen who succeeded because they exchanged the time one would normally spend in personal pleasure for time pursuing their occupation. The result was their prosperity.

I used to work for a man who had to quit school at a very early age to support his family. He invested the wealth from the increase of his business into land, making him a large land-owner in a farming community in western Indiana. One would not know of his wealth by looking at him. The way he gained his wealth was by exchanging personal pleasure time for time building his business. The time was right for his business, and Divine Providence placed him in that time of history. He took advantage of the time, and he prospered.

I knew another layman when I was on a church staff in Maryland. His story was basically the same — he had to quit school at about the sixth grade to support his family. As opportunities developed, he exchanged his personal enjoyment time for the time it took to develop

his business, and the Lord prospered him greatly. Nor did he have to sacrifice his family nor his Christian service as a layman. He also became quite wealthy, even purchasing a helicopter to fly back and forth to church.

The Spirit makes a point of twice telling us to **redeem the time**. We redeem the time as a businessman willingly and gladly redeems his time – we exchange the time we would normally spend on personal pleasure and leisure for time spent advancing God’s Kingdom on earth.

We all have the same amount of time. Though we cannot lengthen time, we can purchase good time (developing God’s Kingdom both within and without ourselves) with the time we would normally spend – squander or trifle away – on things that have no bearing on God’s Kingdom work. In fact, the context of Ephesians 5:15 (*See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, 16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil*) tells us that true wisdom involves controlling time – making it our servant as the successful businessman makes time his servant.

Redemption involves redeeming our time as well as redeeming our souls. (1 Pet. 4:2, *That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.*) In other words, conversion involves converting our idea of time – we now desire to use our time for the Lord. Conversion means we now willingly use our normally missused personal pleasure (no eternal value) time for the Lord. We look for opportunities to serve the Lord, and we give up present enjoyment to do that service.

We need to recover our time, redeem it, from its waste upon unimportant things that do not count for anything in eternity. We will not be judged on how familiar we were with the local recreational areas nor on how well we knew the popular sports figures of our day.

Christian’s fascination with *sports* over the Kingdom of God is not new. The following is from *The Governance of God*, by Salvian, the Presbyter, ca. 400. He was an eye witness to the fall of Rome. It is vol. 3 of *The fathers of the Church*, and translated by Jeremiah F. O’Sullivan, Ph.D. CMA Publishing Co., Inc.

In Salvian’s estimation, the circus, amphitheatre and theatre had a most corrupting influence on the people. He must have been familiar with the huge amphitheatre at Trier where Constantine had ordered some captive Frankish chiefs thrown to the wild beasts. The populace was shouting itself hoarse at the games while that city was being taken in 406. Yet, the games went on, and

Salvian furnished a vivid picture of the lustful delirium of the populace while their city was being ruined. Shortly thereafter, the city fathers requested the Emperor for the means of holding the games as the best aid to relieve the people's distress. (*De Gubernatione Dei* 178) When the Vandals were taking Carthage, Salvian says, it was difficult to distinguish between the shouts of those at the games and the cries of those who fell defending the walls of the city. (*De Gubernatione Dei* 172.) (Introduction, p. 12.)

The impurities of the game are unique, because, in a way, they make the crime one, both for those who perform them and those who watch them. For, while the spectators approve and gladly watch them, all perform them through sight and consent. Truly, that saying of the Apostle particularly falls not only on those who perform them, but even on those who consent to the performances, that they are worthy of death. (Rom 1.32.) Therefore, in these representations of fornication the whole audience mentally commits fornication, and those who, perhaps, came in purity to the games, return from the theaters in adultery. For, not only do they commit fornication when they return home, but also when they come to the theater, for, by the very fact that anyone desires an obscene thing he is unclean while he hastens to uncleanness.

(4) Since this is the case, behold what kind of acts either all, or almost all, Romans do. Yet we who do these things claim we are neglected by God. We say we are forsaken by our Lord, when we ourselves forsake the Lord. Let us suppose that our Lord is willing to watch over us, even though we do not deserve it. Let us see if He can see the countless thousands of Christians daily tarrying at the games where base performances are enacted. Can God watch over people like this? Can He watch over those who revel in the circuses and who commit adultery in the theaters? (Pp. 157, 158.)

But we, what can we answer on our behalf? We hold and cast aside the faith, and we confess the gift of salvation equally as we deny it. Where, therefore, is our Christianity, we who receive the sacrament of salvation only for the purpose that we may sin afterwards with the greater crime of deviation from righteousness? We prefer stage plays to the churches of God. We spurn the altars and honor the theaters. We love things and worship things. God alone, in comparison with all other things, is vile to us.

Finally, besides other instances which prove it, one

particular illustration establishes the point I am making. If, when it should happen---because it often does happen that on the same day on which an ecclesiastical feast occurs the public games are performed---I ask of everybody's conscience what place has greater crowds of Christian men: the spectators' benches at the public games or the entrance to the house of God? Do the crowds prefer the temple or the theater? Do they love more the teachings of the Gospel or the theatrical musicians; the words of life or the words of death; the words of Christ or the words of the mime?

There is no doubt that we love more that which we prefer. For, on every day of the fatal games, whatever feast of the Church it may be, not only do those who say they are Christians not come to the church, but, if any come perhaps unwittingly, if they hear the games being performed, while they are already in the church, they leave the church. They spurn the temple of God in order that they may run to the theater. They leave the church in order to fill the circus. We leave Christ at the altar and feed our adulterous eyes with the most impure visions and with the fornication of the vilest games. Very rightly, therefore, the Lord has said to us: 'on account of your dirt you have been expelled into banishment.' And again He says: (I have been unable to locate these texts.) 'the altars of this laughter shall be banished.' (*Ibid.*, pp. 163-164.)

Salvian attributes a major reason for Rome's fall to the Christians' love of sports over their love of God. He also lumps the love for the theatre in with sports. However, Christians today do not have to go to amusement centers for their entertainment. They can go to many churches and get their entertainment.

The days are evil, as they were in the days of the apostles. They are evil in this context not necessarily because of the abounding sin, but because they abound with temptations and allurements that seek to lead into things that "waste time." The things may not be sin in themselves, but they draw our hearts and time away from God's Kingdom work. We live in a particularly *evil day* because generally people have too much time on their hands, and they use that time to pursue personal pleasure rather than to invest in God's Kingdom.

• KINGDOM WORK DEFINED

Kingdom work involves building a godly personal life, as well as building a godly family, going about our occupation in a manner that brings glory to God, proper

use of leisure, (Mk. 6:31.) among other things.

Time is given to invest in the Kingdom work of our God. The purpose of our life here is to glorify God by *seeking first the kingdom of God and his righteousness* (Mat. 6:33) – that is, our first and last responsibility is to our Creator. That responsibility is to spend all our time advancing His kingdom here on earth. And there is plenty for everyone to do. We have just enough time to accomplish God’s purpose. We do not have too much time on our hands. Time is to be used wisely for the glory of God.

Though I did not bring up the subject, a man once told me about tithing, “That money is mine; I worked for it, and I am not giving any of it to a church.” It is tempting to view time the same way: “The time is mine, and I will do with it as I please.” And nothing could be further from the truth:

1 ¶ Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth. (Pro. 27:1.)

13 Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: 14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. (Ja. 4.)

The Book of Ecclesiastes was written by the richest man ever to live. And that entire book tells us of the vanity of a life built around gaining wealth and pleasure. He concludes with the words I opened with:

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

Time is not ours to do with as we please, anymore than money is ours to do with as we please. Time is a gift from God, and it is to be used for His praise, honour and glory. Anything less is robbery from God.

Redeeming the time

Time is to be redeemed:

- 1) in gaining useful knowledge, especially knowledge of God’s word. (2 Tim. 2:15.)
- 2) in doing good to others, as we have the opportunity. (Gal. 6:10.)
- 3) in making an honest living for ourselves and for our families. (1 Tim. 5:8.)
- 4) in prayer and self-examination, to make the heart

better, and thereby making our actions better. (Mat. 14:23.)

5) in seeking salvation, and in endeavoring to do the will of God. We are to redeem time from all who would waste and destroy it—like recovering marshes and fens to make them rich meadows and vineyards. (Phil. 2:12.)

6) in maintaining the house of God. (Hag. 1:4ff.)

7) rest and restoration, with the goal of regaining our strength to better fulfill our godly responsibilities. (Mark 6:31.)

8) invest in training our children in wisdom and the knowledge of the Lord. (Pro. 1:7, &c.) This includes training ourselves so we can teach our children how to read (so they can read, understand and do God’s Word), compute and communicate through effective writing and speaking. (Pro. 22:6, &c.)

It goes without saying that people make up the church – that is, the New Testament church is the assembly of the firstborn. (Heb. 12:23.) Moreover, the Apostolic church did not have “buildings” to meet in, such as we have today. However, whatever we might think of the buildings themselves, they still represent to the world the kingdom of God on earth. The Lord rebuked his people in Haggai for not using their time to maintain the building that represented the Kingdom of God on earth.

There is enough time wasted by the saints that if it were properly used for God’s Kingdom work, there would be no lack of workers in the Christian community, and the world would be Christianized.

Time is wasted:

A) in the allurements to pleasure and amusements of every description. There is certainly no problem in pleasures and amusements, as long as they do not violate Scripture, but very little of those things make us more effective for the Lord Jesus.

B) in the allurements to useless things that have no value to the Kingdom of God, yet they cost us multiplied hours of time. There are allurements all around us, particularly the TV. The allurements of sports has extracted a heavy price from the Kingdom of God. Time that could have been well spent in advancing His Kingdom in our personal lives and families has been spent with no lasting effect for the cause of Christ watching a sports event.

As an associate pastor in Louisiana, we found that you might be able to get the men out to do a project at

any time except when the Dallas Cowboys were playing. The preacher could preach as long as he wanted as long as he was done in time for the men to see the kick-off at noon. Our men would alternate watching the parking lot during the service. They did not like to do it unless the Cowboys happened to be playing that Sunday. I really can think of no eternally redeeming value of sports, whether it be football or basketball. (I do know several men with back and knee problems that resulted from high school sports—they are paying a very heavy price today for their few hours of fun and fame in high school.) I like drag races, tractor pulls, and county/state fairs, but I can think of no eternal redeeming value of either.

Think of the lost hours reading novels. I must admit, when I was in the military with time on my hands, I loved to read Luke Short, Louis Lamore and Edgaer Rice Burrows, and I read all of them I could find. But as I look back, I know they did not increase my ability for the Kingdom of God. Actually, I had not been covered at that point in my life.

Today's Christian authors make a very good living writing useless, vain and empty books which waste time (they have no eternal value) and corrupt the Christian's world view, e.g., *The Prayer of Jabez* and *Left Behind*, among multitudes of other books.

C) in the allurements to invest time in pursuing unreasonable ambitions. And even if those ambitions were accomplished, they would be useless in terms of the Kingdom of God.

D) in the allurements to argue about words. (1 Tim. 1:4-6, 6:4, 5, 2 Tim. 2:14ff., Titus 3:9ff.)

E) in the allurements to daydream. (What would I do if I were to win a million dollars?) I was a heavy equipment operator for several years before the Lord forced me into the ministry. I remember operating a crane where there might be 30 minutes or more between lifts. Though the operator must pay attention, there is an abundance of time for the imagination to run wild.

F) in the allurements to overindulge. The overweight population shows that we have become a society of overindulgence. Our possessions also show that we are more concerned about the advancement of self than we are about the advancement of the Kingdom of God.

Because the days are evil. The *evil days* could refer to the shortness and unexpectedness of life – if we are going to do anything for the Lord, we had better do it now.

Redeeming the time involves “buying up” those moments that others seem to throw away. While others are wasting away their time on vain things that do not matter in the Kingdom of God, we are to use our time to improve that Kingdom.

Second, Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. (Col. 4:5.)

Redeeming the time involves losing something of value for the well being of God's work – defined as His work in our lives, in our family, in our friends, in our community, in our church and in our nation. We rescue time out of the hands of Satan and out of the world, as they influence us to misuse that time.

Wisdom toward them who are outside the faith means that we invest something of value to reach them, as we would buy something at the store. We all have a set amount of time, and that time is the same for each of us. We each have 168 hours a week to spend at the store. What do we purchase with it? Do we spend them on things that have no godly value? Do we spend them on things that advance the cause of Christ? **Redeeming the time** means we purchase things that please God over things of personal pleasure.

The context of Colossians 4:5 tells us that the use of our time is a major message about our faith that we give to the world around us. A mark of our Christian character is how we use our time – is it on personal pleasure, or is it on the advancement of God's Kingdom on earth?

Motives

I often hear folks say, “God judges the motives; God is concerned that the motives are right.” True enough, but He will judge if the actions are not right, regardless of the motives.

Saul's motives were right in desiring to secure his children's future, (Pro. 13:22, 1 Sam. 20:31) but his actions were certainly wrong. The godly way to secure his children's future is to know, do and teach the Command-Word of God. (Jn. 13:17, 15:14, Rev. 22:14.) Saul's children's future could have been secured if Saul would have confessed his sin of rejecting the Word of the Lord, which he had rejected twice at the start of his reign. But because Saul forgot, or ignored, the Command-Word of God, God forgot his children. (Hosea 4:6.)

It is clear, therefore, that the kingdom passed from Saul, and that his children perished because of his hardness in sin. (I realize the doctrine of Divine Sovereignty, and that the kingly line had to pass to the house of

Judah. I do not, however, even hint that I know how God's Sovereign Providence works behind the scene to bring these things about. I only know that all things work together to accomplish His eternal and sovereign purpose, and that man is accountable for his actions, Isa. 46:11, 2 Cor. 5:10, Eph. 3:11, &c.)

As Saul looked to secure Jonathan's future by violating God's word, he was wasting his time. Physical effort that is contrary to the Command-Word of God will not secure anyone's future, except in failure and destruction. The only thing that would have secured the children's future was to submit to the authority of God's word in places like 1 Samuel 13:8, 9 and 15:3.

God's man told him to wait to make the offering; he did not. God's man told him to destroy Amalek. He did not.

If Saul had submitted in these two areas, his son's future would have been secure. Rather than put aside his pride and make these two things right, he sought ungodly means to secure his son's future. Anything other than Psalms 1 and Proverbs 3:5-10 to secure our children's future not only is a waste of time, but is destructive. It is a godly attitude to want to leave a good inheritance for our children, but the inheritance we should desire for them is a good name, and the physical inheritance will be a by-product of the good name.

Saul was wasting his time seeking to establish his son in an unscriptural way. All of his effort and time spent pursuing David, not to mention the money to support 3,000 men in his endeavor, went down the drain when Saul and Jonathan were killed.

Wrong priorities always lead to death and destruction, not only for us, but for our families.

Remember here that God used the wrath of man (Saul's anger) to praise Himself. He used Saul to train David to be a good king over His people. And the Lord judged Saul's pride, which led to his wasted life, and led to David's desire to stay right with God. David got the throne, and Saul got the 'axe.'

The Lord pleaded David's cause.

The Lord delivered David out of Saul's hands.

The Lord delivered Saul into the hands of the Philistines.

The Lord will judge, which is our hope and assurance as we are oppressed by the Sauls of this world. There is a day coming, and the oppressed will be comforted.

* The accounts will be settled.

* The time will be accounted for.

* The motives will be revealed.

And I must look at David in amazement here at this point of his life. He had supernatural grace to enable him to wait for the Lord to settle the account with Saul.

1 Samuel 24:16, Saul lifted up his voice and wept, but his wasted time was unrecoverable. It was gone. Nor is weeping a sure sign of true repentance.

Saul had to account for the misuse of his time, and the price, wages, he received were expensive — they were paid for by many generations.

Saul lost his race against time, and the ripples lasted for many years and cost many lives.

He had to account for his life. He did not use it to God's work, but to pursue the desires of the flesh, to establish his children in life in an unscriptural way. And the Lord judged harshly, as He said he would do.

And the Lord judge between me and thee according to which man was right, David said (24:12). And the Lord did, for the very command of God that Saul avoided to pursue David killed him — he was commanded to destroy the Philistines, and the Philistines killed him. (24:1 with 31:8.)

(On Eph. 5:16, Col. 4:5, see Barnes' Notes, Family New Testament Notes, Geneva Notes, John Gill, JFB [Jamieson, Fausset, Brown], Peoples New Testament Notes, Matthew Poole, Charles Hodge, Adam Clarke, W.B. Godbey and Robertson's NT Word Pictures. Most of these authors are on Online Bible.)

PERSONAL

This past month has been unpleasantly busy: **Three low points:** I am still getting **shots** in my left eye every four weeks; there seems to be some improvement in the distortion that has been there for several years. **A Kidney stone** put me in the ER with terrible pain and vomiting, which was followed by an appointment with urologist for stone removal. The removal resulted in so much bleeding that the only thing I could pass was blood clots. So, back in the ER again in terrible pain from not being able to pass the abundance of water I was told to drink. That problem was solved with a catheter, which is very inconvenient, but at least I can pass water, and blood.

Four high points: Bettie's oldest daughter and their 12 children **moved back** to the states because South Africa would not renew their visas. Her husband works with Persecution Project in the Sudan, and it was better to live in South Africa and go into the Sudan than to

live in the US. They are now in Montgomery, Alabama about 10 hours south of us. In addition, my son-in-law is being transferred by Duluth Trading Company to Nashville Tennessee, which we must go through to get to Montgomery Alabama. The VA **cardiologist** gave me a “clean bill of health” as did the cardiologist who put in the pacemaker two years ago this Halloween. I finished **another chapter** for the book, “Yom-Kippur.” I **turned 78** last month, and love to write.

*Psalms 103:1 «A Psalm of David.» Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:*

RECEIVED TEXT

Audience question: Would you comment on the differences in today’s free translations?

[Rushdoony] 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.

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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?

R.J. Rushdoony, The Satanic Alternative. Q&A- <http://www.pocketcollege.com/transcripts/097%20-%20The%20Satanic%20Alternative/RR115F12.html>

All articles by Bro Need unless otherwise noted.