

The Biblical Examiner

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Holding to the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith

The "Green Energy" movement is totality ignoring the established laws of physics. That movement is an effort by man to live in a dream world where he is his own god.

Mother Nature !!

THE THUNDER OF HIS POWER WEATHER & LAW

By Rev. Need



Psalms 68:33 *To him that rideth upon the heavens of heavens, which were of old; lo, he doth send out his voice, and that a mighty voice. 34 Ascribe ye strength unto God: his excellency is over Israel, and his strength is in the clouds.*

Psalms 18:13 *The LORD also thundered in the heavens, and the Highest gave his voice; hail stones and coals of fire. 14 Yea, he sent out his arrows, and scattered them; and he shot out lightnings,*

Many of us have experienced tornados and some have experienced hurricanes, and *his strength in the clouds*

could not be more obvious than in a tornado or a hurricane. Though man believes he is god and that his efforts can control God's natural elements, man is absolutely helpless; he can only hide from God's strength he reveals in the clouds.

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• We were returning from a doctor's appointment on the north side of Cincinnati the afternoon of **July 6th**. We go up to that area and return via I-475, US 38 and SR 131. (We live at the south end of 131.) The EF2 tornado struck at 28 and 131 in Goshen OH. (<https://www.wcpo.com/news/local-news/clermont-county/goshen-township/before-and-after-ef-2-goshen-tornado-leaves-damage-in-its-wake>) The sirens were shrieking, and the radio was urging people to immediately seek shelter as we passed through the area. We later learned that the tornado was at the most 5 minutes behind us. (That close encounter motivated this article.)

• Because of past blood clot issues, the doctor checked me in for stone surgery, and did not release me until the clot danger was over. Recovering from the surgery on the 25th and watching some TV on the 26th, the only channel worth watching was the weather channel. (We do not have a TV at home.) The big news at that time

was the “500 year” flooding in St. Louis, which closed I-70. Have you noticed the drought out west, and the many fires? That great city of sin, Las Vegas, is thirsty, and the powers that be will probably shut off water to the farmers so the wages of the sins in that great city will continue to flow.

A megadrought that started around the beginning of the new millennium in western North America, particularly in the southwestern US and northern Mexico, is the worst seen on the continent since the Dark Ages, and there’s no end in sight.

<https://www.cnet.com/science/severe-drought-explained-the-worst-in-the-west-since-medieval-times/>

Mississippi River going dry

Latest supply chain crisis could threaten global stash of food, energy: The Mississippi River is at its lowest level in more than a decade.

[The river is down to 10 ft deep. A barge requires 9 ft.]

https://www.freightwaves.com/news/latest-supply-chain-crisis-could-threaten-worlds-supply-of-food-energy?utm_source=wnd&utm_medium=wnd&utm_campaign=syndicated

Barges on Drought-Stricken Mississippi River ‘Dead in the Water,’ causing severe Supply Chain Issues. (*The Epoch Times*, 10/22/22)

• **3 dead, 1 injured in lightning strike** near White House; couple celebrating anniversary among casualties

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2022/08/05/lightning-strike-white-house-deaths-injuries/10245466002/>

• **Hurricane Ian** was a large, deadly and destructive Category 4 Atlantic hurricane that caused widespread damage across western Cuba and the southeast United States, especially the states of Florida and South Carolina. ...

(Wikipedia)

I understand that the Florida Keys are especially attractive to the Sodomites.

Weather moves according to the established Law of God. That is, man controls the weather by his relationship to the law of God. (Deut 28. Fallen man want choices without consequences, which is impossible.)

Psalms 68:33 *To him that rideth upon the heavens of heavens, which were of old; lo, he doth send out his voice, and that a mighty voice. 34 Ascribe ye strength unto God: his excellency is over Israel, and his strength is in the clouds.*

And his strength is in the clouds. He does not confine his power to the sons of men, but makes it like a canopy to cover the skies. Rain, snow, hail, and tempest are his artillery; he rules all nature with awe inspiring majesty. Nothing is so high as to be above him, or too low to be beneath him; praise him, then, in the highest.

Ver. 34. *His strength is in the clouds.* This refers to the phenomena of thunder and lightning; for all nations have observed that the electric fluid is an irresistible agent—destroying life, tearing towers and castles to pieces, rending the strongest oaks, and cleaving the most solid rocks; and the most enlightened nations have justly considered it as an especial manifestation of the power and sovereignty of God. *W. Greenfield, in Comprehensive Bible.* (Treasury of David)

MOTHER NATURE MYTH

His strength is in the clouds. There is no such thing as an independent realm called nature, e.g., “Mother Nature.” The myth that *nature* is a “person,” an independent realm with power to control natural events, has its roots in the pagan Greco-Roman culture.

Psalms 18:7-14. V. 10, *he did fly upon the wings of the wind.* V.13 *The LORD also thundered in the heavens, and the Highest gave his voice; hail stones and coals of fire. 14 Yea, he sent out his arrows, and scattered them; and he shot out lightnings, and discomfited them. 15 Then the channels of waters were seen, and the foundations of the world were discovered at thy rebuke, O LORD, at the blast of the breath of thy nostrils.*

Judges 5:20 *They fought from heaven; the stars in their courses fought against Sisera.*

The LORD tells us that the natural elements move according to the laws of their Creator. Any faith in “Mother Nature” is a denial of our Sovereign God, and is paganism.

Job 28:22 *Destruction and death say, We have heard the fame thereof with our ears. 23 God understandeth the way thereof, and he knoweth the place thereof. 24 For he looketh to the ends of the earth, and seeth under the whole heaven; 25 To make the weight for the winds; and he weigheth the waters by measure. 26 When he made a decree for the rain, and a way for the lightning of the thunder: 27 Then did*



he see it, and declare it; he prepared it, yea, and searched it out. 28 And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.

• **OBSERVE:**

1.) **As are all things**, the natural elements are controlled by God's law.

When he made a decree for the rain A statute or law by which the rain is regulated. **It is not sent by chance or haphazard. It is under the operation of regular and settled laws.** We cannot suppose that those laws were understood in the time of Job, but the fact might be understood that **the rain was regulated by laws**, and that fact would show that God was qualified to impart wisdom. His kingdom was a kingdom of settled law and not of chance or caprice, and if the rain was regulated by statute, it was fair to presume that **he did not deal with his people by chance, and that afflictions were not sent without rule**; compare the notes at #Job 5:6. (Emp added. Barnes)

2.) **He who tells the thunder when to utter** its terrible voice is using nature to communicate truth to man. Man is without excuse.

The lightning of the thunder The word "lightning" here *zyzij* properly means "an arrow," from *zzj*, obsolete, to pierce through, to transfix, to perforate; and hence, the lightning — from the rapidity with which it passes — like an arrow. The word "thunder" *lwOq* means voices, and hence, "thunder," as being by way of eminence the voice of God; compare #Ps 29:3-5. The whole expression here means "the thunder-flash." Coverdale renders this, "when he gave the mighty floods a law"; but it undoubtedly refers to the thunderstorm, and the idea is, that he who controls the rapid lightning, regulating its laws and directing its path through the heavens, is **qualified to communicate truth to people**, and can explain the great principles on which his government is administered. (Barnes)

That is, he does not deal with the natural elements nor his people by chance, weather and afflictions are not sent outside of the rule of law.

3.) **The terrible judgments** in the earth have a purpose.

Isaiah 26:9 for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn

righteousness.

Learn righteousness. The design is to warn, to restrain, and to reform them. The immediate reference here was undoubtedly to the Jews, in whom this effect was seen in a remarkable manner in their captivity in Babylon. But it is also true of other nations; and though the effect of calamity is not always to turn a people to God, or to make them permanently righteous, yet it restrains them, and leads them at least to an external reformation, It is also true in regard to nations as well as individuals, that they make a more decided advance in virtue and piety in days of affliction than in the time of great external prosperity. (Barnes)

Though the terrible calamities may not turn people to God, yet calamities many times bring serious external reformation. *Will learn righteousness* tells us that the calamities will worsen until men turn to righteousness. This root basically connotes conformity to an ethical or moral standard as defined by Word of God. (TWOT. Cf. Romans 8:4)

Judgments serve God's purpose, i.e., teach righteousness to *the inhabitants of the world*. Calamities are a call for rebellious man to yield obedience to his Creator. They establish God's right to rule men and nations. The history of Ancient Israel has been recorded for our admonition. That history teaches us that prosperity brings forgetfulness, and turning from their redeeming God. Chastisement brings obedience, Hebrews 12:4-17.

In **Job 38-40**. V. 33, God makes clear that he tells the snow where to fall, the lightnings of the thunders where to strike and the winds where to blow. The weather is totally out of the control of man, yet man in his desire to be god, is telling us that he can control the weather through his science so called, and their continual propaganda works. People seem to be under a magical spell of stupidity, as they mindlessly believe things that are completely out of the realm of possibility, e.g., power the world with "green energy." **Truth by Repetition,**

see 9/22 Examiner.

The "natural" elements have no mind of their own, for they are the creation of God. It is in the created nature of the elements to accomplish his



sovereign purpose in history; the elements war against sinful nations, and bless “righteous” nations; that is, those that have righteous laws. (Cf. Rom 8:4) God commonly uses the natural elements to war against his enemies. (Amos 9:1-6, Isaiah 27, Haggai 1:5, 6, &c.) The **Flood** was not *nature* out of control. It was an act of God’s vengeance against sin.

In **Exodus 19**, God’s redeemed people experienced the presence of God at Sinai. Thunder and lightning bursting forth from the thick cloud, and fire with smoke, were the elementary substrata, which rendered the glory of the divine nature visible to men, though in such a way that the eye of mortals beheld no form of the spiritual and invisible Deity. These natural phenomena were accompanied by a loud trumpet blast, which ‘blew long and waxed louder and louder’ (vv. 16 and 19; see Ge 8:3), and was, as it were, the herald’s call, announcing to the people the appearance of the Lord, and summoning them to assemble before Him and listen to His words, as they sounded forth from the fire and cloudy darkness. (K-D)

Lightning and thunder are indications of the power of Yahweh and His might. “The thunder of his power who can understand?” (#Job 26:14); “The God of glory thundereth” (#Ps 29:3). Yahweh also confused the Philistines with thunder (#1Sa 7:10), and His foes were “visited of Yahweh of hosts with thunder” (#Isa 29:6). Thunder was regarded as the voice of Yahweh: “God thundereth with the voice of his excellency” (#Job 37:4), and God spoke to Jesus in the thunder (bronte, #Joh 12:29). (*International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, ISBE.*)

Fearful thunder and lightning reveal the divine nature of the invisible Deity to men. Thunder and lightning represent the presence of the Thrice-Holy, Righteous God who can only be approached through a mediator who was Moses at the mount. The only mediator now between God and man is Christ Jesus. **Psalms 77:16, 144:6.**

Lightning acts according to God’s direction: either for man’s good or judgment.

Psalms 68:33 *To him that rideth upon the heavens of heavens, which were of old; lo, he doth send out his voice, and that a mighty voice.*

By his terrible thunders he will make himself be known as the God of all the world. (Geneva)

1. The thunder, called God’s voice, #Ps 29:3, and elsewhere. Or rather,
2. His word, to wit, the gospel, pub-

lished by Christ and by his apostles, assisted by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven; which might well be called God’s voice, and that a mighty voice, because it produced such great and wonderful effects, as are here above mentioned, in converting all the kings and kingdoms of the earth. (Poole)

V. 34. *Ascribe ye strength unto God*] The high thunderer, υψιβρεμετης (Altitonans); acknowledge your own nothingness, submit to his government. (Trapp)

Ver. 34. *Ascribe ye strength unto God*; acknowledge that he is mighty and able to do whatsoever he pleaseth for his people, or against his and their enemies. (Poole)

Ver. 34. *And his strength is in the clouds* Margin, “heavens.” The Hebrew word rather means “clouds.” The idea is, that while his character as Protector was evinced particularly in his care of his people, his “power” was particularly seen in the clouds—the storm—the thunder—the lightning. Thus, all the manifestations of his character, alike in nature, and toward his people, are adapted to produce a deep and solemn impression in regard to his majesty and glory, or to lay the just foundation of praise. (Barnes.)

Job 26:14 *Lo, these are parts of his ways: but how little a portion is heard of him? but the thunder of his power who can understand?* **Psalms 77:17** *The clouds poured out water: the skies sent out a sound: thine arrows also went abroad. 18 The voice of thy thunder was in the heaven: the lightnings lightened the world: the earth trembled and shook.* **Isaiah 26:6** *Thou shalt be visited of the LORD of hosts with thunder, and with earthquake, and great noise, with storm and tempest, and the flame of devouring fire.*

Psalms 83:15 *So persecute them (those who confederate against God) with thy tempest, and make them afraid with thy storm. 16 Fill their faces with shame; that they may seek thy name, O LORD. 17 Let them be confounded and troubled for ever; yea, let them be put to shame, and perish: 18 That men may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, art the most high over all the earth.*

Men should learn about the LORD by watching the storms. Thunder and lightning are open displays of God’s power so that men may know that **JEHOVAH** is the most high God over all the earth.

(How many times did God intervene with mighty storms to protect this nation as it was being established? See also Rev. 16:17, 18.)

Thunder in John 12:23-32, meant judg-



The “Mighty Mississippi.”

ment upon the *prince of this world* and his followers through the coming victory of Christ over death and hell.

Christ's control of the raging storm in **Mark 4:39** (*And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.*) clearly established before his disciples that he was the God of creation.

Thunder, lightning and swift clouds speak of God's judgment against sin, Isaiah 19:1, Psalms 104:3, 7.

• **OBSERVE:**

A) The physical universe is entirely God's handiwork, and works together to accomplish his purpose.

B) God's kingdom is a kingdom of regular and settled unchanging, laws. All nature is obedient to those laws.

"A statute or law by which the rain is regulated." (Barnes) That is, **rain and storms are regulated by the laws of the Tri-une God that he established in the beginning**. That law changes not with time nor current events. Again, we refer to that law as found in places like Deuteronomy 28. In other words, storms do not happen randomly; they happen according to the eternal decree of the Creator. God made that fact abundantly clearly to Job.

C) **DROUGHTS** and floods ARE NOT random events, for rain follows *God's* eternal decree as established in the law of the Lord – nothing happens "by chance or haphazard." "Nature" operates according to the LORD'S regular and settled laws. Terrible, destructive droughts, storms, thunder, lightning, wind, rain, &c happen according to his ETERNAL DECREE. Thus, all calamities have a lawful purpose; that is, to cause fear of the Lord which is wisdom, cause men to depart from evil and to learn righteousness, which is conformity to the ethical or moral standard as defined by the Word of God: mighty floods and serious droughts move according to His firmly established law. Job 28:28 *And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.*

D) **IF** the pagan Greco-Roman idea that the weather is personified as an independent realm that acts on its own, e.g., mother nature, **THEN** Evolution is logical. Because the fool has said in his heart, there is no God,

anything is possible to him. Hence, evolution.

Note the ease with which Christians get caught up in the spirit of the time as we speak of nature as a person, "Mother Nature."

E) **Storms, such as Ian** are open displays of our invisible God's power and man's utter helplessness before him. Man may try to hide from God, but there is no place to flee from his judgment against the sins of individuals and nations. (Ps 139:7-12, Ecc 10:8, Amos 5:19, 9:3.) Revelation 1:16, 17, *For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?* God's

wrath came upon apostate, anti-Christ Judaism in 70 AD. His wrath continues to come upon rebellious men and nations as the appointed lightning and rain come of God either as blessings or judgments. No man is able to stand when God's wrath against rebellious

man is revealed from the heavens; all he can do is hide himself until the storms pass over.

F) **Psalms 68:34** *for his majesty is upon Israel*, (Ps 68:34) 2. In the kingdom of providence: His strength is in the clouds, whence comes the thunder of his power, the small rain, and the great rain of his strength. Though God has his strength in the clouds, yet he condescends to gather his Israel under the shadow of his wings, #De 33:26. (MH)

His excellency is over Israel. The favoured nation is protracted by his majesty; his greatness is to them goodness, his glory is their defence. (CHS)

Thunder and lightning show man that he is not God and how insignificant he is; they also tell the world that there is a sure judgment against sin; They also remind us that the almighty God of Creation has condescended to man through Jesus Christ, and established a new race of the Redeemed. **The same strength exhibited by God from the heavens is the strength that watches over the Israel of God, the church.**

Let us be reminded of how great a privilege it is for the Lord to have mercy on human flesh, and provide a way for "dust" to approach him through the redeeming sacrifice of God for his people. Psalms 103:14, Isaiah 53.

• **CONCLUSIONS:**

First, the physical universe is entirely God's handiwork, and everything works together to accomplish his

Never let a good opportunity go to waste. The "experts" are giving good imaginative answers as to why the drought is here. Global Warming of course is the "scientific" explanation for this record drought, and the simple believe them. TBR Rebellious man would rather die of starvation than admit there is a God.

purpose.

Second, God's kingdom is a kingdom of regular and settled unchanging, laws which cannot be broken with no consequences. (Ps 2)

Third, nothing happens "by chance or haphazard. It is under the operation of regular and settled laws." Not a sparrow nor a hair of our head falls without Him.

Fourth, mighty floods and droughts move according to His firmly established law. "A statute or law by which the rain is regulated." That is, rain and storms are regulated by the law that the Tri-une God established in the beginning. That law changes not with time nor with current events. Again, we refer to that law as found in places like Deuteronomy 28. In other words, storms do not happen randomly; they happen according to the eternal decree of the Creator.

Fifth, Job 28:28, the unimaginable destruction and death caused by storms have a lawful purpose; they come according to HIS DECREE which should bring men to the *fear of the Lord, and depart from evil.*

Sixth, the same strength exhibited by God from the heavens is the strength that watches over the Israel of God, the church.

The Christian world is melting down right before our eyes, and God's judgment is everywhere. What can we do? Sure, we can pray that God will direct the hearts of those in authority to enforce godly justice, but *faith without works is dead.* The Christian faith requires action; that is, Christians must clean up their own lives, and strive for personal holiness. Their Christianity must be visible for all to see, in their continuance, in their clothing and in their speech.

We cannot expect any national return to Christianity without a Christian Covenant Renewal by his professed people. The "pure heart" will be revealed in one's continuance; "pure outward lives" will be revealed in one's physical appearance which will be "unstained by the sins prevalent in this sinful world."

We need to enforce "Christian laws" as far as we can in our areas of responsibility. In the home, in the workplace. We must challenge sin in the public arena.

Psalms 68:34. 2. In the kingdom of providence: His strength is in the clouds, whence comes the thunder of his power, the small rain, and the great rain of his strength. Though God has his strength in the clouds, yet he condescends to gather his Israel under the shadow of

his wings, #De 33:26. (MH In Galatians Paul tells us that the new Israel of God consists of the redeemed.)

Consider how great a privilege it is for the Lord to have mercy on human flesh, and provide a way for "dust" to approach him. Psalms 103:14.

Even in the midst of the various storms and calamities of life, we must rejoice and be glad.

Psalms 40:16 *Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: let such as love thy salvation say continually, The LORD be magnified.* (Ps 70:4, 90:14, 18:24)

THE MYSTERIOUS WAYS OF GOD!

Compiled by Michael Jeshurun

William Cowper the great hymn writer often struggled with depression and doubt. One night he decided to commit suicide by drowning himself. He called a cab and told the driver to take him to the Thames River. However, thick fog came down and prevented them from finding the river (another version of the story has the driver getting lost deliberately). After driving around lost for a while, the cabby finally stopped and let Cowper out. To Cowper's surprise, he found himself on his own doorstep: God had sent the fog to keep him from killing himself. Even in our blackest moments, God watches over us.

GOD MOVES IN A MYSTERIOUS WAY (hymn)

God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform; He plants His footsteps in the sea And **rides upon the storm.**

Deep in unfathomable mines Of never failing skill He treasures up His bright designs And works His sovereign will.

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take; The clouds ye so much dread Are big with mercy and shall break In blessings on your head.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense, But trust Him for His grace; Behind a frowning providence He hides a smiling face.

His purposes will ripen fast, Unfolding every hour; The bud may have a bitter taste, But sweet will be the flower.

Blind unbelief is sure to err And scan His work in vain; God is His own interpreter, And He will make it plain.

William Cowper, 1774. Isa 42:16 Trinity, p 21

PETER AND JUDE SPEAK

By Rev. Need

10/26/2022. We are presently in a serious drought which is causing concern among the farmers: How to get their crops to market. As I sit here looking out my office window facing east, I see very heavy, dark clouds moving across the sky having a promise of rain. Seeing that promise which may or may not materialize, I am reminded of two passages:

2 Peter 2:17 *These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever.*

False prophets and teachers have plagued the Church from its beginning in the Garden. (Gen 3:1)

They subtly creep in to cast doubts on the key doctrines of the Christian faith. God attests to their effectiveness by saying that if it were possible, they would even lead the elect astray. Their preordained purpose is to spread damnable heresies, and they even deny the Lord that bought them; they professed the Christian faith in order to get into places of authority from where they undermine the faith. Thus, their purpose is to strengthen the believer and expose the tares, Matthew 13. Peter goes on to say that they have a just reward waiting for them. In the first century, these false teachers were probably Judaizers who had made a profession of Christ, yet were trying to convince the new Christians they had to adopt the old Jewish religion to be a genuine Christian, *e.g., circumcision*. However, Peter's and Jude's warning is for the Church until the end.

Wells without water reminds me of what we have been told about a mirage that gives an appearance of a pool of water to the thirsty. Their offers have no life-giving substance to them.

Jude 4 *For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.*

That is, they ever so subtly offer an attractive lawless gospel, which is no gospel, *i.e., Antinomianism*. Jude says their motive is worldly wealth and acclaim, v. 11. Christ clearly said, "If you love me, keep my commandments." The LORD is the one who met his people at the Mount. They are unprincipled men who promise much yet are as empty as those clouds I see out my of-

fice window; they give false and empty hope as they feed themselves, feeding off of their flocks, *i.e.,* those who do not know the word of God.

Romans 3:18 *There is no fear of God before their eyes.* Sadly, Paul's warning fits the vast majority of self-identified Christians. They are as those who say there is no God, and have no fear of retribution from God.

Conclusion:

We are told many times that God controls the weather according to his established laws. Peter and Jude tell us there is a prevalence of false teachers among God's people; they offer hope when there is no hope as they tell the people what they want to hear. Those who do not know Scripture believe them and are partly to blame for serious weather, droughts, hurricanes, we are facing today.

As false teachers increase, so does "wild" weather increase, which is a call to repentance, Proverbs 28:13. V. 14 tell us that the fear of God leads to genuine repentance. How much *fear* does it take to bring about genuine repentance?

MAN'S GREEN DREAM MEETS GOD'S REALITY

Rebellious man refuses to admit there is a Sovereign God who controls all nature according to his established purpose.

Bill Gates Caught Admitting 'Climate Change Is Giant Scam' to Inner Circle

Sep 28, 2022 Bill Gates was caught admitting the climate change agenda is a giant scam for the New World Order in a newly surfaced video in which he boasts that the term "clean energy" has "screwed up people's minds."

According to Gates, who was speaking to an audience of his inner circle in 2018, wind, solar, battery technology and other renewable energy sources might be fashionable, but they are NOT capable of solving climate change.

As you can see in the video footage, the fact that renewable energy is not actually capable of solving climate change, despite being sold to us as the cure for so-called man made global warming, is hysterically funny for Bill Gates.

The Great Reset is a scam no matter how you slice

it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v3XmKoQ-JRQ>

The “powers that be” know Green Energy is a money-making fraud; a scheme to, among other things, rob from the poor and give to the rich; the rich get richer and the poor get poorer, and the central government gets stronger. Those with empty promises have been sent by God to judge the nations that have turned from His Justice and Righteousness. *Cursed is the nation who turns from the LORD*, and our once Christian nation is now inheriting God’s curse. (Ps. 33:12. The Mayflower Compact will show how far we have broken the covenant our fathers made with God.)

We are getting offers for “clean energy.” They offer an attractive yet variable-rate charge for the first month in order to get people to sign up. “Supporting **renewable energy costs more** than polluting energy. Usage is a factor in energy costs and residential energy usage is typically higher in the winter and summer months.” “Renewable energy is produced from wind and solar sources. Unlike conventional electricity sources, renewable sources do not produce carbon dioxide or contribute to air pollution.”

However, they failed to mention that when the sun

does not shine, especially nighttime, or the wind does not blow, they depend on coal-fired energy. Then when they charge the same amount for that coal-fired energy, which is lower cost, they still bill for the higher “renewable energy. The gullibility of the public for lies that ignore the truth is absolutely astounding. There are probably 10,000 good tillable acres between us and Cincinnati that are now covered with glass.

The stupidity of the ungodly has no limits. Proof: the people and Governor of California, Newsom, believe that by issuing orders, all vehicles will be electric by 2035, despite of the laws of physics. May God in his mercy deliver us out of the hands of the stupid whom God has raised to powerful offices over our nation. Interesting note: California is removing 4 of the largest dams on the Colorado River and their hydro-electric capabilities while US officials declare first-ever water shortage for the Colorado River.

litigation that have plagued fossil fuel, highway, airport and countless other projects for decades.

But it also had Trojan horse provisions that would have unleashed hordes of newly subsidized wind, solar and transmission marauders on much of the Lower 48 USA, to send pseudo-clean electricity to mostly Democrat cities and states that don’t want even “renewable” power generation in their own backyards.

As the Wall Street Journal and energy analyst Robert Bryce observed, Manchin’s “reforms” would give the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and other bureaucrats the power to issue permits and force multiple states to acquiesce to new transmission lines and 200-foot-tall towers across their scenic, habitat, agricultural and even residential lands—if the feds decide the lines are in the “national interest.” This could easily transform into federal powers of eminent domain, to take the needed acreage.

The feds could decree that thousands of miles of new transmission lines are in the “national interest” if, for

instance, the lines “enhance the ability” of faraway wind and solar facilities to connect their intermittent, weather-dependent energy to an electric grid; or enable distant blue states to reach their renewable energy goals; or help achieve Biden Administration goals of stopping manmade climate change, “advancing environmental justice” and having “a net-zero economy” by 2050. Hopefully while avoiding blackout-a-week nightmares.

Energy Colonialism

Populous states like New York could also work with FERC & Co. to have offshore wind turbines installed off less populated coasts, like Maine or North Carolina—and have the electricity delivered to the Empire State. New York’s peak summertime needs alone would require 2,500 monstrous 680-foot-tall 12-MW offshore turbines, operating 24/7—when we’d be lucky if they generated electricity 40% of the year. (Imagine how many offshore ... or 6-MW onshore ... turbines we’d need to power the entire USA.)

Compounding the energy colonialism, the Manchin

As man tries to be his own God

THE COMING GREEN ELECTRICITY NIGHTMARE

By Paul Driessen. October 3, 2022

Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) wanted regulatory reform, in part to reverse some of the Biden Administration reversals of Trump era reforms intended to expedite permits for fossil fuel projects. ... In the end, it’s probably a good thing Manchin’s bill went nowhere.

Yes, it provided some much needed and long overdue reforms to curb the paralysis by analysis and endless

reform package would also give FERC authority to allocate and “socialize” transmission line costs, so that residents of states that don’t even get any of the electricity being sent along the newly imposed transmission lines would still have to help pay for them.

In short, the feds would be able to ride roughshod over states, local communities and federalism.

Let me say it again: Wind and sunshine are free, clean, green, renewable and sustainable. But harnessing this diffuse, unreliable, weather-dependent energy to power civilization definitely is not. And every bit of “renewable” power must be backed up with other power—so double our cash and material investments.

The Green Lobby and its legislator and regulator friends really seem to think they can **just pass laws** and earmark subsidies, demanding energy transformations by 2050—and it will just happen. The raw materials will just be there, perhaps with a little MAGIC: Materials Acquisition for Global Industrial Change. That is, they simply assume the necessary raw materials will also just be there.

Not one of these luminaries has given a moment’s thought to—much less attempted to calculate—what this net-zero transition would require:

How many dead birds, bats, and endangered and other species would be killed off all across the USA and world—from mineral extraction activities, wind turbine blades, solar panels blanketing thousands of square miles of wildlife habitats, and transmission lines impacting still more land?

How many millions of wind turbines, billions of solar panels, billions of EV and backup batteries, millions of transformers, thousands of miles of transmission lines—sprawling across how many millions of acres of wildlife habitat, scenic and agricultural lands, and people’s once-placid backyards?

How many billions of tons of copper, steel, aluminum, nickel, cobalt, lithium, concrete, rare earths, composite plastics and other materials? How many trillions of tons of ores and overburden? How many mines, across how many more acres—with how much fossil fuel energy to operate the enormous mining equipment, and how much toxic air and water pollution emitted in the process? Where will it be done?

To cite just one example, just those 2,500 wind turbines for New York electricity (30,000 megawatts)

would require nearly 110,000 tons of copper—which would require mining, crushing, processing and refining 25 million tons of copper ore ... after removing some 40 million tons of overlying rock to reach the ore bodies. Multiply that times 50 states—and the entire world—plus transmission lines.

How many processing plants and factories would be needed? How much fossil fuel power to run those massive operations? How many thousands of square miles of toxic waste pits all over world under zero to minimal environmental standards, workplace safety standards, child and slave labor rules?

How many dead birds, bats, and endangered and other species would be killed off all across the USA and world—from mineral extraction activities, wind turbine blades, solar panels blanketing thousands of square miles of wildlife habitats, and transmission lines impacting still more land? [Every morning, a crew must clean up the dead birds, including bald eagles, from around the windmills on Mount Storm, WV.]

How many will survive hurricanes like Ian or Andrew? Where will we dump the green energy trash?

Not only do the luminaries and activists ignore these issues and refuse to address them. They actively suppress, cancel, censor and deplatform any questions and discussions about them. They collude with Big Tech companies and news agencies, which too often seem all too happy to assist.

The hard reality is, there are not, will not be, and cannot be, enough mines, metals and minerals on the entire planet—to reach any “net-zero” US economy by 2050, much less a global “green” economy.

Here’s another issue: electric vehicle and backup lithium-ion battery modules can erupt spontaneously into chemical-fueled infernos that cannot be extinguished by conventional fire-fighting means. That raises an important analog to rules Alec Baldwin should have kept uppermost in mind a year ago. Treat every firearm as if it is loaded. Never point your muzzle at anything you are not prepared to destroy.

In the Biden-Newsom-Kerry-IPCC energy arena: Treat every electric vehicle and backup battery system as if it is loaded and ready to ignite. Never park an EV, install a PowerWall or locate a backup power facility near anything you are not prepared to destroy.

We have to destroy the planet (with green energy) in

order to save it (from climate change)

That includes in your garage; near other vehicles; in parking garages under apartment and office buildings; in residential neighborhoods and highway tunnels; or on cargo ships like the Felicity Ace.

And yet we're supposed to go along with Green Energy schemes—as we did with masks, school lockdowns and vaccinations to stop Covid—because our government, media and “public interest” groups insist that we “follow the science,” on which there can be no doubt (certainly none permitted) that we face a “manmade climate crisis” that threatens the very existence of humanity and “the only Earth we have.”

Because we have to destroy the planet (with green energy) in order to save it (from climate change).

It's time to short-circuit this electricity nightmare, by asking these questions, demanding answers, and ending the notion that governments can simply issue edicts and compel reality to change in response.

<https://canadafreepress.com/article/the-coming-green-electricity-nightmare>

Personal Note: We are getting offers for “clean energy.” They offer an attractive yet variable-rate for the first month in order to get people to sign up. “Supporting renewable energy costs more than polluting energy. Usage is a factor in energy costs and residential energy usage is typically higher in the winter and summer months. ... Renewable energy is produced from wind and solar sources. Unlike conventional electricity sources, renewable sources do not produce carbon dioxide or contribute to air pollution.” However, they failed to mention that when the sun does not shine or the wind does not blow, they depend on coal-fired energy. Then when they charge the same amount for that coal-fired energy, which is lower cost than the renewable you are paying for, they still bill for the higher “renewable” energy. The gullibility of the public for lies that ignore the truth is absolutely astounding. TBR

NOTE FROM AUSTRALIA

E mail from Rolf Vaessen in Australia concerning *death of church*

Hi, I have enjoyed Ovid's book and recently read it again. I am so glad I found you. I agree with you on the vaccines being more evil than good. Brave I also use. Q. is the author still alive? ...

Reply: Dear Bro Rolf:

How did you hear about me? Your note is a note of encouragement. How did you hear about and where did you get my book? It is a “heavy read” to read twice. I admit it almost takes two readings to pick up all the details.

Sadly, the vaccines seem to be almost a death sentence for many people. ...

Me: Would you do a short review that I can publish in the next Examiner?

Rolf Vaessen to me

Well well. I am surprised. Not often that I can reach an Author personally. I saw your book on Google books and it hit exactly what I was searching for. Mostly Lacunza and William Miller. You have done an excellent research what the post 1800's is concerned re the fallen church of Christendom. You also seem to have the only source for (MMM) Miss Margaret MacDonalds, she and the Devil, the author of the secret rapture and Irving who translated Lacunza's books. From you and your book I learned lots of details I didn't know existed because there seems to be no other author having such good and detailed info. I do have the Martyrs Mirror by the Ana-Baptists and “The New Believers” by David Barrett. “The Great Controversy” by Ellen White.

As an Adventist by choice and I came from a Roman background. I have been a vivid student of prophecy and learned the difference between the fake Jesuits and the real Daniel and Revelation. My own video is not of a professional quality, but I am getting a lot of hits on my webpage “Christ-our-righteousness” where the video is imbedded.

Conversion instead of the church converting the world, the world has conquered the churches. In christian forums we use to debate topics and I was appalled at what answers people came up with.

My personal testimony on rolfvaessen.com

Blessings to you Ovid

DREAMS INTO NIGHTMARES

By Rev. Need

Though many of you may find this of little interest, we will all pay the price as the power grid collapses under the load placed on it by the Green Energy movement. There is no connection in people's mind with reality. **Truth by Repetition** has done an admirable job of selling the lie of Green Energy. (See Sept 2022 TBE.)

It is going to be an extremely expensive lesson to learn that man cannot live in his imaginary dreamworld that goes against God's universal laws. Green Energy as it is being promoted, is trying to operate totally outside of God's established laws of nature.

It seems that this generation believes things "just happen." They do not know the source of electricity, *e.g.*, the dumbing down of America. Just plug the car into an outlet, and presto like magic you have power. But electricity is not cheap. **It can take up to \$100.00 to fully charge an electric pickup truck.** I have noticed that the ads for these beautiful electronics pickup trucks ignore the fact that towing anything dramatically reduces the mileage, nor do they mention the price of electricity versus gasoline.

Those who purchase and depend on battery powered cars will soon learn that lesson as their \$50,000 + EV must sit unused for lack of electricity. Even a child knows that when the battery in a toy runs down, it must be replaced, and you soon have more money in the power supply than in the toy. It costs more to replace the battery in an EV, than to replace the EV with a new car. Electricity cannot be stored except for very limited use, as proven by these EV's. In addition, battery-powered personal tools, such as weed trimmers and chainsaws particularly have very limited practicality, primarily around the house. Go into the woods and try to cut a cord of wood with an electric chainsaw! Notice that the "big box" stores are now only handling battery-powered tools. One must go to a specialty store in order to get good gas-powered tools. No doubt a cloud of stupidity has descended upon our generation. Christianity is the only thing that can bring reality to our situations.

• Fan of Electric Cars Takes One on Road Trip, Ends Up Exposing How Bad They Are - Now She Won't Buy One

https://www.westernjournal.com/fan-electric-cars-takes-one-road-trip-ends-exposing-bad-now-wont-buy-one/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=newsletter-WJ&utm_campaign=dailyam&utm_content=western-journal&ats_es=76c88699640bf17c199c18ba90162de3

"Green Energy" is not Green, for **electricity** must come from fossil fuel generators, 90% coal.

The weight of the battery powered car cuts tire life in half.

Reality and common sense tell us that switching

to all electric vehicles will vastly overload the power grid. The war on coal will leave us in the dark, as it has done in Europe. Meanwhile, China is building many coal powered power plants as they seek to dominate all manufacturing. (There is work being done to develop hydrogen powered vehicles, but the production of hydrogen gas requires massive amounts of electricity. The exhaust from such an engine is H₂O. During WWII, several coal or wood fired vehicles were on the road. <http://www.robertsarmory.com/gas.htm>)

• West Virginia coal miners rescue couple stranded in broken-down electric car: 'You can't make this stuff up'

"It was pretty ironic... to be plugged into a coal mine," State Sen. Smith told co-host Steve Doocy. "You can't make this stuff up... We had some good conversations, we're still laughing about it."

<https://www.newsnationnow.com/the-whole-story-media-bias/west-virginia-coal-miners-help-tourists-push-dead-ev/>



• **Car and Driver, Aug 18, 2022.** It costs a lot of money to fill up a big pickup truck's gas tank—especially these days. But what if we told you that even an electric pickup truck could crest the \$100 mark when it comes time to replenish the battery? That's what we found when we plugged the

2022 GMC Hummer EV in for a fast-charge session. **(That is \$100 per charge, a charge that will only last for 300 miles at the most. Have we lost our mind?)**

Charging: Depending on which edition Hummer EV you get, from EV2 (250 miles range) to Edition 1 (350 miles range), it takes 140-200 hours to charge a Hummer EV's battery (from empty to full) on regular 120 volt outlet with a 1.75 mile per hour charging rate.

Plug-In Fiasco: Video Shows Electric Hummer Needs *4 Days* to Fully Charge with Wall Outlet

The Hummer weighs in at 9,000 lbs. with an advertised range of 300 miles without towing anything. The Hummer must be recharged, which takes from 24 hours to 4 days—these electric trucks will not do PU truck things, and are only good for 'bragging rights.'

• **Electric vehicle [Hummer] owner** learns replacing

a tail light costs over \$4,000

[https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/restoring-america/community-family/hummer-electric-vehicle-tail-light-costs \\$4000.](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/restoring-america/community-family/hummer-electric-vehicle-tail-light-costs-$4000)

Ford has a glowing ad for the abilities of the F150 Lightning. The fine print says, “Based on manufacturer testing using computer engineering simulations. Calculated via peak performance of the electric motor(s) at peak battery power. Your results may vary.” **Their glowing report is based on computer simulations. Ford’s pickup towing guide does not even list their electric truck.**

There is a video at <https://www.businessinsider.com/ford-f150-lightning-towing-electric-truck-downside-youtube-video-2022-10> posted by a Ford Lightning owner. His conclusion was “The truck towing 3,500 pounds can’t even go 100 miles,” he said. “That is ridiculously stupid. This truck can’t do normal truck things.”

Editor’s Comment: I am totally astounded that so many people are buying these super big and expensive electronic vehicles, even waiting in line to purchase ones in the \$100,000.00+ range. And then they can only go at the most 300 miles before it must sit on a charger for at least 24 hours. People are like the mythical lemmings that follow the crowd to their own destruction. They have fallen victim to the spirit of the time.

<https://www.edmunds.com/car-news/2022-gmc-hummer-ev-range-battery-pack-and-weight-revealed.html>

God’s laws of physics cannot be violated, no matter how determined man is to break off the binding cords and changes of the law of the LORD. It has been documented that to Repeat a lie often enough, and it becomes truth, Tuth By Repetition. We are surrounded by lies, *e.g.*, “A vote for a Republican means the end of democracy.” This saying was truer than we want to admit. Republicans generally stood for law and order. The Democrats, on the other hand, generally stood for Democracy, which is Mob Rule. Accordingly, in the last two elections, the general public has endorsed Mob Rule.

THINGS WE WANT TO IGNORE

The Epic Times.

- Proponents of “green” energy boondoggles are often masters at playing with the numbers, because that’s the only way wind and solar electricity generation make any sense. Advocates such as Kerry love to focus on

the low operating costs of solar and wind since they don’t require constant purchases of fuel. Ignoring the relatively short lifespan of solar and wind components and the high initial investment can make it appear as though solar and wind operate at lower costs than fossil fuels or nuclear power.

Let’s get the facts straight. The cost isn’t just what you pay at the retail level for gas or power. It also includes the taxes you pay to subsidize the power. A 2017 study by the Department of Energy found that for every dollar of government subsidy per BTU unit of energy produced from fossil fuels, wind and solar get at least \$10. ...To genuinely evaluate dissimilar energy sources and provide an apples to apples comparison, the US Energy Information Administration uses the Levelized Cost of Energy (LC OEE) and the Levelized Cost Of Storage (LC OS). These measures consider the initial cost, the lifespan of generation and storage systems, maintenance and fuel cost, decommissioning expenses, subsidies, etc., And compare that to how much electricity is produced over a powerplant’s lifetime.

The numbers don’t lie: (Green) energy is a complete waste of resource.

The LC OEE and LC OS for solar and onshore wind farms are four times as expensive as natural gas. But offshore wind takes the cake-it’s six times as expensive as natural gas.

- Renewables produce 300 times more waste than nuclear plants do, while every solar panel removed from a rooftop was categorized as hazardous waste, the environmentalist noted.

- Internal Pentagon Report Says China Is Main Beneficiary of Key US Technology Research Efforts.

A confidential internal Department of Defense (DoD) report concludes that “China, not the United States, is the ultimate beneficiary of DoD and other [US. Government] research investments,” according to Sen. Joni Ernest (R – Iowa) close –. “American-made ingenuity is shipped overseas to our leading global adversary... And we, the American taxpayer, are funding it.

- US Sold Nearly 6 Million Barrels of Oil Reserve to China, Records Show.

- The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is opening police departments outside of China, including in New York. These offices are allegedly meant to monitor Chinese citizens living abroad and are the latest chapter in operations from the regime to export its persecutions of dissidents. https://www.theepochtimes.com/chinese-police-overseas-ny-out-post-can-be-tool-for-sabotage-in-us-expert_4782018.html?utm

[source=News&src_src=News&utm_campaign=breaking-2022-10-08-3&src_cmp=breaking-2022-10-08-3&utm_medium=email&est=bgzIzI9p_xcbNf8%2BM%2F8!ZoR!roifbDGtWKLuZCK6zQfz9B%2BiuZkmkwt2m_QV%2BHg1c%3D](https://www.komando.com/news/breaking-2022-10-08-3&src_cmp=breaking-2022-10-08-3&utm_medium=email&est=bgzIzI9p_xcbNf8%2BM%2F8!ZoR!roifbDGtWKLuZCK6zQfz9B%2BiuZkmkwt2m_QV%2BHg1c%3D)

TikTok

A THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY

[I find it curious that some who are serious about secure e-mail use TikTok, which is the most unsecure app on the web. Be aware!]

Here's everything TikTok collects on you – Delete it now

By Charlie Fripp, Komando.com. November 2, 2022

There are plenty of reasons to avoid the popular TikTok app. The video-sharing platform has had rough patches, from dangerous viral challenges to shady business practices. But an FCC commissioner is now calling for a ban on the app due to its data collection practices. Here's everything you need to know.

TikTok has exploded in popularity recently. The video-sharing platform has some fun things to watch, and you might find your next favorite recipe.

The problem is the platform has a shady history with security and privacy. In fact, we recently told you that TikTok has the capability to record everything that you type. Tap or click here for our report.

Earlier this year, TikTok faced the wrath of U.S. lawmakers, accusing it of capturing sensitive user data. Before that, its content moderation raised some eyebrows as many viral posts could seriously harm users. There's a new reason why you should finally ditch TikTok for good. Keep reading for details.

Here's the backstory

If you need more reasons to uninstall TikTok from your devices, pay attention to what the FCC recently said. Without mincing words, Brendan Carr, one of five commissioners, called for an outright ban on the app.

In an interview with Axios, Carr said he doesn't believe there is a way forward for the app to operate in the U.S. and highlighted concerns about user data flowing back to China. Carr sent a letter to Apple and Google in June, calling for the tech giants to immediately remove the service from their respective app stores.

"TikTok's pattern of conduct and misrepresentations regarding the unfettered access that persons in Beijing

have to sensitive U.S. user data violated Apple's and Google's standards," Barr wrote.

Think that the FCC is overreacting? A recent report from Dot.LA claims the app collects tons of personal data. And while it's stated in TikTok's privacy policy, few users take the time to go through it.

The investigation found that TikTok receives names, ages, phone numbers and emails when you sign up for the service. TikTok also knows your approximate location and identifiers of your mobile device, like its IP address. All this is on top of personal data, biometric info and your keystrokes, Dot.LA said. ...

https://www.komando.com/security-privacy/how-to-delete-tiktok/863691/?utm_medium=nl&utm_source=alerts&utm_content=2022-11-02

Here's another reason to ditch TikTok: It can record what you type (Key Logger?)

TikTok's in-app browser uses JavaScript code that can see everything you type. There are a few instances where other apps also do it, but none are to this extent. As Krause explains, this kind of browser tracking is a deliberate action.



Weap and pray for America

"This was an active choice the company made. This is a non-trivial engineering task. This does not happen by mistake or randomly," Krause explains in a lengthy blog. Tap or click here to see our report on apps using their browsers to track you and a tool that shows if apps use this technology.

What you can do about it

The company confirmed to Forbes that the features exist but allegedly only uses them for "debugging, troubleshooting and performance monitoring." But there is a simple way to avoid TikTok from logging your keystrokes or tracking you.

The best way to keep your information private and avoid apps from tracking your every move is to never click on links inside an app you're using. Instead, copy the URL from the link and paste it into your browser of choice.

<https://www.komando.com/social-media/tiktok-recording-key-strokes/853391/>

White House defends work with China-run Tik-

Tok

Social-media app lets Communist Party know what ‘your kids’ look like, where they are

https://www.wnd.com/2022/11/white-house-defends-work-china-run-tiktok/?ff_source=Email&ff_medium=wnd-newsletter&ff_campaign=dailyam&ff_content=newsletter

Editor’s Comment:

Considering that with so many communists in power from Biden on down and with the spiritual temper of professed Christians, it appears that the Lord is making the USA a vasaal state of China. Remember what he did to his apostate Church in the Old Testament!

THE DEVIL’S BRATS

Isaiah 26:3 *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.*

Certainly Isaiah was stressing peace as a fruit of trusting in the Lord. The child of God has literally “peace, peace” inwardly, outwardly and peace upwardly in worship. This peace should be evident in our worship. Every minister of God yea, every child of God desires to worship the Lord acceptably and in purity. When we enter the Lord’s house it is for the purpose of worshipping Him in spirit and in truth. Our hearts and minds need to be centered in our triune God who is the object of our worship. We know that just being there will not result in worship and that is certainly true if our minds have been commandeered by earthly reflections and sinful intrusions. We often need “an antidote against (this) most common distemper of God’s people in His worship,” declared Richard Steele the Puritan. He also reminded that the devil “if he cannot withhold us from holy duties, he will do his utmost to disturb us in them.”

A young Charles H. Spurgeon was once severely tortured by evil thoughts and he appealed to his grandfather by asking if such thoughts did not prove that he was not a true Christian. His grandfather, a gospel minister, said, “Nonsense, Charles, these blasphemies are no children of yours. They are the devil’s brats which he delights to leave at the door of a Christian. Do not own them as yours. Give them neither house-room nor heart-room.”

Distractions of whatever sort may rob God of His deserved worship and us of spiritual good. The outward sense may distract as the eyes wander because our hearts are doing so. Jeremiah said his eye affected his

heart because of the daughters of the city (Lam. 3:51). How often do we bring our troubles to worship not to leave them with the Lord but to entertain their miseries or commensurate in them? Oh, the awful attacks of blasphemous thought that compromise our worship. Ezekiel warned that people may come with love on their lips but covetousness in their hearts (33:31).

The devil hates that we desire to worship the glorious almighty God. He would like to cripple our worship as much as possible. What must we do? Our hope and help is always in our God. We must give our complaints about the world, the flesh, and the devil to the Lord for our help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth. Steele declared, “cry to that God the more, whom (the devil) tempts thee to blaspheme.” The multitude of possible distractions tells us how important our worship really is to our God.

Evil, foolish, impure, inappropriate or wandering thoughts in worship are like the strings on a harp that are out of tune prohibiting sweet harmony in the adoration of God. David knew this and said that if he entertained iniquity in his heart the Lord would not listen to him for he was spiritually out of tune (Ps. 66:18). The entertainment of vanity in the mind during worship is a turning of our backs on God. David said the Lord would not listen to us, which also means He will not receive our worship. Lord God, cleanse our minds, forgive our sins and accept us through Christ into your holy place today.

Who is sufficient? We may be weak Christians but we can be strong in the Lord. Just remember “the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of his understanding. *He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength*” (Isa. 40:28-29). Our God is our help.

Friends in Christ, we will be going into the sanctuary today for worship and you may have to deal with some of “the devil’s brats.” Seek to worship the Lord in spirit and in truth.

“The end of our preaching is, not our approbation, but your submission.” Richard Steele

Pastor Ron Rumburg, Sovereign Grace Baptist Church

Faith without Works is dead

HOW NOT TO PRAY

R.J. Rushdoony

I believe strongly in the need for prayer; most people do not pray enough. The problem is that too many prayers ask for miracles from God when what is needed is faith, courage, and work on their part.

In the Bible itself, the miracles are few, except mainly in three eras: the time of Moses; the time of Elijah and Elisha; and in the time of our Lord and the apostles. Even then, God did not allow prayer to replace practical action.

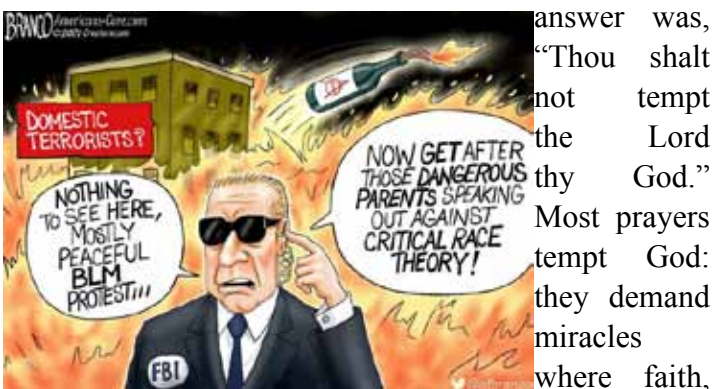
Thus, we are told that King Herod had decided to kill the Christ child (*Matthew 2:16-23*). God did not tell Joseph and Mary that He would deliver them miraculously; rather, He told Joseph and Mary to make a run for it to Egypt, and to stay there until Herod died. In other words, God did not work a miracle to deliver the infant Jesus: He ordered common sense action.

Why should He work miracles to deliver us when work, common sense, and faith can supply the answer?

A woman whose son and daughter both became promiscuous, called up everyone on her “prayer chain” to ask prayers for her dear children. Nothing good happened, of course. What God required of her was that she ground them, take away their sports cars, cut off their allowances, and apply some Godly discipline. Long before that, she should have placed them in a Christian school.

I believe all the sweet ladies on that “prayer chain” were guilty of blasphemy, as was the mother. They were taking the name of the Lord in vain, and by prayer, to make matters worse.

If God did not work a miracle to save the infant Jesus when practical action was the right step, why should He give you preferential treatment? The second temptation of our Lord by Satan was to ask God for a miracle where none was needed (*Matt. 4:5-7*), and our Lord’s



answer was, “Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.” Most prayers tempt God: they demand miracles where faith,

courage, and work are needed.

We are commanded to pray, and our Lord gives us the model prayer. It begins: “Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven” (*Matt. 6:9-10*). Only after this are the simple requests in order.

Who has the priority in your prayer? Christ’s Kingdom and work, or your own desire for miracles instead of faith, courage, and work? What kind of prayer do you think God answers?

VARIOUS

Mad Scientists Create Coronavirus With 80% Lethality in Mice

Less than two months ago, scientists funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Dr. Anthony Fauci’s National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) announced they’d resurrected the Spanish flu virus through reverse genetics. [Why the overwhelming desire to resurrect deadly viruses? Smallpox was also resurrected.]

https://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2022/10/26/lab-made-hybrid-covid-virus.aspx?ui=62275c4f6eb5e1c6872faec264ac18ae89396dd486d6b98af038d9fef2e3c00d&sd=20110406&cid_source=dnl&cid_medium=email&cid_content=art1HL&cid=20221026_HL2&cid=DM1273454&bid=1629960394

‘Climate cult’ meeting is ‘all about depopulation’

Solution for OTHERS is to, ‘well, stop eating entirely’

Details at https://www.wnd.com/2022/11/climate-cult-meeting-depopulation/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=wnd-newsletter&utm_campaign=dailyam&utm_content=newsletter&ats_es=76c88699640bf17c199c18ba90162de3

Printer Problems

We have several names on our hardcopy list by special request. This short note is for them. There are three reasons the issue is so late. **First**, we spent all of our time packing up the house getting ready to move as soon as the Lord sells the house. As you can imagine, a move to Iowa will be quite expensive. We had an offer and a contract, which fell through, so, we sold furniture, and spent every minute for 2 weeks packing. Now we are in boxes. We had another offer from a family in Washington State. There turned out to be too many “moving parts,” so it fell through also. **Second**, our age requires a lot of medical attention. I tell my wife that we are now too old to die young. **Third**, my printer had to be repaired. The repair man is on the southwest side of

Cincinnati which is about 60 miles (90 minutes) from us, and the printer will not fit into a car trunk; the fuser had to be replaced which had to be ordered. The repair man said that the new fuser should be good for another 150,000 copies. (This is the second fuser I have had to replace. It took several weeks to get that part in before I could retrieve the printer. Though HP quit making the 4650 DN (color duplex) in the very early 2000s, there are still many in operation today, so parts are still available. (HP learned a hard lesson with the 4600 series, for since then, according to my repair man, there is no printer on the market that will compare with it. Also, by the printer being so old, inexpensive toner is readily available.)

We hope to soon get another issue out for December; publishing depending on on time and money. It seems the older we get, the faster time moves.

Note for new subscribers: Welcome to the several who signed up at the 2022 Country Before Country conference at East River church. I apologise for not being in contact sooner. We hope, Lord willing, to see you at East River Church next year. Bro Need

GETTING BACK TO PHONICS

Schools may start getting the first R right

Janie B Cheaney, World, Oct 20, 2022

Do you remember learning to read? I don't, but my parents had little or nothing to do with it. In fact, my mother told me that parents in the mid-'50s were instructed not to "interfere" with their child's education, but to leave it to the experts. Like Scout Finch's first-grade teacher in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, who was concerned that her precocious new student already knew how to read. For a child to sit on her father's lap and follow along as he read the newspaper wasn't the scientific method at the time; rather, it was sitting in a classroom while the teacher waved flash cards.

I wasn't especially precocious, but I had a natural ability to pick up on letter sounds and combinations. That ability is declining a bit; sometimes I gaze at a printed page and marvel that those dots and squiggles mean something once I put forth the effort to decode them. How did I learn to do this? How does anyone?

Dueling approaches to teaching literacy go at least as far back as Horace Mann, the 19th-century educational reformer. Mann advocated something similar to a "whole language" approach of word recognition,

in contrast to the Puritan hornbook method of learning letter sounds and diphthongs. Mann saw decoding through phonics as mechanical, even soul-killing. His rejection of it echoed New England's rejection of Puritanism altogether, with its stern view of children as natural heathens in need of systematic training.

That distinction in educational theory endures today: Phonics is mechanical; whole language is natural. I learned to read with Dick and Jane ("See Spot Run" led to my dyslexia making it very difficult to read), and it came naturally enough to me, but not everyone's brain was wired the same—like, for instance, Eric Adams the mayor of New York City, who struggled with dyslexia before that condition was understood. Adams cites his own reading difficulties as a reason for mandating a big change in the nation's largest school system. Beginning this year, all New York public elementary schools will include phonics as a vital part of reading instruction. Parents have tearfully expressed their gratitude, agreeing with school Chancellor David Banks that the previous approach "has not worked."

The previous approach was the brainchild of Lucy Calkins, founding director of Columbia Teachers College Reading and Writing Project, begun in 1981. She calls it "balanced literacy," a method of associating words with pictures and building comprehension through clues and context. This seems more relational, more personal—more human, even—than decoding letters and sounds. It worked for certain highly motivated and trained teachers who were willing and able to give it their all. It worked for children from literate homes with involved parents and active library cards. But the majority of underprivileged students didn't have a clue.

Although Lucy Calkins and the "Teachers College" system have been enormously influential across the nation, two decades of failure are causing school systems to think twice about what comes naturally. It's about time: A systematic study by Jeanne Chall, back in the 1960s, indicated that phonics was a far more effective road to literacy, especially for lower-income children. Phonics is now considered the "science-based" way, which should indicate the debate is finally settled.

But the notion of children as natural autodidacts, who only need motivation and gentle nudges to blossom into prodigies, dies hard. It's true that God endows each child, even the less academically gifted, with tremendous potential to do good in the world. But they have to

crawl before they can walk and walk before they run. They must learn letters before graduating to words and sentences, must memorize arithmetic tables before manipulating math. So much modern educational theory amounts to putting carts before horses before the horses have even left the barn.

Any education involves learning from our mistakes, and perhaps the New York City public school system has learned something important that other systems will imitate. The deeper challenge isn't our view of reading, though; it's our view of children.

FAITHFULNESS HAS ITS REWARDS

Publix Employee Gives Car to Co-Worker Who Walked to Work: 'He Truly Has Earned It'

A young man in Alpharetta, Georgia, received a much-needed and unexpected gift from his fellow employee not long ago.

Publix worker Zerubabbel "Z" Yisrael had been saving his money to buy a car, but after paying rent and other bills every month he was struggling to save enough to do it, according to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

"He would call an Uber to take him to and from work — which could cost nearly \$25 on a busy Saturday night. When he had no money for an Uber, Yisrael would just walk the nearly 4 miles to Store 556," the article read.

Despite the circumstances, he said he did not mind walking to his job.

"I come to work an hour early. I was taught to be an hour early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late and to be late is to be fired," Yisrael explained.

Deli Manager Adam Speiler learned of his situation after they closed the store together a few times and waited for Yisrael's ride.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

The Biblical Examiner, www.biblicalexaminer.org. ovid.need@gmail.com November 2022 P. 17

new car."

When he went to trade in his 2004 Toyota Camry Solara recently and was told it was only worth about \$1,500, Speiler talked to his manager about giving it to someone who needed a car.

"It was like an aha moment when I saw Z coming around the corner," he said, adding that Yisrael was one of the hardest working employees at the store.

"So it was kinda nice to actually help someone that actually works their butt off and tries to do the best thing for Publix. So I feel he truly earned it," Speiler continued.

Yisrael said his work ethic came from his father and from his time in the National Guard.

"Every day I come to work, I just do me," he said, and explained that his dad always told him to "Be busy."

"Always be doing something, whether it's sweeping the floor or taking out the trash. Don't just do nothing," he recalled. [My dad taught me this. Did your?]

When the deli manager gave him the car, Yisrael was ecstatic.

"To me, it wasn't necessarily about doing something nice. He truly has earned it," Speiler concluded.

https://www.breitbart.com/health/2020/08/02/publix-employee-gives-car-co-worker-who-walked-work-he-truly-earned-it/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_term=b_inspired&utm_campaign=20200808&utm_content=Final

Work hard, be dependable and honest. Do not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not.

A HINT OF BIBLICAL SANITY

Anti-Feminist Women's Conference Wants to 'Make Women Great Again' [I should say, make marriage and parenthood great again. Any hope for America must start in the family, particularly the Christian family.]

The third annual 22 Convention for women kicked off Friday with the message that women can find happiness by regaining their femininity and submitting to an "alpha male patriarch."

The four-day convention, which garnered negative media attention in the past for "mansplaining" to women, is part of the 21 Summit, which bills itself as an unapologetic celebration of masculinity and fatherhood.

This year's women's event urges them to reject the

feminist ideology that teaches women to hate men for their “toxic masculinity.” According to the website, women end up feeling manly and unfeminine if they buy into the doctrine.

The site goes on to say women instinctively yearn to be feminine and find a masculine man who leads with conviction: “Only a worthy woman, unapologetically feminine in nature, deserves such a man. We’ll teach you how to boost your femininity by over 500%, find these unicorns, get married and have children

Jennifer Moleski, an anti-feminist YouTuber, told women at the 22 Convention on Oct. 14 that the current feminist agenda is not leading society to a good place.

“I don’t think it’s any secret now that there’s something dark happening,” she said. “And the world is not the place it was even when I was little.”

She compared the family’s influence on children to heirloom crops in a garden, which bloom and resist destruction and disease. As a mother who homeschools, she feels traditional values are passed on in the home environment, unlike in public schools.

Today’s education system lacks the perspective of the family, she said, adding lessons of right and wrong have been lost in a modern narcissistic world.

“I could talk about feminism; I could talk about transgenderism; I could talk about communism. But it all comes down to the values, morals, and character of who we are,” she said.

Moleski said our values used to come from church and our elders. She pointed to Christianity’s Seven Deadly Sins as a roadmap that has fallen out of use.

According to Christian tradition, the seven deadly sins are envy, gluttony, greed or avarice, lust, pride, sloth, and wrath.

Moleski said society today could learn a lot from that seemingly forgotten list. People being on their phones all the time is an example of sloth—a lack of motivation and not wanting to work, she said.

Women and men delude themselves into thinking lust is the same as a relationship and then become disappointed when it becomes apparent that the relationship will never be based on anything else, she said.

“People are crazy now, right? We’ve taken in violence, and porn and sex and all these crazy things,” she said.

The world is a place without limits today, resulting in broken relationships, she added. The problem she sees is that there are no boundaries in today’s society. Society has become decadent, lacking the moral authority to say no to an action or event that is evil.

“Could looking at the Seven Deadly Sins help you in any way? Could it help you restrict and find out who you want to be?” she asked the audience.

The answer, she said, is to make minor changes after quiet contemplation to build limits within life.

Besides the women’s convention, the 21 Summit includes the Patriarch Convention and 21 Convention, each featuring speakers and panel discussions over four days focusing on what they call an attack on masculinity, fatherhood, and femininity.

As news of the women’s event spread in 2020, it inspired “hit pieces” from the media and triggered feminist outrage across the internet, Johnson said during the opening address of this year’s summit. He said the attention spread word of the event and its message to more than 100 million people—for free.

Johnson started the original 21 Conference 16 years ago as a celebration of masculinity and has been expanding its scope to include women.

Today the 21 Convention advertises itself as an event for men “featuring 100% toxic masculinity and non-stop masculine self-improvement.”

Tickets for the four-day event, starting at \$2,499 this year, have raised eyebrows in the media over the cost and nearly all-male-focused content. The basic ticket includes a friend pass, subscriptions, recordings, and additional events.

In opening remarks for the 21 Summit, Johnson said interest in his Youtube channel on masculinity and patriarchy has surged as fatherhood and family have increasingly come under attack.

He said videos on his Youtube channel used to get 500,000 to 1 million views per year, but now hits have increased exponentially.

“So this year, our videos have been exploding,” he said. “We’ve done 72 million views in the past 12 months, which smokes every other record we’ve ever had.”

<https://www.theepochtimes.com>

WHY ARE THEY LEAVING?

by Rob Slane

A few years ago both the Barna Group and USA Today unearthed the same statistic, which, although in many ways shocking, strangely came as little surprise to anyone who had been paying attention: three out of every four children from Christian homes in America walk away from the faith soon after they leave high school.

The biggest cause of this turning away from the faith was said to be intellectual skepticism. A child grows up learning and accepting something of the Christian faith within their family and church, only to ditch it when confronted by the juggernaut of secularism in the media and the universities a few years later. Given this primary assumption, it is perhaps not surprising that a quick search of the internet for responses to this statistic tend to emphasize sound Bible teaching and, in particular, good apologetics as the remedy.

However, though good Bible teaching and apologetics ought to form part of any cure, I think it may be a mistake to assume that they are necessarily the most important. There are a host of other reasons that lie behind the facade of intellectual skepticism, and what I want to do is to engage some of these reasons from two angles. This first piece will be somewhat negative, addressing some of the reasons why the Christian faith is just not surviving from generation to generation, and then, in next month's piece, which will be rather more positive, I want to suggest some practical ways that this can be tackled.

Before continuing, it is necessary to clear up one misconception. The Barna and USA Today findings were certainly alarming, but it must be stressed that they were reflecting only what is going on in America and perhaps the rest of the West. We Western civilizationists often fall into the trap of looking only as far as our immediate surroundings and concluding falsely that Christianity as a whole is in decline. But this is not the case. The message of Jesus Christ and Him crucified, buried, and resurrected has lost none of its potency, and in many parts of the world, Christianity is thriving with the most powerful message the world has ever seen, still at work transforming lives and communities.

Nevertheless, in the West the faith is undoubtedly in decline and we must ask why this is. A whole list of reasons could be given, but I want to hone in on just five.

The Subjective Gospel

I recently asked a Christian friend to explain in a sentence or two what he understood to be the Gospel, and he responded by saying that it is “repentance towards God and accepting Jesus as your Lord and Savior.” Of course, this is just one person's answer, yet having spoken to many Christians over the years I think this is probably fairly representative.

However, the answer given is not the Gospel, but is rather what our response to the Gospel should be. Our response is subjective, whereas the Gospel itself is an objective statement, a series of historical events.

In 1 Corinthians 15 Paul writes, “Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.”

The Gospel is also summarized well in the Nicene Creed: “(Jesus Christ) was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried, and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father.”

Much of modern, Western Christianity emphasizes, to an unhealthy degree, our subjective response to the Gospel as if it were the Gospel. Furthermore, emotions and experience often seem to hold a higher place in the minds of many than the objective truth. One of the many examples of this type of thinking is the practice of giving testimonies—“how Jesus helped me”—as a means of evangelism.

Without wishing to disregard emotions or testimonies, this has sometimes sidelined the objective message of the Gospel: Christ the God/Man was really crucified and was really raised from the dead at a real point in history. In its place, the idea has been sown in many minds of the younger generation that Christianity is an entirely personal and relativistic belief. It is not difficult to then see why multitudes have turned away.

Failure to show our children how Christianity applies to all of life

Many children grow up hearing the message of “how

to get to Heaven,” then when they go into the “real world” they discover that there is a huge mess that requires solutions. In the minds of many, Christianity becomes associated with escapism, while tackling real issues appears to be what the secularists are all about.

All of which is a travesty, firstly because secularist “solutions” cannot do anything but lead us into an even bigger mess, but also because it ignores massive chunks of Scripture and indeed the whole sweep of redemptive history. Yes, the Bible is concerned to let us know that this life is not all there is and that there is an eternity to come, but it is also concerned with the way we live now, containing the basic blueprint, laws, and ideas that should help humanity to deal with any and every situation that might arise.

Failure to see this worldview throughout the Bible and to pass it to our children is a sure way of teaching our children that God doesn’t much care about this world. In turn, this leads them into the arms of the secularists who apparently do care.

Lack of adult repentance

There is nothing so geared to repulse our children than if we are constantly admonishing and rebuking them, telling them of their duties, their sinfulness, their faults, and their need for repentance, while steadfastly refusing to hold ourselves to a similar level of scrutiny and confessing to them when we mess up. Conversely, there is nothing so likely to turn the hearts of the children to the fathers as when those fathers humbly apologize to their children when they mess up, seeking their forgiveness as well as God’s.

If we have hurt someone in our sin, and we repent to God but refuse to seek the forgiveness of the neighbor we have hurt, this is not true repentance (Matthew 5:23,24). However, it is a great temptation to think that this sort of thing just doesn’t apply to our 4-year-old that we just yelled at. Yet it does. They are our neighbors, and if we have wronged them, we need to put things right with them, regardless of their age or our authority over them.

There is nothing more likely to convince a child that we really do believe in the power of God to forgive our sins than if we not only humble ourselves before God and confess what we have done to Him, but also confess to wrong we have done to them. Failure to do this, year after year, is one of the surest ways of storing up resentment in a child’s heart—a resentment which

many take as a reason later on to reject Christianity, seeing it as a religion consisting of nothing more than mere hypocrisy.

Failure to love our children as God created them

Of all the reasons why the next generation is falling away, this may well be the biggest single factor. I came across a couple of testimonies recently of young women who had turned away from the faith, despite having been brought up in seemingly solid Christian families. Both families were hot on Biblical teaching and apologetics and to all appearances seemed to be the archetypal well-ordered Christian families. But in both cases the fathers forgot to love their children. They tried to fit their children into their grand cause—whether it was the cause of the “well-ordered” family, the Quiverfull, the apologetics, the evangelism, or whatever else—and failed to love them as human beings in their own right.

For many 20-somethings that walk away and cite intellectual skepticism as the reason, this reason probably lies at the heart of it all. The Gospel of Jesus Christ requires that we turn away from our sins, but it does not require that we lose our God-given characteristics. One of the biggest temptations we face as parents is to try and mold our children in ways which please us, but which are not required by God and are not in tune with His individual design of each of our children.

The consequence of this failing is children who go through their whole childhood feeling that their parents do not truly love them for who they are, but rather for what they think they can turn them into. But for the grace of God, it is almost inevitable that such children will reject Christianity, especially if they later on find a person or a group of people that does accept them with their God given personalities, traits, and talents.

Failure to involve children in the worship with the church

I recently did a quick survey of churches in my area and found that almost all of them had Children’s Church or Sunday School at the same time as the main worship service. This practice is so common in the modern church that multitudes of the children of believers may go through their entire childhood without ever worshipping God with the rest of the congregation.

There are certainly many dedicated teachers who make sacrificial efforts to teach children in these settings, and a lot of good is being done. But separating children from the main worship with the church may still inadvertently cause damage.

Yet this is far from the norm presented in Scripture. Just to take two examples:

“Meanwhile all Judah stood before the Lord, with their little ones, their wives, and their children.” (2 Chronicles 20:13).

“Gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants” (Joel 2:16a).

In other words, when the people of God gathered for worship and to hear the Word of God, the children were present. The corporate worship of God is meant to be the highest thing we do, and also the thing that drives the rest of what we do. It should be for all ages, from the youngest to the oldest. Failure to involve them in the church’s main worship may serve to sow the seeds in their minds that this worship is largely irrelevant. It is then not a great leap to conclude that God must be irrelevant too.

Conclusion

If we have damaged our children in the ways mentioned above and more, we need to repent. In the second part of this article, next month, I will look at positive things we can do—through God’s grace—to get our children to not only love the Gospel of Jesus Christ, but to desire to pass it on to their children in their turn.”

Rob Slane lives with his wife and five home-educated children in Salisbury, England. He is the author of *The God Reality: A Critique of Richard Dawkins’ The God Delusion*, contributes to the Canadian magazine, *Reformed Perspective*, and blogs on cultural issues from a Biblical perspective at www.theblogmire.com.

Christian HealthCare Newsletter. 2/14 Samaritan Ministries.

THIS FISH IS SOLD

It was a warm morning in the mountains of Western Virginia. A young boy with blue eyes and brown hair came walking down a dirt pathway, a fishing pole over his shoulder. Making his way to the bank of the West Fork River, he found the spot where his crude raft lay on the bank of the mountain stream.

Crossing the river, the boy sat down to rest under the shade of the trees. Tom was a thoughtful boy, an orphan. His father had died when he was only two years old, and his mother had died when the boy was only seven. Tom lived with his Uncle Cummins, but there was no warmth between uncle and nephew. Tom’s chief companion was his sister, Laura. But the God of Heaven who promised to be “a father to the fatherless” had not forgotten this young lad. God has indeed “chosen the weak things of the world to confound the mighty.”

Tom was alone today with his fishing pole, for he had agreed to catch a fish and sell it to a storekeeper in his hometown. The only requirement was that the fish be over a foot long. Mr. Kester had promised to give Tom fifty cents for such a fish.

After several minutes, Tom got a bite and pulled out a little fish—too small. Tom laid the little fish down beside him on the grass. It would make a good supper for himself, but he must have something better for Mr. Kester.

Torn laid his pole down to rest and opened a worn book in his hand. It was a biography of General Francis Marion, Tom’s hero. This Christian general in South Carolina had led his little band of men to victory over the British in the War for Independence. Tom’s heart thrilled to read these true stories of valiant courage in the life of his hero. The raid on Black Mingo Swamp, the headquarters at Snow’s Island, and the stalwart courage of his hero had all become very real to young Thomas. At this point in life, Tom had read only two books, the *Life of Marion* and the Holy Bible. These two books would shape his destiny.

Suddenly, a bite on his line brought Tom back from his book. Grabbing his pole, Tom pulled, hoping for some response from the line. He got it. It was a fish—and a big one. Tom jumped up from the ground and struggled to land his prize. After a long fight, Tom had gained his greatest victory yet in life. A large pike lay on the grass beside him--three feet long.

Tom had never caught a fish before.

As Tom lay resting after his struggle, he thought of all the things he could do with that fish. He could bring it home to his uncle. It would make a magnificent supper. He could find someone else to whom he could sell it. This fish was much bigger than what Mr. Kester had wanted. But no, Tom had agreed to sell Mr. Kester a fish for fifty cents. Tom had never been strong for his age, but he picked up the heavy fish, slung it over his shoulder, and recrossed the river on his raft. Docking his raft, he started the long walk into town to deliver the fish to Mr. Kester’s store.

On Main Street, Tom began to catch the attention of several people. They congratulated him on his fish. One of the residents, Colonel John Talbott, called out, “Hello, Torn, that’s a fine fish you have. I

will give you a dollar for it.”

Tom kept on walking. He was a boy of few words and only remarked, “Sold to Mr. Kester.” Colonel Talbott, unwilling to lose such a fine fish, made a counter-offer, “Dollar and a quarter.” Tom answered, “If you get any of this pike, you will get it from Mr. Kester.”

Tom marched into the store, the huge fish across his shoulder, and laid it on the counter. Mr. Kester’s eyes widened in surprise. He had a concern for the young orphan and wanted to help him any way he could. The store owner offered to pay Tom double the price, but Tom refused. “No Sir, this is your pike at fifty cents, and I will not take more for it.”

This same integrity would follow young Tom through all his life. The residents of this little town in the mountains would one day be proud that they had known the brown-haired and blue-eyed orphan who did his duty in all things. In fact, a bronze statue stands today in downtown Clarksburg, West Virginia. It is an equestrian statue of the orphan boy who would keep his word. On the bronze statue is inscribed the name by which this orphan boy is known to the world, Thomas Jonathan “Stonewall” Jackson.

Tom left his mountain home to attend the military academy at West Point. He got into the school only because someone more qualified than he dropped out. Because of a poor education in his youth, Tom struggled through his years at West Point. At first, his classmates from the city laughed at his awkward ways and his stumbling recitations. But they learned to respect the serious, earnest, young cadet who never used the back of his chair, but sat bolt upright in his seat. As his wife would later write, “He learned slowly, but what he learned he never forgot.”

Thomas Jackson graduated from West Point in 1846 and became a lieutenant of artillery. Service took him to Mexico where he was promoted for his courage under fire. On one occasion, when his section was taking heavy fire from the enemy, Tom Jackson was the only man who did not flee. Manning his post alone, he held his position until others, inspired by his example, returned to their positions. When asked why he did not flee with the others, he quietly replied, “I was not ordered to flee. If I had been so ordered, I most certainly would have done so.”

During these years of war, Jackson began to think seriously about the things of eternity. He came under the influence of a fellow officer who urged him to seek the way of salvation as revealed in the Scriptures. With the same serious intensity that marked all he did, Jackson became an earnest Christian. After seeking salvation through the Roman Catholic system for a time, he turned from all man-made good works to find pardon and peace through the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, and Him alone.

Soon all that he did was marked by a steadfast obedience to the Bible. He prayed constantly and devoutly, and kept the Sabbath rigorously. Jackson was appointed as a professor of physics at the Virginia Military Institute. There, he grew in grace and virtue under the preaching of Pastor William White. In time, Jackson married a young lady in Lexington, Virginia, named Eleanor Junkin. He was heart-broken when Eleanor died, along with their newborn son.

His grief drew Jackson even closer to the God who said, “I will never leave thee nor forsake thee.” The orphan and widower found joy in a second marriage to Mary Anna Morrison in 1857. These years were the happiest of Jackson’s life. He taught a Sunday School class for black children and adults on the afternoon of each Lord’s Day.

Duty called Jackson away from this happy home on April 21, 1861. Defense of his native state called him from his professorship, his home, his church, his Sunday School class, and his beloved wife.

Jackson never again entered the home he loved. When he returned to Lexington two years later at the head of his own funeral procession, his name was known in two hemispheres. His campaigns in the Shenandoah Valley and with Lee in Northern Virginia are still told with wonder. His Christian virtue, his courage in danger, his fortitude in hardship, and his humility in victory have made him a model of all that is great and noble. Jackson’s final words echo the hope of the dying Christian, “Let us cross over the river and rest under the shade of the trees.”

Could it have been that Jackson’s mind went back to the West Fork River, to his early walks as a boy, to the grove of trees where he had first read the Word of God? The orphaned boy whose integrity would not allow him to sell another man’s fish was now

ready to cross the River of Life and enter into the eternal rest that is reserved for the people of God.

—Drawn from various works, including *Life and Campaigns* by Robert Lewis Dabney, *Life and Letters* by Mrs. Anna Jackson, *Stonewall Jackson: the Black Man's Friend* by Richard Williams, and *A Confederate Trilogy for Young Readers* by Mary Williamson as well as several excellent books by H. R. Rumburg

Respectfully offered for your prayerful consideration.

John Huffman, *Mighty Men Herald*, cbcbelleville@gmail.com

FIRST THANKSGIVING

1619 AT BERKELEY PLANTATION IN VIRGINIA

“First Thanksgiving” by Sidney King. The weary sailors rowed to shore and surveyed the landscape of their new settlement. As instructed by the Berkeley Company, the men, led by their leader, Captain John Woodlief, knelt on the dried grass to offer a prayer of thanks for their safe journey across the ocean. They prayed: “We ordain that the day of our ship’s arrival, at the place assigned for plantation, in the land of Virginia, shall be yearly and perpetually kept holy as a day of thanksgiving to Almighty God.” The First British American Colonial

THANKSGIVING TOOK PLACE IN VIRGINIA, NOT MASSACHUSETTS

Washingtonian Magazine by Matt Blitz Published November 18, 2015

“...A year and 17 days before those Pilgrims ever stepped foot upon New England soil, a group of English settlers led by Captain John Woodlief landed at today’s Berkeley Plantation, 24 miles southwest of Richmond. After they arrived on the shores of the James River, the settlers got on their knees & gave thanks for their safe passage. There was no traditional meal, no lovefest with Native Americans, no turkey. America’s first Thanksgiving was about prayer, not food.

“On September 16th, 1619, the Margaret departed Bristol, England, bound for the New World. Aboard the 35-foot-long ship were 35 settlers, a crew, five “captain’s assistant”, a pilot, & Capt. Woodlief, a...survivor of the 1609/1610 Jamestown’s “Starving Time.” The mission of those aboard Margaret was to settle 8,000 acres of land along the James River that had been granted to them by the London-based Berkeley Company. They were allowed to build farms, storehouses, homes, & a community on company land. In exchange, they were contracted as employees, working the land & handing over crops & profits to the company.

“After a rough two-&-a-half months on the Atlantic, the ship entered the Chesapeake Bay on November 28, 1619. It took another week to navigate the stormy bay, but they arrived at their destination, Berkeley Hundred, later called Berkeley Plantation, on December 4. They disembarked & prayed. Many historians think there was nothing but old ship rations to eat, so the settlers may have concocted a meal of oysters & ham out of necessity rather than celebration. At the behest of written orders given by the Berkeley Company to Captain Woodlief, it was declared that their arrival must “be yearly & perpetually kept holy as a day of Thanksgiving to Almighty God.” And that’s exactly what they did—for 2 years. On March 22, 1622, the Powhatan, who’d realized the settlers intended to expand their territory & continue their attempts to convert & “civilize” them, attacked Berkeley & other settlements, killing 347. Woodlief survived, but soon after, Berkeley Hundred was abandoned. For 3 centuries, Virginia’s 1st Thanksgiving was lost to history.

“Graham Woodlief is a direct descendant of Captain Woodlief. While he’s known his family’s history since being a teenager; he’s devoted a considerable amount of energy to research, since he retired in 2009. Today, Woodlief is president of the Virginia Thanksgiving Festival, which has been held annually since 1958. Woodlief ...thinks the major reason that Plymouth, & not Berkeley, is...thought to be the site of the 1st Thanksgiving is that “they had better PR than we did.” He also said the emphasis on prayer, instead of Plymouth’s festive harvest meal, also made Virginia’s Thanksgiving a bit less appealing, though more accurate. “In fact, most Thanksgivings in the early days were religious services, not meals,” Woodlief says.

“Nearly 309 years after the 1622 battle with the Powhatans, Berkeley Plantation’s missing history was rediscovered. In 1931, retired William & Mary President (and son of President John Tyler) Dr. Lyon G. Tyler was working on a book about early Virginia history. While doing research, he stumbled upon the Nibley Papers, documents and records taken by John Smyth of Nibley, Gloucestershire, about the 1619 settlement of Berkeley. Originally published by the New York State Library in 1899, the papers’ historical significance had gone undetected. According to many Virginia historians, the papers are concrete proof that the New World’s “day of Thanksgiving” originated in their region. Upon his

discovery, Tyler told Malcolm Jamieson, who had inherited Berkeley plantation in the 1920s. The plantation was already considered one of the more historic homes in the state, once a residence to a signer of the Declaration of Independence, as well as the birthplace of a US President. Now, it had another feather in its historic hat. Jamieson, with the help of descendants of Captain Woodlief, instituted the 1st Virginia Thanksgiving Festival in 1958. Its been celebrated ever since...

“In Kennedy’s 1963 Thanksgiving Proclamation (made 17 days before his assassination), the president acknowledged Virginia’s claim, saying “Over three centuries ago, our forefathers in Virginia and in Massachusetts, far from home in a lonely wilderness, set aside a time of thanksgiving.” In 2007, President George W. Bush also noted the history while visiting Berkeley Plantation, commenting that, “The good folks here say that the founders of Berkeley held their celebration before the Pilgrims had even left port. As you can imagine, this version of events is not very popular up north.”

“The Berkeley Company, in England, had been given a grant of 8,000 acres, by King James I in Virginia, along the James River. England was going through a severe recession, especially in the woolen industry, & Englishmen were flocking to America to escape religious persecution & for a better life. The English town of Berkeley, a center for the woolen industry, was especially hard-hit by the recession. The 4 adventurers who made up the Berkeley Company were William Throckmorton, John Smythe, George Thorpe, & Richard Berkeley, who owned Berkeley castle. They needed a leader for an expedition to Virginia & chose Capt. John Woodlief. He had been to the New World several

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times & had survived the starving time at Jamestown. With a passenger list of 35 able-bodied craftsmen & a ship’s crew of 19, Woodlief headed to the New World. They sailed on the Margaret, a small ship that was only 35 feet long & weighed 47 tons, loaded with cargo. It was a perilous journey across the Atlantic, for 2 & a half months. They were plagued by storms, the men were homesick, conditions were claustrophobic, there was vermin infestation. They prayed constantly.

“The Margaret landed at Berkeley Hundred on Dec. 4, 1619. The men rowed ashore & surveyed the wintery landscape that surrounded them. As they were instructed by the Berkeley Company, the men knelt & gave thanks for their safe voyage across the ocean. They were given a proclamation, by the Berkeley Company, when they departed England, with 10 specific instructions. The first instruction was that they pray & give thanks for their safe voyage when they landed. And they were to do so perpetually & annually. It is thought the Englishmen gave thanks the next 2 years, as they were instructed, until the settlement was destroyed in 1622. It was the 1st Thanksgiving by Englishmen in the New World,

1 year & 17 days before the Pilgrims landed in Massachusetts. It was considered “official,” as they were ordered by England to give thanks — & it was planned, not spontaneous, as many Thanksgivings in the New World were. It was also not a one-time celebration, but repeated annually, as the Englishmen were instructed.”

May the Lord Bless and Keep you during this Blessed Season of Celebration of HIS Blessings and of HIS coming to Redeem HIS PEOPLE.

Brethren, Pray for Us

