

The Biblical Examiner

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Holding to the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith

DILIGENCE AND DUTY

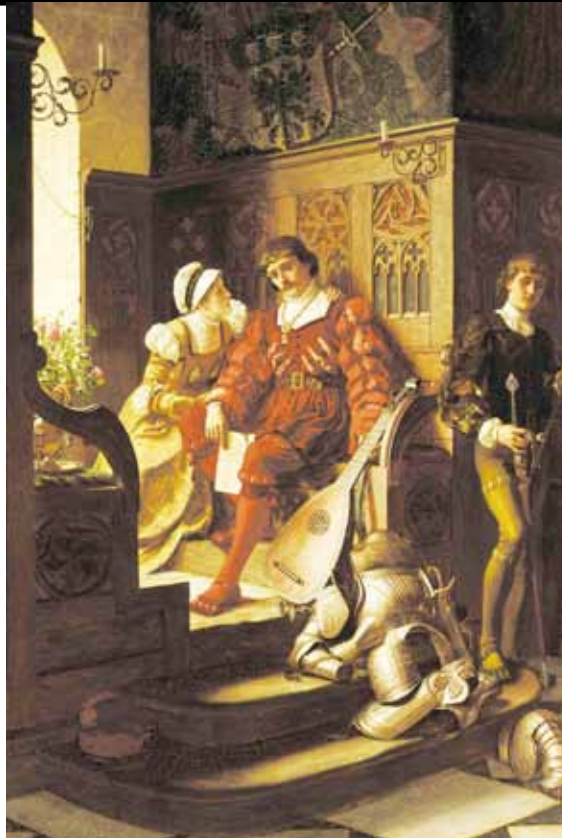
And Joshua rose up early in the morning. (Josh 8:10)

Uphill water

Back in the 60s, I operated a ‘dozer for a land developer for a couple seasons. The area he developed was one of the most exclusive areas on the North-east side of Indianapolis at that time. One of my projects was to cut a finished grade for the sub-contractor who was pouring the concrete curbs and sidewalks (the two were done in one operation). I well remember one short cul-de-sac (a dead-end street with a turn-a-round at the end) where he had poured the curbs and sidewalks — though the grade had been cut according to the grade stakes, standing at the street end of the cul-de-sac in the rain, the water runoff appeared to be running away from the street, uphill. The optical illusion was so bad that rather than take a chance on his reputation, the contractor had me push out the curbs and sidewalks and re-cut the grade so the water would appear to run toward the street.

Over the years, I have noticed a common malady — “leaders” expect their “followers” to rise above the character of the “leaders.” Just good, common sense tells us that such a thing is impossible, *e.g.*, though appearances may be otherwise, water cannot flow on its own uphill.

As Joshua prepares to take Ai, we see him setting a high standard for those under him. Unlike many leaders



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of our day, Joshua did not expect anything from his people that he was not doing himself.

Here are a few short points from this verse:

First, leaders must be diligent if they expect the people to be diligent. “Leaders” cannot expect their people to rise above them (the leaders). Military leaders of the past led their armies into the hottest parts of the battles. Today, military leaders sit in air-conditioned offices directing their armies into battles. I have encountered more than a few Christian “leaders” who do the same thing—they sleep late and use their waking hours running from motivational meeting to motivational meeting, looking for something missing in their character—*diligence*.

At a preachers’ conference in Chicago, a speaker said that one cannot sit under a leader who is not “higher” than he is, and I have found that to be very true. It is difficult to sit under someone who is not diligent in study, in responsibility and duty.

Second, those who expect to conquer the enemies

of God (defined as the world, flesh and devil) must not lie on the “flowery beds of ease.” God does not hand the victory to his people on a platter today any more than he did for Joshua. There must be sacrifices made, primarily the sacrifice of ease.

2 Peter 1:5 *And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;*

Maturity in the Christian faith requires diligence if we expect to do anything for God, vv. 6-10.

[1] haste, with haste 2) earnestness, diligence 2a) earnestness in accomplishing, promoting, or striving after anything 2b) to give all diligence, interest one’s self most earnestly.]¹

The Old Testament definition of *diligence* is different from the New:

adj. 1) sharp-pointed, sharp, diligent n m 2) strict decision, decision 3) trench, moat, ditch 4) gold (poetical)

“The diligent man is called..., to sharpen, for sharpness is transferred to energy.”²

[Pr. 10:4.] *but the hand of the diligent maketh rich*; that is, with the blessing of God along with it, as in Pr 10:22; such who are “sharp” and acute, as the word signifies; who are careful and industrious, mind their business, and do the honest part; these, with a divine blessing, frequently grow rich: or rather who are like those that dig in the earth for gold, who search for it with great eagerness and diligence; for from this root is a word often used for gold, Pro 3:14, 8:19, 16:16. All this is true in a spiritual sense; such who are slothful in attendance on the means of grace, the word and ordinances, are slack and negligent in duty, bring a spiritual poverty upon them; and like the Laodicean church, who, through her lukewarmness and carnal security, became poor and wretched, blind and naked: on the other hand, such who are diligent in the use of means are frequent at the throne of grace, forsake not the assembly of the saints, constantly wait at Wisdom’s gates; these grow rich in grace and in all good works.³

The word of God contrasts the *diligent* (sharp) with the lazy person.

He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich (Pr. 10:4). *The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute* (Pr. 12:24). *The slothful man roasteth not that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man is precious* (Pr. 12:27). *The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat* (Pr 12:27). *The thoughts of the diligent tend only to plenteousness; but of every one that is hasty only to want* (Pr. 21:5).

Duty and Diligence

It is a great mistake to suppose that faith in God renders needless our discharge of duty or the use of all lawful means: instead, it is to energize unto the one and to look unto God for His blessing upon the other. Confidence in God does not produce passivity, nor will the diligence which it evokes issue in self-confidence. True faith ever produced good works, yet those works are performed in the spirit of dependence upon the Lord. It is written: “The way of man is not in himself” (Jer. x, 23), but it is written again: “This is the way, walk ye in it” (Isaiah xxx, 21). Thus does Scripture always guard Scripture!⁴ (Guards its true meaning, for no scripture is of private interpretation, ed.)

Joshua clearly shows us that godly faith in the sovereign, predestinating Lord God WILL produce godly works according to his law-word. Those who use God’s sovereign predestination to justify not being diligent about individual responsibility to work, including evangelizing their communities, are clearly violating God’s word—they are presuming upon God (*see* 2 Pet. 2:10), doing the same as did Israel in the first move against Ai. Genuine trust in the God’s sovereign predestination will pray for God’s wisdom and power and understanding; it will work, and work hard, at conquering self and conquering the surrounding areas, and nations for Christ through preaching, teaching and **living** the law-word of God.

We are warned about false teachers in every area of Biblical doctrine:

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 (Jude 4).

Ungodly men (asebeis). Keynote of the Epistle (Mayor), in 15 again as in 2 Pet. 2:5; 3:7. *Turning (metatithentes)*. Present active participle of *metatithêmi*, to change, for which verb see Gal. 1:6. For the change of “grace” (*charita*) into “lasciviousness (*eis aselgeian*)” see 1 Pet. 2:16; 4:3; 2 Pet. 2:19; 3:16.⁵

The certain men, false teachers, wrongly use God’s sovereign predestination to escape from their duties and responsibilities to stand for righteousness (especially when there is a prospect of losing something, e.g., Joshua’s men could have lost their lives), and to reach their communities, and nations, with the converting gospel of Christ. (*See* 1 Cor 1:17-2 Cor. 2:5, 3:6,

7.) Though these teachers are not diligent in their areas of responsibilities, they expect their own people to be diligent in their various areas of responsibilities. Those of the genuine Biblical faith in the Christian God will operate to diligently preform his commandments: that is, *obedience to the faith*, Romans 1:5.

Jude warned against *certain men* who would come into the church *unawares*; these *certain men* would turn *the grace of God into lasciviousness*. They would use the glorious doctrine of the divine grace of the predestining God for their own evil purpose, even to justify their own lack of diligent character. We occasionally meet *certain men* who use God's sovereign predestination to justify ignoring the command to evangelize the world, starting at home, for Christ. These *certain men* are as lawless as are the antinomians whom they preach so hard against. (There can be no salvation in antinominism, for how can there be conviction and conversion when there is no law?)

Diligence means no murmuring

Joshua 8:3, the 5,000 mighty men of valour were sent away by night. Obviously, it was so the men could quietly and unnoticed slip into the place of ambush. Pink points out that these men got no rest that night—they went about their assigned duty positions that night with no rest. They had no complaint nor did they murmur though assigned the post with the most responsibility and danger. (See Pr. 6:14, 19, Cor. 10:10, Jas. 3:14ff., 3 Jn. 1:9, 10, etc.)

When God works, he works on both ends—that is, he worked in Joshua and he worked in those under Joshua to do God's good pleasure at Ai. This is a clear illustration of the self-denial needed if one will conquer the enemy for God. *Mighty men of valour* will deny themselves in order to do what is the Lord's will for themselves:

Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me (Mt. 16:24).

“Take up the cross” Each one has “his” cross, some point in which the will of God and self-will come into direct opposition. To



the Captain of our salvation the conflict came in its very darkest and most dreadful form. Its climax was in the Garden, when after the great agony He cried: “Not My will, but Thine be done.” Our conflict will not be nearly so severe: it may even be on a point that may seem small -- whether or not we will give up some besetting sin, whether or not we will do some disagreeable duty, whether or not we will surrender something which stands between us and Christ; but whatever that be in which the will of God and our own will are set in opposition, there is our cross, and it must be taken up, and self-denial that we may follow Christ. “They that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh.” Gibson 231⁶

Come after me; follow my directions. Deny himself; abstain from all indulgences which stand in the way of duty. Take up his cross; resist the pleadings of carnal policy and appetite, and submit to whatever may be needful, in order to obey God. The life of disciples of Christ is one of self-denial. They must make sacrifices, and it is wise to do so, for it is the way to avoid the greatest loss and obtain the greatest gain.⁷

No men do more harm to themselves, than they that love themselves more than God.⁸

We encounter those who desire to follow the Lord and do great things for him; however, they are unwilling or unable to deny themselves of what they take pleasure in, *e.g.*, sleep, hobbies, outside activities, sports (especially couch-potato sports), even extra money offered to them to compromise their Christian stand. It seems they have no self-discipline to follow the Lord. (When we lived in Louisiana, church services during football season had to be over in time for folks to see the Dallas Cowboys kick off, usually at noon, or many would not be at church.)

Gibson said it well: “Each one has ‘his’ cross, some point in which the will of God and self-will come into direct opposition.” Paul develops the idea of self-denial

in 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. He tells us that those involved in sports will deny self in order to win the prize, which can only go to one person. (How many Christians deny God so they can spend the multitude of hours involved in sports—that is, couch-potato, spectator sports?) However, in the “Christian race,” every-

one can win the prize (*i.e.*, the incorruptible crown), but it takes the same dedication and self-denial as required of an athlete training for a race. The athlete has only one goal—win the race. Rather than being a “*this one thing I do*” Christian, we are, more often than not, “these many things I try to do” Christians. Our one and common goal must be to *do all to the glory of God*.

Paul says that the Lord assigned to him a specific task, and he, as would the athlete seeking the crown of victory, keeps his body under subjection, so he can win his crown. He urges every Believer to the same self-discipline, the same goal of winning the incorruptible crown for properly finishing the course laid out for them by the Lord Jesus. (*See Rom 6:18, 19, Col 3:5, 2 Tim 2:22, 1 Pet 2:11, etc.*) “Alas, how many professing Christians today *are* wasting their energies upon tasks which God has never assigned them!”⁹

The time comes when the Captain of the Lord’s Hosts, the Lord Jesus Christ through his Spirit, sends each of his servants *away at night*. The call is to self-sacrifice and diligence—to lay aside what the servant wants for what the Captain wants, to lay aside what is enjoyable and pleasant to the individual for what the Captain desires, to lay aside maybe even a good paying and secure job for what the Captain wants.

In the 50 or so years I have been around the Lord’s work, I could count on one hand the people I have seen make the right choice: I have seen very few lay aside their “pleasures” in order to be faithful in what they professed in their Christianity in order to make all things subservient to the Lord, such as a ball game, the hunting season, camping and/or an opportunity for optional overtime on the job interferes. (Of course, a married man’s first responsibility after the Lord is to his wife and family.) In Gibson’s words, we see many come to that cross-roads where they had to choose between God’s will and self-will, and the two were directly opposite. Some have blown the decision very badly, totally forsaking the Christian faith. Others have made the right choice, and God has prospered them accordingly.

“Those who would maintain their spiritual conflicts must not love their ease.”¹⁰

Finally, notice that the whole army

was not deprived of sleep the night before the big battle, but only 5,000 men. In other words, the Lord requires different areas of self-sacrifice and diligence of different people. However, he clearly requires each person to be willing to “lay his life on the line” and diligent effort for the cause of Christ.

Water never has nor will it ever run uphill, no matter what it might look like. The “conservative, evangelical, even Orthodox ‘Calvinistic’” church shows the results of “leaders” who are not diligent in their calling in Christ. *For there are certain men crept in unawares* who misuse God’s sovereign predestination to justify their lack of diligence in trying to win their areas of responsibility for Christ.

There is victory waiting for those who faithfully follow the *Captain of the LORD’S host*.

“Lord, raise up some men and women by your grace who will make the right choice at that cross-roads.”

End Notes

- ¹ *Online Bible*. • ² Keil. • ³ Gill, *Online Bible*. • ⁴ A. W. Pink, *Gleanings in Joshua*, 214. • ⁵ A. T. Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament*, Jude 4. *Online Bible*. • ⁶ *Online Bible*. • ⁷ Family notes, *Online Bible*. • ⁸ Geneva. • ⁹ Pink • ¹⁰ Matthew Henry.

GAMING FOR JESUS!!

Maybe like many of you, we subscribe to World magazine. A recent issue had two articles that require attention. They both clearly show the seriousness of the Christian apostasy in which we now live, as well as the cause of powerless Christianity. The subject of both articles has the fingerprints of the Devil all over them

– *By their fruits ye shall know them*, and their fruit is rotten to the core.

This writer is **ALMOST** at a loss for words to describe how not-Biblically defined but self-defined Christian colleges have and are departing from the godly discipline required by the Word of God, as they abandon the Biblical Christian faith. We also point out in this issue how people may go into unreasonable and unpayable debt to attend these schools of “higher learning?” Below we shall see



a new idea of higher learning is excelling in the art of gaming. (I am sure that successful gaming qualifies one for the mission field, the pulpit or for teaching Biblical values.)

All fun and games?

Christian colleges embrace video gaming as a competitive sport, yet critics worry about aggressive behavior.

By Georgia Lodewyk & Emma Perley

The teams sat down to play Overwatch, a first-person-shooter video game. During the game, a Cornell student taunted Upton's team. "I'll speak to them in a language that they understand!" he yelled. "Violence!" Upton ("captain" of Northwestern College *sports* team) watched as the Cornell student stopped to vape in the middle of the match. ...

Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Ind. ... built a physical gaming facility and even hired a coach for the 2023-24 school year. Athletic director Deane Webb said, "It's hard not to notice the growth in the esports industry, and it's time to be a part of that." (My first wife attended what was then Wesleyan College in the 1960s before she transferred to Indiana Bible College in Indianapolis where I was on the church staff. Wesleyan was a good sound Christian college at that time, as were many other Christian colleges.)

(A student gamer) Hickey himself believes he's found a spiritual element in gaming. He says he came from a broken home and had few role models in his formative years, but engaging in fantasy worlds introduced him to characters that were strong, intelligent, and kind.

Understanding "good" characters in video games helped Hickey understand Jesus' character, he says. ...

Critics point to studies showing increased aggression, depression, and anxiety among avid gamers. However, Christian colleges, including Northwestern, claim gaming boosts community relationships. ...

Upton admits that gaming can get under his skin. Team games require constant communication between players (via headsets), presenting what Upton sees as a unique problem for people who play competitively. It makes it easy for Upton to take out his irritation on his teammates. ...



Former President Donald Trump called video games "gruesome and grisly" and blamed society's "glorification of violence." The World Health Organization and the *American Journal of Psychiatry* caution against the addictive properties of gaming, which research suggests can lead to elevated levels of anger and a desire to escape the real world.

(Upton is working toward a degree in social work. I wonder how marketable his advanced gaming skill will be after college?)

World 8/26/23

A Few Distressing Observations

1) gaming is based on doing violence to the other player; it glorifies violence and vengeance. **DOES** gaming teach and exemplify the many Old and New Testament passages such as Romans 12?

2) gaming requires expensive new facilities and coaches to accommodate this "sport."

3) gaming brings with it aggression, hostility, anger, depression, irritation, isolation, anxiety and trash-talk. Gaming militates against godly self-control.

4) gaming claims to boost community relationship, but these relationships are not eyeball to eyeball. Might as well build a relationship with AI, Siri, or with a life-size humanoid robot doll.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KlIKo-UTV2Q>

5) gaming claims the time that should be spent studying scripture; after all, we are speaking here of "Christian" colleges being caught up in this well-laid snare. It steals valuable time away from studying for one's life calling, e.g., medical profession, mathematics, the various sciences. Reality shows that only those interested in the more advanced disciplines need to attend college. Even nurse training can be largely accomplished through a community college, and with much less expense.

6) gaming requires usernames, e.g., Mad Dog, Hades, Sayitback.

7) gaming requires practice up to 12 hours a week. **HOW** many Christian college students spend at least 12 hours a week in serious study of the Word of God, or at least reading it?

8) gaming is seen as a calling valuable to the Church. **IS** gaming skill a new gift given for advancing the King-

dom of Heaven? Does gaming teach *sound doctrine*?

9) gaming is an escape from the realities of life, from the real world and from real people.

Can finding role models in a digital game's characters help "understand Jesus' character!?" **DIGITAL** role models can and do through gaming replace the character traits godly men of the past: Job, Abraham, Joseph, David, Job, Jesus Christ, Paul (*follow me as I follow Christ*), Calvin, Spurgeon, &c. Study the lives of those listed in Hebrews 11. **1 Corinthians 15:33** warns about corruption by association, especially identifying with a digital image. **2 Corinthians 6:14ff.** commands separation from unbelievers. Digital images become one's role model, even without his knowledge. Gaming turns one's mind empty, and the void is filled with the characteristics of that digital image. It opens the mind to the powers of darkness.

10) gaming requires role playing. **Many** of us remember the role playing in "Dungeon and Dragons," and the Christian stand against such role playing.

11) gaming is being seen "as a means for discipleship."

12) gaming to develop leadership skills for the Kingdom? Does gaming develop the much needed leadership skills required to advance the Kingdom of God in this perverse, distorted, corrupt generation? Philippians 2:15, 1 Timothy 6:5! Gaming perverts or corrupts the right path established by the Word.

We assume the astute Christian readers of this article can easily see the serious dangers and opportunities for the *roaring lion to devour* those involved in gaming, as well as the denial of the Word of God. Discipleship through gaming! How absurd and contrary to the command-word of God in Matthew 28:19, 20 where discipleship is defined as teaching His Word and obedience.

The next expected step down the *broad road to destruction* is that Christians will be able get a sports scholarship in gaming. Young people who grew up gaming at home will take on debt in order to go to a college that offers gaming. Is gaming a marketable skill outside of one's imagination?

Gaming, obviously, can become as addictive as is gambling in general, and can control one's life for years. Gambling has destroyed multitudes of men. Moreover, gaming can destroy families as the player takes time from his family to pursue this controlling passion. He is

in danger of making his family the recipient of his anger, irritation, frustration &c., that comes with gaming!

Those of us who love God's Word cannot understand a self-defined Christian college spending so much time and money in teaching students the skills needed for gaming.

Trump is right: Former President Donald Trump called video games "gruesome and grisly" and blamed society's "glorification of violence."

How can a Christian not be dismayed over self-defined Christian colleges adopting gaming as a sport? Can we count the number of commands to control one's thoughts and the meditations of his heart according to the WORD? The meditation of the heart shall have results:

Jeremiah 6:19 *Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, [even] the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it. (Gaming encourages thoughts of anger, vengeance, wrath, &c.)*

The Christian college experience should be urging students to *delight in the law of the LORD*, rather than to delight in gaming skills.

MEDITATION

MERRILL UNGER

"But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night."— Ps. 1:2.

"I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation."— Ps. 119:99-

Meditation upon God's Word is fast becoming a lost art among many Christians. This holy exercise of pondering over the Word, chewing it as an animal chews its cud to get its sweetness and nutritive virtue into the heart and life, takes time, which ill fits into the speed of our modern age.

Today, most Christians' devotions are too hurried, their lives too rushed. But holiness and hurry never did suit well together. Prayer and preoccupation have always been strange bedfellows. A head knowledge of the Word may perhaps be consonant with the scurry of the age, but not a deep heart experience of its preciousness. A deep knowledge of spiritual things can only come by way of unhurried reflection upon God's truth and by prayer.



We need to give earnest heed to the hymn:

Take time to be holy,
Speak oft with thy Lord;
Abide in Him always,
And feed on His Word.

The fervor of the ancient psalmist for the Word of God needs to grip our hearts today.

“O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day”—
Ps. 119:97-

*“How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter
than honey to my mouth!”*—Ps. 119:103.

*“The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous
altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than
much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honey-
comb.”*—Ps. 19:9,10.

We need to heed the Lord’s injunction to Joshua: *“This
book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but
thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou
mayest observe to do according to all that is written
therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous,
and then thou shalt have good success”* (Josh. 1:8).
Like Isaac who “went out to meditate in the field at the
eventide” (Gen. 24:63), we need to cultivate the prac-
tice of holy reflection. (SOL)

A STORM OF GRAPESHOT IN THE WILDERNESS

William Poague

By John & Katie Huffman

It was early dawn in the Wilderness. An eerie quiet pervaded the dim light of the morning. On the forest floor, wounded and dying men lay in dark puddles of blood. Above them, migrating warblers were starting to sing in the treetops, oblivious to the fact that 100,000 fighting men in gray and blue were spread out in the tangled woods below them, preparing for a mighty struggle to determine the outcome of Grant’s drive to break Lee’s lines and batter his way into Richmond.

On this morning, the dawn of May 6, 1864, the Confederate Army was in a desperately dangerous situation. A bloody day of battle had already taken place on the previous day, and the woods were already choked with wounded and dying men. General Hancock’s Union II Corps was poised to break the lightly defended Confederate right flank. The two armies were near the very spot that General Thomas Jackson had routed the Union right flank a year earlier. Now the threat was in

the reverse - and Stonewall Jackson was not here.

General Lee was fully aware of the danger his army was in. He had sent courier after courier galloping toward the rear urging Longstreet to hasten forward along the Orange Plank Road to defend the Confederate right flank. They were supposed to be in place by midnight of the 5th, but now the morning of the 6th was dawning.

The birds had hardly begun to sing in the trees when the rattle of musketry opened up along the line. The weary men of A. P. Hill’s corps had been fought to a frazzle on the previous day, and they had little strength or ammunition left.

Hill’s men stubbornly contested the ground, but overwhelming Union numbers forced them to give ground slowly. As the scattered rattle of musketry increased to a deafening and constant roar, it became evident that Lee’s flank was about to be broken and turned unless help arrived soon. Lee sent yet another message to Longstreet saying, “Longstreet must be here. Go bring him up!”

General Lee kept his seat upon Traveler as the Confederate infantry evaporated around him. Weary men with empty guns streamed toward the rear.

But one obstacle yet stood in the way of total disaster, a battalion of artillery under the command of a young officer named William Poague. Poague had started the war as a private in the Rockbridge Artillery. He had followed William N. Pendleton to the borders of Virginia to repel the first invasion. He had followed Stonewall Jackson in the Shenandoah Valley campaign, and had been recognized and promoted. He had been with Jackson at Chancellorsville and with Lee at Gettysburg. Now he was a Colonel of artillery in command of his own battalion, facing an entire corps of the advancing enemy with 12 guns to oppose them.

Lee looked over at Colonel Poague and ordered him to prepare to fire upon the advancing artillery. Poague needed no orders. His gunners were already standing at their pieces loaded with double grapeshot. As the last of Hill’s stragglers came retreating past his guns, Poague realized that the entire Union Army was now upon him. Their blue coats were visible now through the trees.

At Poague’s command, fire blazed from the muzzles of his twelve guns. The valiant old batteries of Stonewall Jackson were being heard again in the Wilderness!

The belching guns filled the woods with a storm of fire

that swept everything before it. In the midst of the wild confusion, shrieking horses, shouting officers, waving sabres, and screaming men cut down by the Confederate artillery, Colonel Poague remembered the rock in the midst of the storm. "Lee was perfectly composed, but his face expressed a kind of grim determination I had not observed either at Sharpsburg or Gettysburg. Traveller was quiet but evidently interested in the situation, as indicated by his raised head with ears pointing toward the front."

Colonel Poague and General Lee stood their ground as the guns of the battalion continued pouring grape into the ranks of the oncoming infantry.

After a few desperate minutes, twenty or so ragged soldiers ran into the clearing. They were running with faces set toward the enemy. General Lee asked them who they were. "Texas!" was the answer.

General Gregg's Texans, the advance guard of Longstreet's corps, had arrived on the scene. General Lee personally formed the Texans into line of battle and prepared them for the charge before one Texan boy took Traveller by the reins and led Lee toward the rear, promising to go forward if only General Lee would go back.

The Texans had arrived. The breach was filled. Longstreet was up. Lee was satisfied.

Jennings Copper Wise, a historian of Lee's artillery, wrote of Poague that day at the Wilderness, "Poague's single battalion of artillery . . . stood alone like a wall of flame across the enemy's path. The great commander knew then full well that between him and disaster Poague's battalion stood alone. What glory for a soldier! This single incident brought more of honor to the little colonel of artillery than most soldiers attain in a lifetime."

William Poague served loyally till the very end, when his command was surrendered with Lee at Appomattox. In his own modest memoirs which he wrote privately for the benefit of his children, Poague says very little of his own heroic action at the Wilderness, focusing the attention instead upon his faithful men and his adored commander.

William Poague returned home after the war and became an educator and a

legislator. He served as Treasurer of the Virginia Military Institute and also as a trustee of Washington and Lee University. He was a faithful elder at Jackson's church, Lexington Presbyterian Church for many years.

Poague was a steady bachelor and was often teased by his friends about his status. He surprised everyone by his marriage at the age of 43 to Miss Sarah Moore. The couple was blessed with four children.

William Poague lived to the advanced age of 78, and was buried in the same cemetery where the mortal remains of Stonewall Jackson await the resurrection.

In our day of widespread fear and discouragement in the face of an advancing enemy of secular humanism and modern philosophies, we need young men with the courage and faith of William Poague to stand calmly and boldly at the side of our Great Commander.

The book of Isaiah gives us this word of encouragement, "When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him" (Isaiah 59:19).

Drawn from: Gunner with Stonewall by William Poague and R.E. Lee by Douglas S. Freeman

Mighty Men Herald – April of 2023

THE CONFEDERATE CHRISTIAN

By Gary Carlyle

2nd Timothy Chapter 4 verse 7 states "I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." However, what does this look like in our life or in any life? First we must submit to the will of the Father and walk with him daily trusting and leaning on him as he guides us through life and in time he will reveal his plan for us. The plan may be revealed early in life, halfway through, or even at the end of life. However, walking with him will surely bless you.

I want to show you a life touched by the Father who used his great faith at the end of his life to show us an example. Thomas J. Jackson was a man of deep faith and that faith shown brightest in the last week of his life. Consider that his final testimony began on Sunday, May 3rd, 1863 and ended on Sunday, May 10th, 1863. It was always his desire to go home to the Lord on Sunday and consider for a moment that a man who loved God so much would have his final testimony run from Sunday to Sunday.



Some examples from his final week include Sunday, May 3rd after waking up from surgery he stated, "You find me severely wounded but not unhappy or depressed. I believe that it has been done according to the will of God and I acquiesce entirely in his holy will. I am sure that my heavenly Father designs this affliction for my good." On Tuesday, May 5th as his testimony continued he stated, "Many would regard the injuries as a great misfortune, I regard them as one of the blessings in my life." His favorite verse was then recited which is, "All things work together for the good to them that love the God." On Thursday, May 7th his wife arrived by his bedside as his condition had started to worsen; as he physically struggled he had no self-pity and showered his wife with love. On Friday, May 8th his condition had become gravely serious, however, his faith never wavered and he told the doctors, "These wounds were given to me for some wise and good purpose and I would not part with them if I could. Some would consider them a misfortune but I do not." By Saturday, May 9th his condition was beyond recovery and his wife proposed to read some psalms and even though he was suffering much he said "Yes we must never refuse that. Get the Bible and read them." When he was finally told he would not recover he declared, "If it is the will of my heavenly Father, I am perfectly satisfied." On Sunday, May 10th, 1863, Thomas was informed that he would be in heaven before the day was finished. He replied, "I will an infinite gainer to be translated." And when asked if God's presence was with him he said yes. He then stated to everyone in the room with him, "It is the Lords day. My wish is fulfilled I have always desired to die on Sunday."

These were not his famous last words but he went home to be with the Lord shortly thereafter. Thomas J. Jackson fought the good fight, kept the faith, and finished the race and his life as a whole is a fine example for all of us to look upon.

Brothers and Sisters, let us resolve to walk daily with the Father, grow our faith, submit to his will and be a good example of God's love to those around us.

May God bless you.

DEBT REVISIT

This second very distressing article in August 26 *Word* article requires further Biblical examination. Debt is one of the most effective tools in the Devil's tool box being used to hinder the growth of the King-

dom of God. It destroys *the righteous foundation of any society.*

Romans 13:7 *Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute [is due]; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour. 8 Owe no man anything, but to love one another; for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.*

The article *HEAVY BURDEN* is by Emma Freire, who was evidently a student at Patrick Henry College, which is a small liberal arts college in Purcellville, VA. (Disclosure: Bettie's two sons-in-law attended training at HSLDA before there was a PHC. Her husband, Jeff Ethell, was on the board of HSLDA, so they had a close connection with the students, staff and with the founder, Michael Farris.) PHC does not accept any government aid, so it remains free of government meddling.

The thing that struck me about this article was that even Christian parents have been convinced that their children must go to college in order to succeed in life; accordingly, the church is worshiping at the altar of the false god of education. I have noticed that commonly advertisement images for Christian colleges feature a "handsome" young lady, (maybe in shorts, tight pants and-or a low-cut top) as if to say to young men, "Look at what you might find here, a mate for life." (More than a few young ladies have gone and are going to college to get their "Mrs" degree. Are they exalting knowledge over character as may be found in determined, self-controlled Christian young men in the Christian community? "But there are no godly young men around looking my way." Scattered as salt throughout the world, internet match making may be the way to go, but under very careful and godly supervision of a pastor or parent. It worked well for Bettie and me 22.5 years ago. She had me checked out by her son. Any internet interest should require references from a pastor.

HEAVY BURDEN

While Christian schools often give generous scholarships, a minority of graduates leave with extremely high levels of debt. For them, that debt makes it difficult to pursue vocations like marriage, parenthood, and full-time ministry. Administrators rightly note that students and their parents freely choose to take on such debt. Still, the high cost of Christian education underscores a deeper problem that could threaten the future of the colleges themselves: Christian parents, facing their own financial uncertainty, are steering their children to less expensive schools, or away from college altogether. ...

Americans have more debt for college than for credit cards or cars.

The loans can even follow the borrower into retirement. Between 2001 and 2015 the government garnished 1.1 billion from Social Security payments to cover defaulted student loans... (A 17-year-old signing his or her life away for how many years to get, what many times, is a useless degree!)

David and Emily Ramstad graduated from California Baptist University with joint student loans that totaled just over \$100,000. Their debt did not stop them from starting a family. They married as students, and Emily gave birth to their first child during their senior year. But the debt seemed like an insurmountable obstacle to their dream of becoming missionaries. Sending agencies often will not partner with missionaries who owe more than \$20,000.... The Ramstads eventually turned to AIRO, a nonprofit that pays student loans for overseas missionaries. They began serving in Papua New Guinea in 2015.

AIRO currently works with 118 missionaries and has assumed responsibility for over 6 million in debt. It only accepts candidates with \$100,000 or less in student loans per family unit. Founder Luke Womack still gets calls from graduates with more debt than that. "People will come to us with more, and say, 'Hey, we have 150. What do we do?' We say, 'Well, if you can get your church to pay it down to 100, then will be responsible for the other 100 while you go overseas,'" Womack told me. ...

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How many missionary organizations require a college degree to serve the Lord? We can certainly understand training in a needed language.

This writer finds it difficult to get his mind around the mentality that one must, in Tennessee Ernie Ford's words "owe my soul to the company store" in order to go to the mission field — a clear violation of the command-word of God, Romans 13:8. Trying to serve God while in bondage to a massive debt! As we pointed out in the August Examiner, trying to serve God while serving the god of mammon is an anti-Christian dream financed by debt.

The article had a picture of a demonstrator outside of the Supreme Court following the ruling overturning



Biden's student loan forgiveness policy.

I certainly sympathize with the borrowers, but why should the "taxpayer" be responsible for poor, even foolish choices, particularly when they

took a simple course to get "a degree." Maybe in gambling!

Does it not speak to our time when debt is seen as a way to get ahead? I find it amazing how willing Christian parents and young people are to take on debt so they can serve the Lord, but that service is only in their imagination. "Owe no man anything, unless you want to serve God." Truly, the *god of this world hath blinded the minds* of those who want to justify doing what they want to do in the name of serving God.

My dad continually told me, "Jr, stay out of debt."

The Christian religion has been reduced to a religious preference and opinions with no regard for the command-word of the Lord: "That which works for me."

Ecclesiastes 12:13 *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this [is] the whole [duty] of man. [Let ... : or, The end of the matter, even all that hath been heard, is]* **14** *For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether [it be] good, or whether [it be] evil.*

Final Word

The whole duty of the Christian man is summed up by Solomon in these few words: *fear God and keep his commandments*. Jesus Christ said *my yoke is easy, and my burden is light*, Matthew 11:29, 30. St. John tells us that the converted man will NOT find *his commandments grievous*, 1 John 5:3.

The above article about presumptuously going into great debt to serve the Lord brings us to this reprint from the Chalcedon Report, No. 306, January 1991.



FAITH, PRESUMPTION AND DEBT

By Ovid E. Need, Jr.

We received a letter from a missionary we support. The letter said, “The 12,000 diaries we sent out were warmly received. We presently have plans to do the same again next year, but I will need a better printing machine. The one used does not have adequate registration for such a detailed job. We have, therefore, decided to make this our mission project for the year. A reasonable used one will cost about \$3,000. I will have to buy one by *faith* as it will be needed within the next few months. If God should lead you to help in this project, it would be greatly appreciated.”

This is quite an amazing statement. We are going to take something for granted without checking with this missionary. That is his word “*faith*.” No doubt he means “by credit,” and then *depend on God to pay the bill*.

This attitude is very prevalent among those who profess to be Bible-believing Christians. We have even heard of pastors and teachers saying that credit is God’s way to build His work in our day.

Is this true? Has God given a new revelation for our day and new methods to do His work?

There are quite a large number of principles from God’s inspired word which deal with this very thing. Probably the best known and most often used verse would be Proverbs 22:7: “The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.” This principle is carried over into the New Testament as Paul says in Romans 13:8: “Owe no man anything, but to love one another” and he then proceeds to define love as fulfilling the commandments of God in interpersonal relationships.

The evil of becoming a servant to a lender is evident in several New Testament passages. In Romans 15:16, Paul glorifies in his calling as a minister or servant of Christ. Debt, on the other hand, places us in financial bondage to man, and as Christ pointed out in Matthew 6:24 and Luke 16:13, we cannot serve both. Furthermore, our Lord says in Matthew 16:24, “If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me” (*Cf. Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23*).

Here we see that the follower (servant) of Christ is called on to deny his own desires and wishes and submit all to God’s will, God’s word. The choice is clear. Serve God or be servant to a lender. Bondage to a lender requires that decisions be made with the responsibility to the lender foremost in our mind.

The justification used is often “We borrow to meet

a need which God has allowed to arise. We will borrow and then have faith for God to send the funds to repay.” Jimmy Swaggart, as he came back in defiance of the church body which defrocked him, said, “For every dollar we get, we spend a dollar and a dime and we spend it before we get it because the world needs to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ” (*Crawfords Courier-Journal, May 23, 1988*). He was saying, in effect, that the gospel is important enough to disobey God in another area. This is common among “Bible-believers.”

Let’s address this in the light of the basic principle to “owe no man anything” (“Let no debt remain outstanding” [NIV]) and “the borrower is servant to the lender.” The principle is simply to avoid debt. We see clearly from the Scriptures that debt is not God’s way of doing business.

It would be safe to say that at no time in Scripture did the Lord tell His people to go borrow in order to meet a need. You will find that when a need arose, the Lord supplied the cash to meet that need. Matthew 17:24-27 does *not* read, for example: “Peter said, ‘Lord, the tax collector wants his money.’ And Jesus replied, ‘Okay Peter, go to the money lenders and borrow enough to pay it and then we will pray in the funds to repay the principle and usury.’”

The attitude of “borrow, then depend on God to repay” strongly suggests *presumption*. We come across presumption in Matthew 4:6 where the devil tempts Christ by misquoting Psalm 91:11-12: “For he shall give his angels charge over thee. . . . They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.” The Psalm, which also includes the phrase “to keep thee in all thy ways,” says that as we allow God’s word to direct our every step, His angels will have charge over us and bear us up. But the devil’s offer is to make man the willful agent of action while presuming on God’s protection. Our Lord said that to act in such a manner was to “tempt God.”

The idea of presumption is found also in Deuteronomy 1:43: “So I spoke unto you; and ye would not hear, but rebelled against the commandment of the Lord, and went presumptuously up into the hill” and in Deuteronomy 17:12-13: “and the man that will do presumptuously, and will not hearken unto the priest that stand to minister there before the Lord thy God, or unto the judge, even that man shall die: and thou shalt put away the evil from Israel, and all the people shall hear and fear, and do no more presumptuously.” Again the idea

surfaces in Jeremiah 43:2: “Then spake Azariah the son of Hoshaiah, and Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the proud men saying unto Jeremiah, Thou speakest falsely: the Lord our God hath not sent thee to say, go not into Egypt so sojourn there.”

Presumption is to act proudly, in rebellion. Proverbs 11:2 notes, “When pride cometh then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.” Here we see pride contrasted with humility and wisdom. Pride is an exaggerated view of self-importance and this would lead to defiance and rebellion against God’s word.

There are three things included here. First, because a person is proud, he presumes too much in his favor, especially in the sense of authority. (*Deut. 18:20,22 — the prophet speaking in the Lord’s name yet is not from the Lord.*)

Second, because a person is proud, he asserts his own will to the point of rebellion against the one in authority over him. (*Deut. 1:43 — the people going to battle when the Lord told them not to.*)

Third, rebellion involves a willful decision to go against God’s word. (*Deut. 17:12-13 — The person refusing to follow the instructions of a godly priest or judge.*)

Presumption. It is very prevalent today. We get lifted up with pride. We get an inflated view of self-importance. Then we move on in defiance of God’s word, acting contrary to His word because we feel we are important — more important even than the word of God as we act contrary to its principles.

God tells us that if we will act according to His word, we will prosper. Philippians 4:13 says, “I can do all things through Christ that strengthens me,” and the 19th verse adds: “But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” Yet it is sinful presumption to claim these verses without considering the example of Paul in Philippians 4:11-13: being content with what God has provided us and where He has placed us in life. If He wants us to have more, He will provide more. This is true in every area of life.

God has established His principles for us to live by. He told us how to do His work. To live contrary and expect blessing is presumption.

We meet people quite regularly who say, “God will take care of it.” Yet they do not attend church; they do not study the Scriptures or spend time with the Lord to

find out how His word tells us to handle it. They ignore His principles of finance, yet expect Him to take care of their finances. This is presumption.

He has established His principles for us to live by. He told us how to do His work. To live contrary to His laws and expect His blessing anyway is to act in presumption.

I return now to the missionary letter cited at the beginning of this essay and the common attitude it seems to represent: “Borrow ‘in faith’ and depend on God to make the payments.” It should say, “I will have to buy it by presumption. I will presume that God will take care of it even though I am violating His word.”

Now, there may be times when debt must be entered into, but it is not God’s way. It is the world’s way. God’s way is to supply the need. If there is a need for a new press, God will first supply either the press or the funds. Borrowing and debt, without the known wherewithal to repay, are a sign of God’s curse against those who are living contrary to His law-word (*Deut. 51:3-6; 28:12,44,45*). If debt is equal to faith, it stands to reason that the greater the debt, the greater the faith. In the missionary’s case cited above, why buy a \$3,000 used press? Does the missionary have only \$3,000 worth of faith? Debt is debt. Faith is faith. Won’t God supply something greater? Sadly, there are Christians and Christian leaders who even make such gross presumptions.

Presumption comes from pride which says that we are important enough for God to permit us to violate His word. Violating the principles of His law and still expecting Him to supply all our needs according to the riches of His glory is presumption on a grand scale. Most of us live very presumptuous lives. •

My “Heart Attack” in 2000 and several similar heart events since, along with all the medication, has dramatically reduced my ability to concentrate. But the Lord in his mercy has left me able to continue to think and write for his glory.

9/25/23 added note. After more than 276,000 copies on my printer and though it is in fine shape mechanically, its “brain” gave up, requiring a replacement printer. Knowing Jeff Pollard of Chapel Library in Pensacola FL for some years, and knowing that they switched from offset to digital, I asked him about his color printer. The printer the LORD supplied for them is the best in the digital printing world, and certainly is not inexpensive. (God is not cheap.) For many years,

Chapel Library has provided very orthodox, reformed material from the past — and a few present — authors for world-wide distribution, and the material is freely sent upon request. (Most are old dead white Presbyterians!) They do not even charge for the postage on the material. **The point here** is that the Lord has more than abundantly supplied all their needs through faith, prayer and the diligent duty of faithfulness with never a request for money. Do you need or can you use excellent theological reading material for your personal or church use? Chapel Library. Chapel@mountzion.org • www.chapellibrary.org. I visited Mount Zion church some years ago while my wife went to England with her daughter. I was amazed at how small of a congregation the Lord is using there for His glory. They certainly are not operating by *might nor power*; but by His hand of God's abundant blessing on those who are publishing his word.

Psalms 68:11 *The Lord gave the word: great [was] the company of those that published [it].* [company: Heb. army]

There is no greater joy than to be able to publish the word the Lord as he gave it to man.

APOSTASY AND REVIVAL

By Dr. H. Rondel Rumburg

“The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing ... they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God.” Isaiah 35:1-2

Isaiah reminds us of a glorious day in which the curse is reversed by the gospel of Christ having been blessed by the Holy Spirit to the souls of men. The spiritual desert is so prominent at this moment in time in this country. We live in a spiritual wilderness and long to see the desert “rejoice, and blossom as the rose.” No! it is no ordinary blossoming for it will be in abundance “with joy and singing.” The end is the observance of “the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God.” The heart of the saint is blessed to see the Lord glorified and our God's excellencies manifested by praise. Revival is needed for apostasy is present, men are lost, and the morals are dark!

On one occasion when C. H. Spurgeon had been speaking to preachers about bad times he said, “Let me read you a cheering passage from Witherspoon....” The following may be found in the Sprinkle Edition of

The Works of the Rev. John Witherspoon, Volume Five, which this writer was privileged to edit. Spurgeon read: “Nothing is impossible to the power of God. I add that the most remarkable times of the revival of religion in this part of the United Kingdom, immediately succeeded times of the greatest apostasy, when ‘truth’ seemed to be ‘fallen in the street, and equity could not enter’ (Isa. 59:14). This was the case immediately before the year 1638. Corruption in doctrine, looseness in practice and slavish submission in politics had overspread the Church of Scotland; and yet, in a little time, she appeared in greater purity and in greater dignity than ever she had done before or perhaps than ever she has done since that period. Let no Christian, therefore, give way to desponding thoughts. We plead from its ruins; and its oppressed state at present should not only excite us to pray, but encourage us to hope for its speedy revival.”

It will be grand to see the desert bloom as a rose. Yes, we can “plead from its ruins” and be encouraged “to hope for speedy revival.” Thomas Scott wrote very optimistically: “While blossoms of heavenly fragrantcy are produced in this our land, once a barren desert, may our souls blossom and bring forth fruit abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing! May the peculiar excellency and glory of believers in every age be communicated to us, by the transforming knowledge of the glory and excellency of our God and Saviour!”

A change is coming so let us rejoice. “Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord” (2 Cor. 3:17-18).

“Let the enemies of God and his church have terror for their portion, but let his servants rejoice; for the Lord will shortly come to execute vengeance on the one, and to complete the other's salvation.” Thomas Scott

Let us cry out, “Lord, will you revive us again that your people may rejoice in You?”

THE GOSPEL IN CHICAGO

Report From Tabernaculo Bautista Metropolitano, Melrose Park, Illinois

By Pastor Hector Crespo 1639 N, Monti cello Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60647

Although we are a small church in Melrose Park, a suburb of Chicago, by the grace of God and in obedience to the Great Commission, we have been faithfully

passing out literature and Bibles for years at a rate of 10,000 gospel tracts and about 100 Spanish Bibles in 4 months.

We are able to meet people from different Spanish-speaking countries, especially Mexico, Guatemala and Ecuador, and they gladly accept our Bibles. They receive the Bible with a big smile and a thankful attitude. The majority of those we reach are young people between the ages of 15 and 30.

Most of our work is done at the Swap-o-Rama flea market in Melrose Park. We are on good terms with the security department in that location. At the beginning we found some opposition, and some people were very rude with us, but we kept on going.

Due to our ministry, the vendors and other people there know who we are and many tell us about their families, and we pray for their needs. Pray for those members who are going week after week to evangelize.

[Church location: 1804 N. 17th Avenue, Melrose Park, Illinois 60160]

We met him in Chicago on his home “turf.” He is a very bold man for the Lord both in personal and public evangelism. He certainly lives an exciting life in Chicago as he BOLDLY ministers in the Spanish community. Some of the accounts he gave us as he worked the Spanish were quite exciting. When we were invited to go to Peru, he went along as our translator.

WHAT'S THE POINT OF DRESSING UP?

By Jeffrey Tucker

Events in the U.S. Senate have raised fundamental questions we otherwise have long taken for granted. The question is: why do we wear what we wear and what should or should not inform that decision?

The old dress code has been removed—for Senators but not for anyone else—making way for Pennsylvania Senator John Fetterman to wear a hoodie, shorts, and sneakers on the Senate floor. He probably thinks that this habit of his puts him more in touch with the workers he claims to represent.

Because anyone can now wear anything, other strange attires are likely to follow. The decision could very well open up the floodgates to slovenliness all around. The Senate will look just like the rest of America these days.

What a striking symbol of decay, decline, and official decadence. Now they don't even have to dress the part.

Ironically, the new permission follows some two years in which the Senators were absolutely forced to

wear a mask on their faces whether they wanted to or not. So we quickly went from a preposterous clothing rule, strictly enforced, with no historical precedent or scientific basis, to repealing a code of dress with long and deep historical roots, one that reflected the dignity associated with the office and institution.

Perhaps with the dignity of the institution in precipitous decline, the sense is that it no longer matters what people wear. They can rob the people and misrule the country in any garb they want. So perhaps you could say that this brings a bit of aesthetic honesty to the affairs of government. They can look like the muggers they are.

Still, this does not bode well for the future of the country. I'm sincerely hoping that many Senators will keep up the old codes regardless. Perhaps the Republicans can consider adopting their own dress codes. Regardless, as bad as politics are in this country, it can only get worse with clothing that shows contempt for U.S. tradition and institutions.

The objection might be that the old dress codes infringe on the freedom of individual expression and that what one wears is far less important than what one does, as if there is really no relationship between looking one's best and doing one's best.

This is absolutely not true. Dress does influence behavior in huge ways. People tend to act the part they play. Just today, for example, I was at the Mark Twain House in Hartford, and a reenactor was inhabiting the role of Rev. Joseph Twichell, a congregationalist minister who was (Samuel) Clemens's friend for 40 years. The nice man was dressed perfectly according to the period and behaved as such.

I was dressed as I always am when out and about. He treated me as a visiting dignitary which I was not but I admit that I enjoyed it. The banter was high-level, erudite, and edifying. After the tour, I saw him again but this time without the garb. He was in street clothes and sneakers. The magic of our relationship evaporated in an instant. It's not that I was judging him; it's that the whole basis of our previous relationship just collapsed, on his part and mine.

What changed? Nothing other than clothing.

Let's ask the fundamental question: why should we dress up? Contrary to prevailing opinion, it is not to attract attention to oneself, show off one's wardrobe, show off wealth, or preen and peacock in front of oth-

ers. Many people are deeply confused on this point.

For years, I've known young entrepreneurs, under the influence of Mark Zuckerberg and others, who say that they have every right to dress down since they are not there to show off their own personal looks. They should be judged by their deeds, not their clothes.

Of course you could say the same about any codes that govern life. Why not dispense with table manners and just grab food with your hands and wipe them off on your clothing? Why not blow your nose into your shirt? One can think of a million awful habits, any of which you are welcome to practice in private.

But come to a dinner party and do these things, and what happens? Everyone around you will be mortified. You will never be invited back. They will judge you harshly no matter what. And why? It's only because of how you behave. It's also because how you behave reflects your own attitude toward others.

And that is the critical thing. We aspire to have good manners not for ourselves, and not to show off to others, but rather out of deference to other people, the hosts, and the occasion that brings people together. Behaving well and following protocols, even when you might not entirely agree with them and even when they strain rational credulity, is a way of putting aside personal interests in favor of respect shown for others.

This is the critical point, and it applies whether it involves talking with your mouth full of food or wearing a hoodie on the Senate floor. It is quite simply rude to others. It shows that you are a selfish slob who cares not for things outside your own self-interest narrowly conceived.

Dressing terribly shows that you have a low regard for others in the relevant space. It doesn't matter where you are. In public spaces there are people who work there daily, entrepreneurs who fund its existence, other customers, and owners who have great pride in the place. When you show up there dressed up, you are honoring their own position and status.

I completely get why people travel in sweat clothes and sneakers. I get that everyone wants to be as comfortable as possible in the hell of today's airports and train stations. The more miserable the experience, the more people dress the part. But here is a secret. If you resist this impulse and instead dress up in your nicest clothing, the staff will ALWAYS treat you better. And why? Because your dressing up they take to be a show

of honor toward them. That's why the flight attendant gives you a better seat, a sneaky free drink, or is quick to help you get to your connecting flight.

You never know when you are going to need the help of others. You should always dress up to honor them just in case.

Here is where we get to the central point. The reason for dressing up is to honor others, pay homage to the formality of the occasion, show respect for the venue in question, or defer to the dignity of the institution. It also conveys the signal to others: I'm a good citizen of this occasion and deeply appreciate being included.

The quick history of clothing is that it was once very much tied to social status: the Roman Empire, Louis XIV's France, and even Colonial America. There were laws that prevented the lower classes and merchants from dressing like the aristocracy. Dressing well was an economic and political privilege.

The sumptuary laws of New England in the Colonial period imposed harsh penalties for peasants who wore buckles on their shoes, for example, since that suggested social aspiration in the midst of a deeply hierarchical society.

But with modernity and the rise of mass prosperity, these laws went away. Capitalism made it possible for everyone to dress like anyone and the difference between the garb of the rich and the poor began to fade. This is one of the greatest achievements of the capitalist marketplace, and everyone too, gained advantage of it.

Look at pictures of New York City in the 1930s, even in the midst of the Great Depression, and you see absolutely every man dressing higher than even bankers and CEOs today. To dress up was a luxury for everyone. No one with means would ever pass up the chance to do so. Why would anyone decline the opportunity to be as awesome as possible and hence honor others in the best feasible way?

We are long past such times, but now we see the logic flipping on itself. Now the powerful and rich are dedicated to degrading all standards of decency, decorum, and aesthetic beauty. They are daring us to look askance at this deconstructed foppery and demand to know from us what is wrong with it.

Here is what we should say. **Your dress is an insult to yourself, others, your office, the occasion, and the institution of which you are part.** You do not deserve respect. You deserve nothing but scorn. In general, we

all need to get better at that, else we are going to see standards slip further and further, until the whole of our world and everyone in it appears ghastly and no one aspires to anything beautiful or dignified anymore.

Every aspect of our lives has a uniform. That is not injurious to your freedom. It is an opportunity for you to perform at your best. The people who are determined to perform at their worst are the most likely to object.

In a world without standards, a society that is decaying in its ethics and moral stability, one thing we can all do is fight back in ways we can actually control. What we wear is one way.

Don't give in to the rabble, the nihilistics, the Jokers among us, who say that decorum and decency are an artifice. We should all dress like the world in which we desire to inhabit. Even the eight strings that played as the Titanic sank into the ocean still wore black tie and evening jackets.

newsletter@epochtimes.com

Comment: The standard for the Old Testament priest's attire was for beauty and glory which prefigured the wondrous beauties of Christ through whom we have access to the Father. The standard for Levi's sons was also to be dignified, Exodus 39:27-30. Their attire spoke of holiness to the Lord, who is Holy.

Revelation 1:5 *And from Jesus Christ, [who is] the faithful witness, [and] the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, 6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him [be] glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*

Some implications:

1. Slovenliness, what a striking symbol of decay, decline, and official decadence. Now we do not even need to **play the part** of being a Christian in church nor in Walmart with our attire.

2. As bad as Christianity is, it can only get worse as one's clothing shows more and more contempt for the holiness and beauty of our Lord. We are created in the image of God. Does our slovenliness reflect that image?

3. We are only fooling ourselves if we do not think dress does not influence behavior in huge ways. We act differently and people treat us differently. (I read a book years ago, "Dress for Success." It was worth the read.) Do we or should we dress like as a visiting dignitary or ambassador of the King of Glory?

4. Does our dress show our high or low regard for Lord and for others? How do we dress when meeting a prospective employer or customer we want to impress? Why would we dress less as we represent the Lord in our daily activities? Is our dress always appropriate?

5) God sees the heart, but men see the heart reflected in our dress. Sloppy dress means a sloppy heart, for out of the heart are the issues of life.

6) Look at the pictures of the early 20th century when Christianity was the religion that founded and held this nation together. (Only a common Christian religion can unite a nation and nations.)

Slovenliness: Look at the general population, Walmart and elsewhere, and especially in the church that, of all places, should represent the Kingdom of God on earth. All around us we are confronted with decline and decay which is the symbol of our distressed time. (The goal of our pastor's teenage son is to be the best dressed young man in the church. He greets everyone at the door, and thus sets the tone for appropriate dress in the Lord's house.)

SCIENCE FALSELY SO CALLED

1 Timothy 6:20.

False science is being used to accomplish wicked ends.

• **SCIENCE SHOCK:** Almost all medical studies are "bogus" ... reproducibility approaches ZERO

(Natural News) If you've ever wanted to read large collections of fake news, look no further than medical science journals such as The Lancet or the British Medical Journal. Almost everything they publish is "bogus," explains science writer Richard Harris, who writes for NPR, and the result is billions of dollars in fraud, waste and unnecessary expenditures on Big Pharma drugs that simply don't work. ...

<http://www.naturalnews.com/2017-05-08-science-shock-almost-all-medical-studies-are-bogus-reproducibility-approaches-zero.html>

• **Fraud and deceit** in medical research have become very common.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3702092/>

• **It can be proven** that most claimed research findings are false

<https://journals.plos.org/plosmedicine/article?id=10.1371/journal.pmed.0020124>

• **Why Most Published Research Findings Are False**

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1182327/>

• **Fake scientific papers** are alarmingly common

But new tools show promise in tackling growing symptom of academia's "publish or perish" culture.

<https://www.science.org/content/article/fake-scientific-papers-are-alarmingly-common>

• **Is Most Published Research Really False?**

<https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/10.1146/annurev-statistics-060116-054104>

• **Research misconduct.** Texas scientist admits falsifying results

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/11183367/>

• **Top criminology prof who 'proved' systemic racism in U.S. fired for faking data 'Damage approaches the catastrophic'**

A criminology professor who "proved" racism in America and whose work was cited thousands of times now has been fired – for fakery....

According to Google Scholar, Stewart and his work were cited over 8,500 times by other researchers, the report explained. But, it said, "The WEB DuBois fellow at the National Institute of Justice is out of a job on account of 'extreme negligence and incompetence.'" ...

Clark explained, "The details of problematic data management, false results, and the numerous publication retractions have negatively affected the discipline on a national level."...

https://www.wnd.com/2023/09/top-criminology-prof-proved-systemic-racism-u-s-fired-faking-data/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=wnd-breaking&utm_campaign=breaking&utm_content=breaking&ats_es=76c88699640bf17c199c18ba90162de3&ats_ess=62275c4f6eb5e1c6872faec264ac18ae89396dd486d6b98af038d9fef2e3c00d

Though Stewart's works have been retracted, his false data will continue to be used to war against and blame all our ills on "White Americans." and no one will be told the truth. The article lists the many things he has "claimed" against "white Americans." His damage cannot be undone; he will continue to be quoted in the war against "White America" by those who find that it fits their agenda in destroying America as it was founded.

We live in an imaginary world of magic under the name of science. **It seems that modern science is imaginary science,** a trip into the land of make-believe.



If I imagine or dream it and speak the right words, it will be true.

And the list goes on and on. Honest data is withheld, or fake data is inserted in order to scientifically prove or disprove an imaginary point, as exemplified by the Covid situation.

In other words, anything can be proved or disproved through *science falsely so called* by

adding or withhold data. And the public pays the price. (The same thing is true of apostate religious leaders who wrest the Word according to their vain imaginations.)

Added comment:

Peace does not come in capsules! This is regrettable because medical science recognizes that emotions such as fear, sorrow, envy, resentment and hatred are responsible for the majority of our sicknesses. Estimates vary from 60 percent to nearly 100 percent

Emotional stress can cause high blood pressure, toxic goiter, migraine headaches, arthritis, apoplexy, heart trouble, gastrointestinal ulcers, and other serious diseases too numerous to mention. As physicians we can prescribe medicine for the symptoms of these diseases, but we can not do much for the underlying cause—emotional turmoil. It is lamentable that peace does not come in capsules.

"None of these Diseases", Dr S.I. McMillen MD, 1979.

YOU WILL OBEY

By Joshua Philipp

In recent years, people have been conditioned to accept totalitarian policies that they have never complied with in the past.

This social conditioning, according to officials in the United Kingdom, will make it easier to force the public to comply during the next pandemic.

Professor David Halpern, CEO of the UK's Behavioral Insights Team, also known as the "Nudge Unit," told The Telegraph that the public is now more likely to comply with a future lockdown because they "know what the drill is."

When it comes to policies such as social distancing, mandates on protective masks, and others, Halpern said

people have become so used to it that some even feel odd without them.

“Put it this way,” he said. “You would feel like, ‘Oh my God, I haven’t got my mask.’ You feel naked, right?”

He also suggested that people have been conditioned similarly to Pavlov’s Dogs. In the famous Soviet experiment, researchers conditioned a dog to salivate at the sound of a bell.

Under the COVID lockdowns, people were similarly conditioned. Halpern suggested that posters now work as these triggers.

“When you go into a shop or somewhere else, it reminds you, it cues, it acts as a trigger for the behavior,” he said.

In all this, the public was subject to a massive information campaign. And while it may be true that people learned to comply, some were so conditioned that they still wear their masks.

This phenomenon isn’t limited to the UK but is a global one. It ties to the idea of a “shared response.” When it comes to fighting the virus, to saving lives, we’re all in this together. And as you may suspect, this ties back to the World Health Organization. As we speak, the WHO even has U.S. backing under a pending Pandemic Treaty that would give powers to the agency over future pandemics.

The WHO declared the official end to the COVID-19 pandemic in May. But that same month, they set the stage for the next one, the next path to keep those COVID powers in place. They say we all need to prepare, not for COVID, but for a disease that’s even deadlier.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a meeting of the World Health Assembly in Geneva that the world has come out of a “long, dark tunnel” of COVID, and that we can all carry on with our lives as we used to. However, it’s not over yet; the next pandemic could be right around the corner.

A new variant could cause “new surges of disease and death,” he said. “The threat of another pathogen emerging with even deadlier potential remains.”

So what is the variant? What is the new pathogen? Well, he actually doesn’t know. It doesn’t exist. But what’s important is that it might exist—at least one day.

“When the next pandemic comes knocking—and it will—we must be ready to answer decisively, collectively, and equitably,” according to Tedros.

What’s important, it appears, is that in the meantime, those COVID power structures are kept in place. As Tedros stated, “We cannot simply carry on as we did before.” And the top priority he said, is to remember the lesson “that we can only face shared threats with a shared response.”

In other words, we need a global body to manage a “shared response” to that next and deadly pandemic. Hey, maybe a global body such as the WHO? And maybe powers for a shared response, such as a global “Pandemic Treaty.”

Now, that may all sound concerning. But really, how often do pandemics happen? For most people, it’s a once-in-a-lifetime crisis. Maybe not even that. And even outbreaks in the past didn’t see the type of global lockdowns and mandates that COVID-19 ushered in. So, we could assume they won’t declare another pandemic, right? Well, apparently not. It appears now that just about any virus or disease is a “public health crisis,” and that just about any outbreak can be deemed a “pandemic.”

It actually goes beyond pandemics now. There are new and greater threats. Maybe even three times as serious as a pandemic. Take, for instance, the new one: the “tripledeemic!”

As The New York Times reported, the new health crisis is already upon us. And luckily, we already have a response to it, a way to stop it in its tracks. And that is: a new vaccine.

It states, “To prevent a repeat of last winter’s “tripledeemic” of respiratory illnesses, Americans will be encouraged to roll up their sleeves not just for flu shots but for two other vaccines, one of them entirely new.” It notes that U.S. health officials are now encouraging three shots: the flu shot, the COVID shot, and the RSV shot.

Part of what we’re seeing is a new definition of viruses and diseases, in general. It’s no longer just the seasonal flu—now it’s the next pandemic, the next “global health crisis.” And with all of these—seemingly any outbreak, no matter how small—the new systems that got a taste of power and authority kick into gear to satiate their hunger, with a desire to get those emergency powers back again.

Unfortunately, the concepts of “pandemics” and “global health emergencies” are taking on new meaning. They’re now loaded terms. They’re now tied in

with the medical-industrial complex, and with many government powers that come packaged alongside the designation, on a global scale.

It's like a communist dream package: the ability to censor people, change election policy, restrict movement, shut down select businesses, and so on. It's a legal avenue to alter the laws of nations, to social engineer the winners and losers, and to manufacture what emerges from the destruction.

Epoch Times, July 13, 2023

PERSONAL

I entered the ER in Knoxville IA, 9/20/23, with symptoms of a stroke. I told them I wanted to check out the ER here in Knoxville. They are good people. The symptoms were diagnosed as Bell's Palsy.

I am finally getting checked in with the main VA hospital in Des Moines. I hope they have as good a service as I received in Chillicothe OH. We will see. I certainly thank the Lord for the excellent medical care He has provided through the VA. (Scoliosis gives me many problems, and the VA here is willing to make our home as handicap friendly as I need and will permit.)

Dental and medical care here for my wife is not what it was in Ohio.

Though mechanically sound and with several new and expensive parts, my HP 4650DN with 275,000 copies on it gave up the ghost due to a power surge. It lost its brain when the motherboard was attacked. So, I must say a sad goodbye to a much used and beloved printer of the last 20 years. At this stage in my life, my primary ministry is writing, printing and publishing, and a good printer is a necessity. The Lord provides what is needed to fulfill the calling he lays on us.

We are trying to work on and upgrade our web site. At the present, it is not working properly, so I must take the time go in and do what I can to fix non-working links, but I wanted to get this issue out first.

There is so much happening so fast in our tyrannical world and apostate Christianity that I find it more and more difficult to decide what to include in each issue. We publish with Habakkuk 2:14 in mind: *The earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.* [with ... : or, by knowing the glory } **Habakkuk 2:14.**

We look forward to the promised day when the whole earth will know *the glory of the LORD*, and though we

may not see that day, it is a glorious promise from the Triune-God for the future generations.

Don't forget, e-mail cannot forward to a new address. So, keep us posted with any new e-mail information.

ME, TOO

A Texas rancher was visiting an Iowa farm. The Iowa farmer was proud of his 200 acres of rich, productive land.

"Is this your whole farm?" the Texan asked. "Why, back in Texas, I get in my car at 5:00 in the morning, and I drive and I drive all day. At dusk, I just reach the end of my ranch."

The Iowa farmer thought a while and replied, "I used to have a car like that, too."

VARIOUS

The demonic anti-Christ madness continues

With "Christian" encouragement and support??

- Red heifers brought to Israel last year to prepare for 3rd Temple

'Almost everything is ready'

Last month, the journalist tweeted about an experiment conducted by Bar Ilan University Prof. Zohar Amar who attempted to determine how many people could be ritually purified by one red heifer. ...

https://www.wnd.com/2023/08/red-heifers-brought-israel-last-year/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=wnd-brief&utm_campaign=dailypm&utm_content=brief&ats_es=76c88699640bf17c199c18ba90162de3&ats_ess=62275c4f6eb5e1c6872faec264ac18ae89396dd486d6b98af038d9fef2e3c00d

- **The Red Heifer: the Deepest Mystery of the Torah. (Numbers 19:2)**

<https://free.messianicbible.com/feature/the-red-heifer-the-deepest-mystery-of-the-torah/>

- **The Red Heifer and the Third Temple in End-Time Prophecy.**

<https://free.messianicbible.com/feature/the-red-heifer-and-the-third-temple-in-end-time-prophecy/>

Some time ago at the request of an Orthodox Baptist pastor, I did a study into Judaism and Christianity. Suffice it to say at this point, it is not only clear but extremely distressing that anti-Christ Judaism has infected the church. I have many essays posted on our website. Here is an introduction to the one that deals with *The Torah*.

- **The Torah**

Non-Jewish people are easily confused by two important words in the Jewish religion: Torah and Talmud. The main points that are discussed in **The Torah** chapter: First, what is the oral Torah. Second, Mystical Name of God. Third, Judaic Covenant vs. Christian Covenant. Fourth, Torah Scrolls, Dead Ritual Fetish. Fifth, Torah’s Contents. Sixth, Jesus and the Oral Torah. Seventh, Oral Torah Miracles and Jewish Tradition.

The word Torah is becoming increasingly more common in both Christian and non-Christian circles. Does that increase indicate a growing Judaic influence upon society, or simply a lack of knowledge? The facts behind the Jewish Torah are concealed, so when the word Torah is used, the perception is that it is the law as given to Moses on the Mount. However, the Jewish Torah contains far more than the written word given to Moses. https://www.biblicalexaminer.org/PDF/J_Torah.pdf

“It is absurd to speak of Jesus Christ with the tongue, and to cherish in the mind a Judaism which has now come to an end. For where there is Christianity there cannot be Judaism.” (Ignatius. To The Magnesians, The Ante-Nicene Fathers, Volume I, p. 63.) https://www.biblicalexaminer.org/PDF/J_Unholy%20Hands%20on%20the%20Holy%20Word.pdf

The Church has united with the Devil, and then we wonder why it has no power. No power means no courage nor energy to confront the Kingdom of Darkness, so we wait for the “rapture.”

• **EVs just could be the ‘biggest scam of modern times’**

Exclusive: Richard Blakley explains why every electric pickup truck owner needs a good trailer

My family and I were traveling when we were passed by a gasoline-powered truck pulling a sickeningly eco-green colored trailer with an EV truck on it (above). Why was this new super-duper environmentally friendly truck being towed by the environmentally “destroying” gasoline-powered vehicle? A little research revealed the answer. The driver was towing his super-duper truck because this is the tried-and-true way to get an electric vehicle from one location to another....

https://www.wnd.com/2023/09/evs-just-biggest-scam-modern-times/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=wnd-breaking&utm_campaign=breaking&utm_content=breaking&ats_es=76c88699640bf17c

• **Electric Car Bricks Up** in Middle of Busy Road, Becomes 9-Hour Headache

An electric vehicle abruptly stopped in the middle of a busy road near Salisbury, England, and remained immovable for most of the day, causing a nine-hour traffic bottleneck. ...

“Like any vehicle – they have to mine materials to make the car,” physicist Mark Mills told CBN News in November 2022. “You have to mine a lot more materials, metals, to make an electric vehicle than you do a conventional vehicle. By about 1,000 percent on average.”

He explained that miners must use heavy machines that burn diesel oil to dig up 500,000 pounds of earth to make a single, 1,000-pound EV battery....

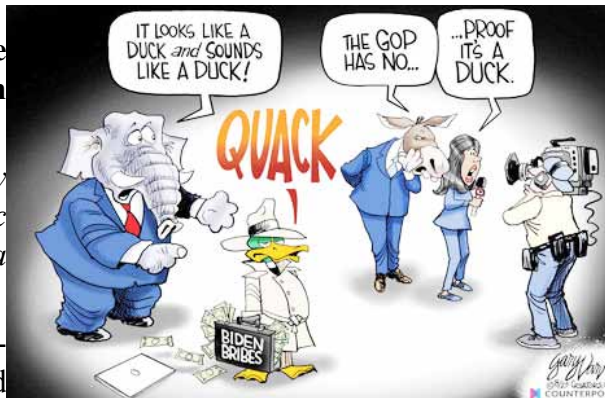
While left-wing activists claim EVs are better for the environment because they supposedly generate zero carbon emissions, their environmental impact is massive.

https://www.westernjournal.com/electric-car-bricks-middle-busy-road-becomes-9-hour-headache/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=conservative-brief-WJ&utm_campaign=dailypm&utm_content=western-journal

• **Watch: Man Buys \$115,000 Hummer Electric Truck - It Immediately Left Him Stranded in Middle of Road**

Biden believes that he can “executive order” the American people into defying their own wisdom (and the reality of science) about purchasing an automobile. He, and many others, are blind to reality. ...

https://www.westernjournal.com/watch-man-buys-115000-hummer-electric-truck-immediately-left-stranded-middle-road/?ff_source=Email&ff_medium=conservative-brief-WJ&ff_campaign=dailypm&ff_content=western-journal



GET THE FACTS

If you are confused by the many different sects, churches and denominations, study the whole Bible. If a church builds its theology on isolated verses and pet doctrines instead of on the Book as a whole, beware of it.

A man asked a friend this riddle: “There was a donkey tied to a rope only four feet long. Eight feet away

was a bale of hay which the donkey wanted because he was hungry. How did he get it?"

His friends said, "I've heard that one before. You want me to say, 'I give up.'" "Not at all," said the man. "It's really quite simple. You see the donkey just walked over to the hay and ate it." The friend, now confused, replied, "but you said the rope was only 4 feet long."

"Very true," was the reply, "but the rope wasn't tied to anything. You mustn't jump at conclusions before you have all the facts."

Only as you study the Bible in its context can you get all the facts and get the true message. Study for yourself!

• Good News

'Sound of Freedom' continues improbable success with No 1 spot in 18 Latin American countries

After shocking the film industry with its success in the U.S., "Sound of Freedom" has gone on to do the same internationally. ...

https://www.wnd.com/2023/09/sound-freedom-continues-improbable-success-no-1-spot-18-latin-american-countries/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=wnd-brief&utm_campaign=dailypm&utm_content=brief&ats_es=76c88699640bf17c199c18ba90162de3&ats_ess=62275c4f6eb5e1c6872faec264ac18ae89396dd486d6b98af038d9fef2e3c00d

If you have not, you should see it. It is really putting the pressure on those who profit from the child sex industry.

Please note that it now requires .90 to mail the Examiner.

• Worth Watching

"A Million miles away," Amazon prime. "Inspired by the real-life story of NASA flight engineer José Hernández, A Million Miles Away follows his path from farm worker to engineer and astronaut."

It reinforces the evidence of Divine Providence. A "chanced encounter" with a piece of paper at a copy machine opened his engineer position which, with great determination and support of his wife got him into the Astronaut program and into space. A very pleasant and encouraging movie.

• Good news

Students leaving Texas public schools in record numbers as more families opt for homeschooling

Post-pandemic trends mirror nationwide surge in homeschooling

And it's not just white families: homeschooling is also

surging in popularity among minorities, with roughly 41% of homeschool families identifying as non-white/non-Hispanic, according to figures from the National Home Education Research Institute. ...

The surge in homeschooling in Texas largely follows nationwide trends as homeschooling saw a 30% increase in 2021-22, even as public school enrollment fell by more than 1.2 million students within the first two years of the pandemic, according to a study released earlier this year.

https://www.christianpost.com/news/students-leaving-texas-public-schools-in-record-numbers.html?utm_source=wnd&utm_medium=wnd&utm_campaign=syndicated

• Schools Purging All Books from Before 2008 to Guarantee Inclusivity

https://www.westernjournal.com/schools-purging-books-2008-guarantee-inclusivity/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=conservative-brief-WJ&utm_campaign=dailypm&utm_content=western-journal

Watch for library sales, maybe \$1 per book. There will be many good books for sale by public libraries as they purge out non-Woke books that are usable by the Christian community. We have found many good books at such sales. In fact, in Hillsboro we were able to obtain maybe 7 large boxes of good books at no charge that two local "Christian" libraries discarded. We gave them to East River for the school they are starting.

• For Information only from

Franklyn Sanders. Market Commentary, 9/26/23

I am sometimes struck by the silliness and unreality of silver and gold pricing. I say "irreal" because gold price discovery doesn't come from physical demand and supply at all, but by trading in the paper futures market, the manipulated tail that wags the precious metals dogs. My hat is begrudgingly off to the Elite and their central banks, which have managed to suppress both gold and silver, lo, these past 43 years, naw, make that since 1934. What a coup. If silver and gold were keeping pace with historical values, gold would be priced in the thousands and silver in the hundreds. But we merely have to wait, because sooner or later every price suppression scheme explodes, driving the escaped price into the stratosphere. Reality always comes a-knocking to collect her debts.

(Prices are being controlled by trading imaginary gold, called "paper gold.")

TEST OCTOBER 4TH. On 4 October at 2:20 p.m. FEMA and the FCC are planning a nationwide emergency alert test according to their press release. A

message will be sent to “all consumers cell phones.” as well as all radios and televisions. Numerous people claim, “An emergency broadcast system on October 4 will send a signal to cell phones nationwide to activate nanoparticles such as graphene oxide that have been introduced into people’s bodies” through vaccination. In an article here the Associated Press purports to debunk this as “conspiracy theory.”

Me, I don’t know, and I hate to be an alarmist, but videos by Dr. Lee Merritt here and Jason Shurka here make this “conspiracy” claim. Since I haven’t been vaccinated since I was six years old, it doesn’t really concern me. Still, I reckon I’ll turn off my computer and cellphone about 2:00 on the 4th and give it an hour or so.

In today’s world you don’t know what to believe. This outlandish story seems plausible, given that Steve Kirsch reports that VAERS data shows that 676,000 Americans (1 dead per 1,000 doses) have already perished as a result of Covid vaccination reactions, despite all the government and mainstream media assurances the vaccine was totally safe. Why should anybody trust them after that?

VAERS data:

https://kirschsubstack.com/p/vaers-data-is-crystal-clear-the-covid?utm_source=post-email-title&publication_id=548354&post_id=135774103&isFreemail=false

Dr Lee Merritt:

<https://www.brighteon.com/327c6291-6fa8-4dcd-91ac-00354d8bd8d5>

Emergency Broadcast System Warning

<https://www.jasonshurka.com/ebs>

EXCITING NEWS FOR HOMESCHOOLERS

The older I get, the more importance I see for Christian education needed to establish the Christian foundation required of a godly government--hence, these Examiner articles on education. (I find it interesting that those who rail against “Christian Reconstruction” are homeschooling their children which is the very basic foundation needed for “Christian Reconstruction.” We will either have “Christian Reconstruction,” or we will have a continuation of pagan deconstruction. Someone will predestine the future, and it will either be for the Kingdom of God or for the One of my night school very dispensational college professors called Romans 1 the path to devolution. He taught doctrines, the book of Romans, yet was he was a committed antinomian dispensationalist.)

Exodus 19:18 *And Mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly.*

The giving of the *law of the LORD* caused such a great shaking that even caused Moses to tremble, **Hebrews 12:20-29**.

We are seeing the same *law of the LORD* that shook Mount *Sinai*, now shaking the very foundation of humanism, *i.e.*, education, **Hebrews 12:27**. Despite our terrible day of wicked chaos from the top to the bottom of society, we are living in an exciting and wonderful time as we see the shaking of all things that can be shaken – the *law of the LORD* is at work with its consuming fire against the wicked. We are seeing the wicked being snared in the snares they set for the righteous. (The new church was founded under Emperor Nero, a man given over to total debauchery. See my essay on Romans 13.)

Hebrews 12:27. **To shake**, *i.e.* to render insecure. (Ab-bott-Smith’s ... Lexicon of the NT) **2)** To shake down, overthrow **2a)** to cast down from one’s (secure and happy) state. (Thayer’s Greek Lexicon)

We are seeing God’s sentence of righteous judgment being exercised upon the humanist education system; He is shaking that foundation to its long over-due and well-deserved destruction. Dark humanist education must fail, and Christian education will fill the gap:

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

Only in the light of the gospel can true education be accomplished.

Personal comment: I do not know any ancient languages, but I love word studies which are readily available; there is no excuse for ignorance. Consider how advanced your Christian educated children are over the best the world might offer.

Parenthesis to make a point: One of our 8-year-old granddaughters is reading the KJV through for the third time, and she questions her mother on what she reads and the meaning of words, yet mature adults say they cannot understand the KJ English. I had her mother memorize the Catechism to earn a new bicycle. **My point!** It is a sign of the English-speaking world rotting at the core when people cannot read the exalted English of 150 years ago because they do not know the words, or are unwilling to learn them. It now takes 2 or 3 words to say the same thing it took 1 word to say at the turn of the 20th century. In addition, the deeper meaning of

a word is lost. It was the common English found in the Geneva, or the 1611 KJV, that bound the English-speaking world together. The hated Geneva Reformers' notes caused the king to commission a new translation. (A single and simple word can and many times does change the whole meaning of a text.)

Debasing the language cuts people off from their history

How many can now read and understand words used by Shakespeare? Older and important works of past which laid the theological foundation for our nation are cut off from those who cannot or will not read and understand them, because of their **archaic** deep meaning words. How many will take the time to try to understand **archaic** words when he can pick up a modern work in simple English? More than a few times, I have had to flee to a good dictionary to find the meaning of old words used by godly theologians of the past. The extra effort has paid off.

We need to bring the people up rather than let them sink lower and lower. We now live in a "watered down" world where more and more water is being added to a product, *e.g.*, Chicken or ham, 15% flavored broth added. In this case is the deeper meaning of words that is at stake.

[End]

Are we not seeing and experiencing the Kingdom of ignorance and darkness being attacked and conquered by the Kingdom of Christian light through Christian Education? Someone will predestinate, or control the future, and that will be through education of the upcoming generations. The Kingdom of Light through Christian education is challenging the Kingdom of Darkness as their humanist education leaves the future in the hands of utterly useless drones who cannot make change without a calculator, nor write a sentence without AI, nor communicate without a keyboard. The drone generation cannot communicate except with their thumbs, and they spend their time doing just that even at "work."

Christian home school and Christian School students who are educated in the Christian faith which emphasize reading, calculating and proper communication hold the future in their hands.

Examples

We would be foolish to think that the Baltimore public school system is unique, or that it is the only city

with these problems. The others are keeping it well hidden from the public, and blame their failure to properly educate on lack of funds. However, they are scoring A+ in teaching the humanist philosophy.

The state is intent on making everyone wards of the state with their lack of education and inability to read. The tyrannical state does not want an educated population, especially who can read God's Word. It wants idiots who cannot read, think nor reason for themselves. They make good voters who will vote as they are instructed by their masters; that is, the hand that feeds them.

Just two examples of several that are disconcerting to say the least. They reveal the intentional destruction of our nation by the Marxists who are in authority.

China sending troops across Southern Border?

<https://www.newsweek.com/china-military-personnel-us-southern-border-national-security-mark-green-1807287>

23 Baltimore schools have zero students proficient in math, per state test results

"These kids can't do math. You're not preparing them to buy groceries. You're not preparing them to do accounting, to count their own money. You're not preparing them to read contracts and negotiate salaries," said [Baltimore resident] Patterson.

"We made the largest investment in public education by any governor in our state's history," [Maryland Governor] Moore said during his speech, making his feelings about public education clear. It's one of his top priorities. ...

"Zero percent. What are you preparing these kids for?" said Patterson. "Are we expecting these kids to kill off themselves? I mean, we see the number of teen shootings happening just this year. What jobs are we preparing these kids for? That's the future."

<https://foxbaltimore.com/news/project-baltimore/state-test-results-23-baltimore-schools-have-zero-students-proficient-in-math-jovani-patterson-maryland-comprehensive-assessment-program-maryland-governor-wes-moore>

We must not overlook the vast increase in suicides in this hopeless drone generation.

77% tested at Baltimore high school read at elementary level, some at kindergarten level

<https://foxbaltimore.com/news/project-baltimore/77-tested-at-baltimore-high-school-read-at-elementary-level-71-at-kindergarten>

• WE KNEW IT HAD TO COME TO THIS

Math scores boosted with calculators!

Calculators in the elementary grades serve as aids



in advancing student understanding without replacing the need for other calculation methods. Calculator use can promote the higher-order thinking and reasoning needed for problem solving in our information- and technology-based society. Their use can also assist teachers and students in increasing student understanding of

and fluency with arithmetic operations, algorithms, and numerical relationships and enhancing student motivation. Strategic calculator use can aid students in recognizing and extending numeric, algebraic, and geometric patterns and relationships

<https://www.nctm.org/Standards-and-Positions/Position-Statements/Calculator-Use-in-Elementary-Grades/>

Typical empty bureaucratic words with no meaning to justify not teaching math.

Common Core, new math fails. Calculators to the rescue.

Calculator Use on Exams to Shift With Common Core

<https://hechingerreport.org/calculator-use-on-exams-to-shift-with-common-core/>

<https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/calculator-use-on-exams-to-shift-with-common-core/2013/08>

Gov't schools' doom loop: Good teachers quit while the nuts remain

https://www.wnd.com/2023/09/govt-schools-doom-loop-good-teachers-quit-nuts-remain/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=wnd-breaking&utm_campaign=breaking&utm_content=breaking&ats_es=76c88699640bf17c199c18ba90162de3&ats_ess=62275c4f6eb5e1c6872faec264ac18ae89396dd486d6b98af038d9fef2e3c00d

Back in the 1950s, my first cousin on my Dad's side worked on the math for the first space shot using a slide rule and his brain. Numbers work! My dad often said, "Figures don't lie, but liars' figure." How true that has turned out to be. ("Hidden Figures" is an Amazon or

biblicalexaminer.org
409 S 6th Street
Knoxville IA 50138

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Examiner in your inbox
E-mail request to ovid,need@gmail.com

Netflix movie well worth watching. Also, "The man who knew Infinity." They are streaming somewhere.)

Conclusion: The state is intentionally training up young people to have a slave mentality. Only the gospel of Christ can free man from his love for the security of slavery.

Home schooled young people will control the future if they will remain faithful, and do all things for the glory of God. The drone generation can do nothing but dig in a ditch with no ditches to dig, or flip hamburgers, or loot and steal as all law-order is intentionally dissolved. The drones have been taught that those who have something through hard work owe to those who have nothing through no work. Many drones despise even the thought work and discipline needed to stock shelves in a store. Notice how many "senior citizens" man the shelves and checkouts at your local stores. (Work, a dirty 4 letter word!)

The world belongs to the righteous who take their righteousness into the public square. Through obeying the "Great Commission" found in Genesis 1:28 and through the power of the resurrected Christ found in Matthew 28:18-20, the world belongs to the faithful redeemed people of God.

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, for the sure day is coming when all will be subdued to Christ, and then will the end come. (1 Cor. 15)*

Thoroughly documented and lengthy studies into areas of my concern as a new "Reformed" Baptist pastor in the 1983. They will very soon be posted and downloadable on our website: Matthew 24, Romans 13, Israel' Identity, Christian Identity and Baptism.

