

Christian Identity Ministries

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"Blessed be the LORD God of *Israel;* For He hath visited and redeemed *His* people, And hath raised up an horn of salvation for *us* in the house of his servant David; as he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began; That *we* should be saved from *our* enemies and from the hand of all that hate *us*; to perform the mercy promised to *our* fathers and to remember his holy covenant; The oath which he sware to *our* father Abraham, That he would grant unto *us*, that *we* being delivered out of the hand of *our* enemies might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of *our* lives." Luke 1:68-75; the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic-Germanic-Scandinavian people are *ISRAEL!*

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Covenant Messenger

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THE TRUTH ABOUT HALLOWEEN by Pastor Robert McCurry

Excited children masquerading as witches, ghosts, goblins, demons, and other grotesque characters skipping through the neighbourhood knocking on doors chanting "trick or treat" while holding out a sack in which one is to drop a piece of candy or other goodies ... the party at school, or church, or Sunday School where they bob for apples, tell fortunes, or go through "haunted houses" ... decorations of jack-o'-lanterns, witches on brooms, and black cats with arched backs ... It's "Halloween" --one of the strangest days of the year.

Are Halloween activities really just the simple, innocent holiday fun most people believe them to be? Where did this holiday originate? Why is this holiday celebrated?

History provides the answers. Though it was the Roman Catholic Church who designated the October 31st date as All Hallows Eve, or "eve of the holy ones" day, in prelude to their November 1st 'All Saints' Day, it was earlier pagan peoples who gave the annual holiday the sinister meaning and traditions it still holds.

"The celebration rests upon Scottish and Irish folk customs which can be traced in direct line from pre-Christian times. Although Halloween has become a night of rollicking fun, superstitious spells, and eerie games which people take only half-seriously, its beginnings were quite otherwise. The earliest Halloween celebrations were held by the Druids in honor of Samhain, lord of the dead, whose festival fell on November 1st."

"It was a Druidic belief that on the eve of this festival, Saman [Samhain], lord of death, called together the wicked souls [spirits] that within the past 12 months had been condemned to inhabit the bodies of animals."²

"The Druids, an order of priests in ancient Gaul and Britain, believed that on Halloween, ghosts, spirits, faities, witches, and elves came out to harm people. They thought the cat was sacred and believed that cats had once been human beings, but were changed as a punishment for evil deeds. From these Druidic beliefs come the present-day use of witches, ghosts, and cats in Halloween festivities."

Halloween "was the night for the universal walking about of all sorts of spirits, fairies, and ghosts, all of whom had liberty on that night."

The pagans believed that on one night of the year the souls of the dead returned to their original homes. "There was a prevailing belief among all nations that at death the souls of good men were taken possession of by good spirits and carried to paradise, but the souls of wicked men were

left to wander in the space between the earth and moon, or consigned to the unseen world. These wandering spirits were in the habit of haunting the living ... But there were means by which these ghosts might be exorcised."⁵

To exorcise these ghosts, that is, to free yourself from their supposed evil sway, you would have to set out food—give the demons a treat—and provide shelter for them during the night. If they were satisfied with your treat, it was believed they would leave you in peace. If food and shelter were not provided, or if they were not satisfied, these spirits, it was believed, would "trick" you by casting an evil spell on you and causing havoc.

TRICK OR TREAT

"The modern custom og 'Trick-or-treat' began in Ireland hundreds of years ago ... A group of farmers went from house to house begging food for the village Halloween festivities in the name of their ancient gods. Good luck was promised to generous donors, and threats were made against those who would not give." Thus these ancient pagan traditions continue today as youngsters, masquerading as ghosts, skeletons, and demons go "trick-or-treating" -- begging in a sense for food while promising to refrain from evil deeds.

OCTOBER 31

"It was the Celts who chose the date of October 31 as their New Year's Eve and who originally intended it as a

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celebration of everything wicked, evil, and dead. Also durting their celebration they would gather around a community bonfire and offer as sacrifice their animals, their crops, and somtimes themselves. And wearing costumes made from the heads and skins of other animals, they would also tell one another's fortunes for the coming year."

'The celebration remained much the same after the Romans conquered the Celts around 43 AD. The Romans did, however, add a ceremony honoring their goddess of fruit and trees, and thus the association with apples and the custom of bobbing for them."8

JACK-O'-LANTERN

The apparently harmless lighted pumpkin face or "Jack-O'-Lantern" is an ancient symbol of a damned soul. Jack-O'-Lanterns were named for a man called Jack, who could not enter heaven or hell. As a result, he was doomed to wander in darkness with his lantern until Judgment Day."9

"Fearful of spooks ... folks began hollowing out turnips and pumpkins and placing lighted candles inside to scare evil spirits from the house."10

HALLOWEEN "CHRISTIANIZED"

Since Halloween is unmistakably pagan in its origin and practice, how did the professing church come to accept and keep such a day? Again history provides the answer.

Ever since the time of Constantine--who made Catholicism the state religion--the Roman emperors realized how essential it was to have a unified empire, where as many as possible would be of one mind. The civil and religious leaders saw how important it was for the sake of unity to allow only religion within the Roman one

A strigent state policy was implemented to force all non-Christians to accept the state religion. The condition for "conversion." of course, made it

easy for the pagan population of Rome and elsewhere to "accept" 'Christianity.' Since "acceptance" of 'Christianity' was made simple, refusal was made difficult. This plan resulted in large numbers of the heathen population within the empire to flock into the membership of the church. These people brought with them many pagan practices and celebrations, Halloween merely being one of them.

How could the church deal with this problem? The church realized that to excommunicate these pagans would only reduce the membership of the church. This they were unwilling to do. The church had also learned in past times that it was not possible to force the people into discarding all their heathen practices and adopting Roman ones. There remained only one other way.

It was reasoned that if a pagan practice or festival could not be forbidden, let it be "Christianized." Let the recently converted pagans keep certain of their heathen festivals, such as Halloween or All Souls' Day (or Christmas)--but label it "Christian." Of course they were asked not to pray to their ancient pagan gods on this day. They would now use this day to commemorate the death of "saints."

In the AD 800s, the [Catholic] church established All Saints Day on November 1st so that people could continue a festival they had celebrated before becoming Christians. The mass that was said on this day was called All Hallowmas. The evening before became known as All Hallow E'en or Halloween ... It means hallowed or holy evening."11

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"The celebration of Halloween is a survival of ancient pagan beliefs. When the early [Catholic] church was unable to stop pagan practices, it accepted them and gave them a religious tune."12

HALLOWEEN TODAY

Most of the ancient symbols and traditions of Halloween still exist today. Youngsters still dress in costumes and go trick-or-treating, begging in a sense, for food while promising to refrain from evil deeds. And, too, they still light their candles, although much smaller than a torch, and place them inside their pumpkins.

"It is the one night of the year in which a child experiences the emotion of fear, fantasy, and mystery."¹³

In advising on what to do on Halloween, The Good Housekeeping Book of Entertainment says: "Orange, black, and red, the devil's colours, are the colours associated with Halloween, and this scheme should be carried out as far as possible ... Have paper streamers and lanterns hanging from the ceiling, or if you would like to have something less usual, you could make a giant spider web with black and orange strings, or in narrow strips of crepe paper coming from the four corners of the room, complete

with a large spider--one of the devil's

followers."14 **INCONSISTENCY OF PROFESS-**

ING CHRISTIANS Bible-believing Christians cringe and shudder at the thought of Satan worship and occult rites. But how many of these same people will dress their children as witches, ghosts, skeletons, or devils and send them out to "trick-ortreat"? How many smile approvingly at the church or Sunday school and youth organizations that have Halloween parties and sponsor "haunted house" activi-

Can any Christian give any scriptural—or even logical—reason for participation in, or approval of, that which is unmistakably associated with pagan-

ism, devil-worship, witchcraft, and Romanism?

GOD'S PEOPLE GOVERNED BY THE SCRIPTURES

The 18th chapter of Deuteronomy, (vv10-13) very explicitly forbids Christians to have anything to do with witchcraft, spiritism or the demonic. In vs 10 we read:

"There shall not be found among you anyone that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire (this has reference to the worship of the pagan god Moloch, which was state worship), or that useth divination (a false and pagan counterpart of prophecy; the art or act of foretelling secret knowledge, especially of the future), or an observer of times (astrology), or an enchanter (to cast under a spell; charm; enrapture; to chant [magic words]), or a witch (divinations in connection with the worship of idolatrous and demoniacal powers), or a charmer (a fabricator of material charms or amulets to be worn especially around the neck as a charm against evil or injury), or a consulter with evil spirits (an inquirer by a familiar spirit), or a wizard (a false prophet, especially a conjurer; one who summons a devil by oath, incantation or magic spell), or a necromancer (one who in one form or another seeks to find information by consulting the dead).'

"Thou shalt not learn to do after their abominations..." (Deut. 17:9). Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I Am the Lord your God" (Lev. 19:31).

It is obvious that the elements, symbols, and traditions



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enough vitamin D. Statin drugs cause health

problems and many pharmaceutical drugs

negatively affect the brain. We are exposed

to too much electrical energy and so we need

to earth - walking on damp grass or having earthing mats on your bed. Coconut oil and

Olive oil are the best oils.

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of the Halloween observance with its emphasis upon goblins and demons, witches, and skeletons, ghosts, and apparitions rising from cemetaries constitute a dabbbling with the very things which Scripture forbids to God's people and

an open invitation to demonic activity.

Ît is at this point that many will say, "But we don't worship demons or Halloween. It doesn't mean the same thing today as it did in the past. It's now just a harmless, innocent time of fun for the children and young people" [it is amazing how much is done in the name of "for the children," when you look at casual dress, and rock music in church, and shortened and 'simplified' sermons "so they can understand." While no-one is educated in God's Law/Word, and the church goes down the drain].

Yet, history clearly shows that Halloween is unmistakably a "religious" (pagan and Roman) holiday. Religion is the adoration, obedience, and servivce rendered to the object of one's worship. It presupposes profession, practice, or observance of whatever belief and practice—in this case Halloween—as required by some superior authority. It is indisputably clear that Halloween is not commanded ort sanctioned by the Lord God—the true Christian's Superior Authority—in the Scriptures.

We tend to over look the reality of Satan worship, for it is becoming more and more open and accepted. There are real witches, real spells, and real rituals. As we buy cards about witches and other Halloween symbols, are we unconsciously approving of such worship?

Personally, I believe that we are partaking in that which is evil.

On this video you we that clearly shows not land. Rodney Holland. Rodney Holland.

It's on Halloween or "All Hallows Eve," as it's called, that the witch covens have their great annual worship service and offer a blood sacrifice to Satan. All through the year the Satanists sacrifice cats, dogs, and other animals; but on this special day they offer a human being—one of their own children—which they select

for this ghoulish murder! This is shocking! It's the Devil's birthday instead of "Halloween," perhaps it should be called "Hell-o-ween."

(gaius.org/holidays-origins/halloween-origin/)

"Abstain from ALL appearances of evil" (1 Thess 5:22).

"And many that believed came and confessed, and shewed their deeds. Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together and burned them before all men" (Acts 19:18,19).

"Whether therefore ye eat or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do ALL to the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10:31).

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DON'T PLANT CHURCHES, BUILD COVENANT COMMUNITIES

by Bojidar Marinov

A missionary to a Muslim nation recently wrote me that a great deal of the discussion within his missionary organization is devoted to the concept of "insider movements." The term means that new believers should remain within the cultural and religious tradition of Islam while at the same time professing saving faith in Jesus. "The whole thing," wrote the missionary," is predicated on the idea that Christianity is not a religion."

The missionary himself—a long-time reader of Rushdoony's books—disagreed with the approach and said that it is going about the issue of community the wrong way. He lamented the fact that missionaries "are generally resistant to the idea that we are advancing a new culture, and one that will conquer the existing cultures of this world." Apparently, his co-workers in the missionary organization believe that the cultural practices of a convert don't need to

change according to the requirements of his new faith. Christianity, in their view, requires no change of behaviour, and therefore it requires no change of culture. If it is "not a religion," then it doesn't address the whole of man, and therefore the whole of man can remain unchanged; ideas do not have consequences.

It is worthy to note that Christianity is the only religion in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries that has such discussions within itself. Muslims do not believe that a man can be a Muslim and remain faithful to his non-Muslim cultural practices. Nei-

ther do Communists believe that a conversion to Communism can leave a person unchanged in his cultural ways. Every other faith looks at itself in a comprehensive way and has comprehensive requirements for its adherents. It is only Christians who willingly abandon the comprehensive demands of their own faith (10 Commandments - God's Law) and surrender the new converts to the cultural trap of their old faiths. Christianity cannot and should not build a culture, they believe. A culture, in their views, is something given and fixed; we shouldn't try to change it. All that is necessary is individual salvation; that individual salvation is not supposed to nor expected to produce cultural changes

The majority of modern missions—and the seminaries that train the missionaries—are based on this approach to the relationship between the Christian faith and culture. Missionaries are never instructed in a comprehensive worldview that builds a new Christian culture within the old pagan culture. They leave their churches illiterate about the Biblical answers to the multitude of questions other cultures are asking. Mission organizations insist that their goal is nothing more than "planting churches." Some even boast that they are working "within the context of local cultures," which translated means the same things as the term "insider movement" mentioned above. [Sounds like the nations brought in to occupy the area of Samaria when Israel was taken captive, who "feared the Lord, and served their own gods." 2 Kings 17:32-33]. Seminaries never offer courses

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land, Rodney Howard-Browne, Mike

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professionalism but make up for it with the

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about the broader applications of the Christian faith in areas like family, business and economics, history, education, civil government, welfare, etc. A missionary seldom has any answers beyond the elementary level of personal salvation and church worship.

Ironically, while this approach to missions and culture is predicated on the idea that Christianity is not a religion, its result is exactly a religion—and that in the limited pagan sense of the word. The truncated view of the missionaries drives them to focus on "planting churches" with little else to do. Since these churches are not there to change the culture, their mission becomes very limited—only to "dispense religion" on Sunday morning. In a very real way, such a church is no different from a pagan temple in antiquity, a specialized institution that provides for a specific need of the worshippers, the need for a religious experi-

People go to the grocery store when they need grocer-

ies, to the auto repair shop when they need their car repaired, to the theater when they need entertain- J-252 Learning the Righteousness of God, pt 5 ment, and, when they need some religion, they go to (a) church on Sunday morning (only, - occasionally - when they feel so inclined, but never for two services!). The grocery store, the auto repair, the theater do not claim to change the culture; they only provide a specific service for a specific need. The church, by refusing to address the

whole culture, becomes like them, simply another outlet for services in the community. That was the use of the temples in pagan antiquity: people went to the temples to get their daily, (weekly, or monthly) portion of religion and religious experience, or to tell the gods what they needed so that the gods knew better how to serve the humans, or to perform rituals designed to manipulate the gods to act in favor of the worshipper.

By default, modern missionaries act as if the culture without Jesus contains everything it needs and is good per se, or at least morally neutral. All it needs is individual salvation and an institution for dispensing religious experience, and the missionary is there to provide it with the least repercussions on the culture itself. History thus is independent of the gospel; it runs its course no matter what the religious faith and commitments of the people in the culture. Culture becomes a product of historical forces, or material forces, or chance; faith —and specifically faith in Jesus has no bearing on it: it is only an external addendum to the culture. This is exactly the view of materialistic determinism, and specifically Marxism. Thus modern missions are in essence Marxist and materialistic in their philosophical

Foreign missions, in their original form, not only addressed the culture, they also built an alternative culture to the worldly culture. And that alternative culture of better justice and righteousness than what the world could offer was the "power of attraction" for the multitudes of people. The formal religion, the synagogue (meeting/place) and the Sabbath services, had no attraction in themselves; the very essence of the life preached and practiced by the covenant community was what attracted many to saving faith in God. While the pagan temples tried to attract worshippers with the majestic beauty of their buildings, statues, and altars, the apostolic missions had only the life of the apostolic community. In fact, so pronounced was the difference that J.H. Bavinck felt compelled to write:

Since the common people, the unthinking masses,

could not think of a religion without idols, they might indeed say the apostles were atheists. But those who came into a deeper understanding of the Apostles' worship were in one way or another influenced by it.

The attraction of a new culture of justice and righteousness was much stronger than the visible trappings of the mystical religions that sought to escape time and matter. It was the invisible power of the comprehensive worldview of the Law of God that drew the masses to God, not the visible worship of the temples. Foreign missions were meant to be cultural conquest, not an "insider movement" of converts who stayed in the cultural practices of their pagan religions. The Christian church after the Resurrection continued the same practice, as is known from the examples in Acts, and then from the examples of the early church. And people flocked to the synagogues/gathering places, and later to the churches. When a religion has all the answers to the cultural questions, people are naturally drawn to it.

> The approach of modern missions is exactly the opposite to this: visible trappings and no cultural alternative. And it has abundantrly proven its inadequacy. It is a failure; in many places missionaries waste time and money and effort to produce only meager results. It is time to return to the Biblical model of missions, as exemplified by the early church.

To do that, our missionaries

must shift their focus from "planting churches" to a program of cultural conquest. This cultural conquest can't be anything less than the building of a covenant community—an alternative culture within the broader culture, an alternative economy within the broader economy, and by extension, a civil jurisdiction and government within the broader political and civil settings of a society. Our mission organizations and seminaries must abandon their truncated approach and teach and empower the missionaries to build comprehensively, to offer solutions to the destruction of the pagan religions and culture in a community built on the comprehensive demands and blueprints of the Word of God.

While the detailed breakdown of the work a missionary should do will require a book rather than an article, here we can at least sketch the necessary steps:

First, a missionary should work to build the intellectual foundation for a future Christian civilization. This means he must make available to his flock the richness of the Christian literature we have accumulated throughout the ages on the application of the gospel to every area of life. He may need to engage in or organize a long-term program for translation of Christian materials. He must start building libraries. No missionary effort can succeed long-term unless there is knowledge about Jesus the Anointed and His Kingdom; and no knowledge is possibe without a constant connection with the rest of the Christian would through the books Christians have written.

Second, a missionary must build the leadership of the covenant community. This doesn't mean appointing "pastors" or deacons or any other ecclesiatical offices; in fact, the institutional ecclesiatical form must come only after there is an established community, out of that community. A missionary should work to raise and train elders and judges who will be the foundation for building the alternative economic and judicial life of the Christian community. When a missionary is appointing pastors and deacons without trained elders and judges, he is only building a baptized version of a pagan temple, an institution limited to dispens-



CDs of the Month:

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J-254 John McCorkie

J-255 Hairy Goats and Idolatry

J-256 Divine Authority, pt 1

J-257 Divine Authority, pt 2

J-258 The Revival in the Confederate Army

all pastor John Weaver

ing religious experience.

Third, a missionary must work as a "legislator" who helps the newly formed Christian communities establish their own covenant rules for acceptable conduct and relationships. The law of the community must be based on the Bible and must reflect the justice and the righteousness of the Law of God, taking into account the general rules (the Ten Commandments), the case laws (the Pentateuch), and the judicial and moral applications (in the rest of the Bible). Unbelievers clearly see the goodness and the majesty of God in His Law (Deut. 4:5-8); without God's Law applied in the community, there isn't much that can attract the masses of people to Jesus.

Fourth, a missionary must preach and work to establish an ethics of rewards and charity in the new converts. A strong pro-business attitude and appreciation of the problem-solvers—that is, the entrepreneurs—is an integral part of a Christian community that plans to survive long-term in a hostile environment. At the other end of the spectrum, a missionary must be able to help form and establish a system within the covenant community for helping the poor and needy. Both must be based on a Biblical understanding

of value—relational, economic, intellectual, moral, etc. No person should be rewarded for laziness, and those who work hard to solve problems must be given honor.

And fifth, a missionary must establish a system for transferring the faith, the commitment, and the wisdom of the covenant community to the next generation. No Christian community can survive and thrive and fight the good fight without specifically Christian education of its children. A missionary who leads his listers to the Truth but lets them send their children to pagan teachers and schools is undermining his own effort. Christian homeschooling or institutional Christian schools must become the focus of the missionary's efforts from the very begin-

ning of his work with the local converts. Only when the children are safely accommodated into a system of Christian education under the control of their Christian parents can there be hope for the survival of the covenant community through the generations.

Building a covenant community that is an alternative to the culture is the only way to evangelize the world. The "insider movements," just like the other piecemeal approaches we have seen in the last 200 years, are only a retreat before the enemy, an acceptance of the legitimacy of the adversary's power over the earth. Preaching Christianity while legitimizing cultural traditions of pagan religions (e.g. Christmas) is only a denial of the Great Commission. It's time for us as Christians to change our approach to the comprehensive, victorious approach of the early church, and build Christian covenant communities!

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Courtesy Faith for All of Life, Box 158, Vallecito CA 95251

ATTENTION!

by Robert McCurry Australians - take note!

One of the most useful tools the enemy has deployed over (at least) the past 150+ years of American history is *conflation*.

[con•fla•tion (n). 1. the process or result of fusing items into one entity; fusion; amalgamation. 2. a text formed by combining two variant texts]

We've been encouraged to conflate America with Christianity, and thereby conflate the American State with God.

That's how we ended up a land loaded with professing Christians who mostly cherish and defend overtly Marxist/satanic constructs like public schools and Social Security.

This conflation of God with America has playes a central role in bringing us to where we are today, which is: Circling the drain, clinging to our pride and refusing to repent even as we circle faster and are now on the verge of going down.

Where the Word of God plainly conflicts with American traditions or American documents or American icons,

even most American professing Christians choose American things over Scripture and are far more inclined to shield or defend American icons from biblical testing than they are to welcome it. These days in America, it is very difficult to even find a self-identified conservative Christian who would welcome the testing of the Founding Fathers or the Constitution by the perfect light of the Word of God.

Yet, as Christians, we know (or are supposed to know) that we must test all things in light of the Word of God.

How else can we ultimately know whether a thing is right, true, and good? To avoid or fear such examination (and the subsequent need for biblical reformation it will reveal) is a sure

sign of pride and idolatry. And if there's anything "We the people" seem to be all about these days, it's pride.

Through this pride-fueled idolatry, we have been easily led down a path that has us doing and enabling all manner of lawlessness (as biblically defined) while, at the same time, loudly and proudly citing the name of God or Jesus as we go about doing and championing the very things that He hates.

Our eagerness to attach ourselves to the name of God while openly rebelling against the Word of God has placed us in a particularly dark place; a place far more dangerous and deserving of judgment than the openly unbelieving cultures that don't even pretend to be Christian by association.

Along these lines, I'd like to offer for your consideration the following three examples of how our often thoughtless use of profoundly important terms like "in God we trust" (or some similar claim to God-centeredness) can, in fact and practice, become a blasphemous statement on our part:

1. When we print "In God We Trust" on the U.S. dollar, a fiat currency that is literally designed to enslave the masses to the few who are granted the power to craft dollars out of thin air, and is also the epitome of what passages like Proverbs 11:1 describe as an *abomination*, we are blas-

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pheming against God. Associating His name with such a rank evil as satanically inspired fiat economics is a brazen act of rebellion on our part.

2. When we applaud after Donald Trump or Barack Obama or Hillary Ĉlinton or George Bush tack on a "God bless America" at the end of a speech loaded with wildly unbiblical, anti-Christian content and approaches to economics, education, family, warfare, "welfare," and pretty much everything else, we are applauding their mockery of God and we are begging for (more of) His wrath to fall upon us (another hurricane, flood, earthquake, etc)

3. When we open our court sessions or legislative sessions or governmental events with prayers that gush on about a supposed interest in seeing God's will done or begging for God's favor or some such thing, only to spend the actual court session or legislative session or other governmental activity utterly dismissing His Word as the basis for even our acknowledgement, much less serious consideration and application, of matters of law, economics, politics, education or anything else, we are shouting to the heavens that we want a god who is our ornament, but not our King. We want a god who will give "We the people"

what we want on our terms, not a King that commands our obedience in all things, including law, education, economics, and civil givernment.

Prayer to God apart from submission to Jesus as King is a lethal combination for any individual or culture. It is also a recipe for profound delusion, as we are witnessing now throughout Amnerican culture (and especially in its professing Christian subculture).

If we want God to save us in the area of children's education, for example, we will obey His crystal clear command to make Him the explicit centerpiece of all children's education. It's not really complicated. It's actually quite simple.

So why don't we do it? Why don't we just read and obey His loving, life-giving Word?

Because we're Americans who have been conditioned to think a certain way, and that American way is all about an approach to the pursuit of knowledge and happiness lifted straight from the serpents tongue in Genesis 3.

We want God to bless us with "good stuff," but "We the People" want to live *our* way on *our* terms as *we* see fit.

We want God as our Saviour, but we hate the thought of Him as our Lord in any detailed sense of the term. We want God as a prop. Not as a lawgiver.

We want God as our enabler. Not as our ruler.

This is why we think nothing of citing God on our satanic currency or at the end of the increasingly anti-Christian speeches routinely made by our increasingly anti-Christian leaders.

"In God We Trust," as we use it in America, has become one of the most loud, proud, and clear proclamations that we do **NOT** trust in God. We do not fear the Lord. We fear everything and everyone *but* the Lord.

Few things make that as plain as the way we sprinkle His name around the things He hates and promises to destroy.

May the God we've mocked so proudly, so relentlessly, and for so very long grace us with conviction, repentance, and broken submission to His Son as King in practice, rather than delivering us to the judgment and destruction that we so completely deserve.

You can make a beginning by homeschooling your children, setting Sunday aside for worship of God and fellowship with fellow Christian believers who are not into false doctrines promoted by the churches, and tithing, and voting for white godly men in political office!

Is that radical? You bet!**

THE "LESSER EVIL" GAME

by Robert McCurry

If American Christians feared the Lord half as much as they fear Hillary Clinton, American culture would experience a revival the likes of which the world has never seen.

But if one thing has been made crystal clear (yet *again*) by the grace of God through this particularly dark comedy known as the 2016 presidential election cycle, it is that the vast majority of self-identified and politically active "conservative Christians" are far more fearful of losers like Hillary than they are fearful of the Lord. They may loudly and

proudly claim to love Jesus with their lips, but when it comes to obedience to His Word in political, economic, legal or educational practice, they seem to have no appetite for His Lordship, no desire for application of His Word, and thus no real hope fort advancing His Great Commission and disciplininh the American Culture that we also claim to love so very much.

Where God speaks clearly in loving detail, professing Christians tend to look for any other way to "solve problems." Where King Jesus gives clarity, most Christians seek instead the paths charted in accordance

with secular pragmatism. When the Creator and Sustainer of everything speaks with clarity, Christians tend to ... well, just make another vague reference to God or how they "love Jesus" or some such thing, all while dutifully ignoring and modelling rebellion against His crystal clear pronouncements on matters central to the terrible situation in which we now find ourselves, including:

"Moreover, look for able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe, and place <u>such men</u> over the people ..." Exodus 18:21.
Professing Christians - most of us anyway - simply

don't believe this. And, as a result of our unbelief, we've modelled rebellion against the Word of God and escorted our "beloved" culture to where it is now.

Clinton/Trump should not be surprising to anyone. They are both clear expressions of the hard-earned wrath of God that is now falling upon us.

The fact that American Christians have been convinced to rally in massive numbers around a proud, unrepentant, biblically illiterate, vice-peddling politician to "save them" and "make America great again" is no surprise. Once the "lesser evil" model replaced the biblical model for leadership selection, we were destined for what we have now ... and the much worse that's right around the corner.

Want to save the culture? Obey King Jesus. Want to save the nation? Obey King Jesus. Want to make this nation 'great again"? Obey King Jesus - in detail! Really.

Father to Son, WARFARE David disciples his younger brother in matters

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related to firearms. Then over a game of chess with his father, David ponders the difference between today's spiritual battleground and today's popular playgrounds inhabited by some contemporaries. They discuss gentlemanly conduct in peace and war, forgotten principles of honor, and the dangerous century that lies before the youn ger generation. The days are perilous, but the challenges present great opportunity for young men who have character to rise to positions of leadership.

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There are no other true paths to lasting peace, prosperity, security and success available anywhere in His creation. It really is as simple as that. The "lesser evil" game doesn't end well for anyone, America included.

Even so, the Kingdom of God advances, whether the nation repents, believes and is saved or not. Lord willing, that repentance will come soon ... before yet another "Christian"-led step is taken down the "lesser evil" stairway into darkness.**

Courtesy The Wake-Up Herald, 605 Moore Rd Newnan CA 30263.

A SAD LOSS

Author **Charles A. Weisman** passed away on October 8, 2016. He was born in St Cloud, Minnesota on June 6, 1954. He spent most of his life working in electronic technology, lastly as Technician at McCormick Computer Resale, Inc. Apple Valley, MN. He was never married.

ATHEISM: The religious belief in a spontaneous, causeless, sourceless, purposeless, meaningless existence!**

The chief purpose of Government is to perpetuate Government!

PREFERENCES OR CONVICTIONS?

by Jonathan RR Are Your Beliefs Preferences or Convictions?

Since we are children of God, from a young age we have admired both men and women of conviction. In doing so we *should* have an innate and inescapable awareness that there are some things where there can be no compromise. There are things we must stand for no matter what

the cost. Sadly much of the world does not share this same sense of conviction and scornfully laughs at those who risk much for the sake of a cause that exhibits their integrity.

It's important to understand that these convictions are essential to our faith, our character, our loyalty as well as our integrity, which leads to sanctification and our faithfulness towards God. Whether we compromise and give into sin is directly tied to the strength of our convictions. The strength of our convictions in our day to day lives may very well determine whether or not we have the strength to stand for those things that truly are salvational.

Here in this country, as well as throughout the world, there are certain significant events that are bringing Christians and Christianity more and more to the forefront of government scrutiny. As this scrutiny intensifies, we as Christians will have our convictions severely tested. That time may not be far off.

I recently read an article about a prominent attorney who specializes in representing Christian parents who have been sued, usually by the state, county or city school board, for neglecting their children's education and social development. The most prevalent cause for these suits has been that the parents are homeschooling their children or have put them into a Christian school.

The article went on to talk about the type of instruction the attorney offered regarding what these parents could expect in the way of cross-examination by an attorney or judge in the event that their case was taken to court. Now get this Remnant! This one simple truth could determine the outcome of your case and whether or not the AHJ (authority having jurisdiction) **TRIES** to take away your children into their custody. **The U.S.** (not so) **Supreme Court has ruled that a person's religious** convictions are protected by the First Amentment of the Constitution, but one's religious preferences are not.

In fact, the Court spelled them out clearly with illustrating guidelines to determine whether a person has a religious preference or conviction.

The illustration was given of an Amish farmer, who because it was against his religious convictions, refused to send his children to Wisconsin public schools. Wisconsin sued him twice. Both times he lost in the local and State courts, facing jail and the possible loss of his children to a state-assigned foster home. Then, as his last resort, he appealed his case to the U.S. (not so) Supreme Court. The court found in his favor and told the lower courts that the accused's First Amendment rights protected his **religious convictions** and that the State could not force him to send his children to public schools.

In this 1972 decision, the Court established the guide-

lines with which all subsequent would be judged. Before giving those guidelines, the Court laid down two principles regarding persons who claim to hold to religious beliefs and true Biblical principles. They are helpful in understanding whether one's beliefs are truly a conviction or merely a religious preferencde.

First, the Court states that "one cannot hold a belief unless one can somehow describe that belief."

1 Peter 3:15 gives us an excellent representation of this. "But sanctify the Lord

God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the <u>hope</u> that is in you, with <u>meekness</u> and fear."

Though the Court does not require an eloquent, highly organized and systematic testimony, it will not accept hunches, feelings or "it-seems-to-me" testimonies either. The Court requires a **witness** to show thoughtful consideration of his beliefs.

And of even greater importance, the Court requires that one show knowledge of his beliefs. The Court maintains that beliefs must be *individually* and *personally* held.

'And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? Jesus answered them, Verily, Verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. I know that ye are Abraham's seed (through Esau); but ye seek to\ kill me, because my word hath no place in you. I speak to you that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father. They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham. But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham. Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they unto him, We be not



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born of fornication; we have one Father, even God. Jesus said unto them, If God were your father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. Why do ye not understand my speech? Even because ye cannot hear my word. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own; for he is a liar, and the father of it."

Here we can see that Jesus himself confronted opponents who clearly had not exhibited the beliefs they claimed to hold.

They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, 'If you were Abraham's children, do the deeds of Abraham. But as it is, you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God; this Abraham did not do." John 8:39-40.

The Court rightfully views such people as hiding behind nothing more than a title. Jesus' opponents said, "I am a son of Abraham." Today's hypocrites would say, "I

am a Christian" and then would proceed to tell about how the church says this and the church says that. To which the Court would answer, "Fine, now tell us what that means to you."

Two Scriptures represent this well. "But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of The Anointed." Rom. 14:10.

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

The Apostle Paul reminds us that we must all stand (appear, that is) before the judgment seat of The Anointed. In Ezekiel we read that righteousness is not transferable from one to another.

"Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness, saith the Lord God." Eze. 14:14.

In Revelation 11, we read that the Ecclesia will be resurrected and changed all at once at the seventh trumpet and each member will be individually judged by God.

The Conviction, the conversion, and the righteousness, - the road we walk down towards Sanctification, are all things we must own personally.

The principle, the supreme, if you think about it, what the (not so) Supreme Court requires, is a valid guideline, and it is no different than what God requires from us, those that take their walk seriously, the true followers of Jesus!

It is from these two guidelines that the Court then establishes that no matter who we are (wealthy or poor), no matter who what our religion is, (Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, the list is endless) our beliefs fall into one of two categories. "They are either convictions or preferences"

It is here where the rubber meets the road, so to speak. "Only convictions are protected by the Constitution." What may be surprising to you is how the Court defines a preference.

"A preference is a very strong belief." We can hold onto something so strongly that we will go into full-time service for that belief. Believe it nor not, one can be a pas-

tor or a minister of the Gospel, a missionary or Bible study teacher in a religious school and still be operating on a preference, not a conviction.

According to the (not so) Supreme Court, a preference can be held so strongly that one will give all of his wealth to support it. A preference can be so intense a person will energetically proselytize others by going house-to-house, handing out tracts on street corners or broadcasting on radio or television; and he will still be operating only on a preference.

Sounds like 1 Corinthians 13:1-3, does it not?

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and angels, and have not charity, I am become a sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing."

Ah, so what is it that determines a belief from a mere preference? A preference will change under certain circumstances.

Through experiences long judging cases, the Court has learned that certain pressures, if brought to bear, will motivate people to change their beliefs. This is what determines that their beliefs are merely nothing more than preferences, which are not protected by the Constitution. (for example, agreeing to work on Sundays, when pressure is applied, although you know it's against God's Law; Or making occasional donations instead of a regular tithe, show a preference instead of commitment.

Now if you want to determine if what you believe is a preference

or a conviction, evaluate yourself against these pressures:

PEER PRESSURE

So called Christian teens tend to resolve to be serious, hitting the books and staying away from the drugs, sex, smoking, drinking and hanging out with the wrong crowd of people, things that they see others doing all around them. But if the "right" fellow or girl appears, or if the teen is recognized by the "right" clique, their desire to be accepted by them pressures them into adjusting their ideals and to conform them. In this instance, their ideals or convictions are merely preferences.

Here is an example of this in the churches today. A preacher may search the Bible for truth and through the revealing of holy spirit find something interesting that he believes and resolves to teach. Yet when he shows the Elders (or Elderettes, which is the case in many churches today) the truth that he has found, they may say to him, "Well, we don't say that you're wrong in this, but we think you should tone it down a bit. Make it less offensive, and then maybe we can cooperate with you and work on some of your objectives."

At first, being convicted by holy spirit, the preacher may strongly defend his belief, but little by little, as he sees the reaction of his peers, he begins to bend. If he believes it and resolves to do it, but then changes it, his belief is nothing more than a preference. If you know truths, but cannot talk about them at the church you go to, because they would show you the door, so you keep quiet—your truths are a preference, not a conviction.



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If the Word of God tells us to change something, we must change it! But we must be very careful about things previously proved from God's Word, believed, put into practice and then changed when some form of pressure is brought to bear!

FAMILY PRESSURE

This has got man a man to cave in, especially if the pressure is coming from his wife. When Jesus advises His disciples about counting the cost of commitment to Him, every person He mentions is a family member. "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be MY disciple" Luke 14:26

Let's face it, no one can motivate you like a deeply loved mate. A husband may resolve to commit himself to a strong belief, but on telling his wife, she replies, "**Please don't, honey.** Do you realize what this will do to us and our

family?" His resolve begins to melt because he knows he will feel responsible if, because of his belief, he inflicts discomfort or pain on members of the family.

Oh, let's not forget one of the greatest pressures, the fear of being sued. We are living in perhaps the most sue-happy society ever on the face of the earth. Why? Because every dime you are awarded in a law suit is tax free. You think that's by accident? The parasites have to continue to find ways to feed on new victims. (That's just for free).

Subconsciously we are aware of the expense and hassle of going to court, even for the innocent. We may say, "I'm all for this, but I'm not going to get sued over it! You can't ask me to be sued—that's going too far! What about the news

media? They will make me out to be a villain. They'll publicly hang me! At the very least I'll lose my hard-earned reputation, maybe even my job and my property." This daunting pressure has caused many a good man to cave in and to suppress the truth of his beliefs.

Then there's **Jail**. For many of you, you may have never really experienced jail, but take it from somebody that has (not long term, mind you), they are not pleasant places. If you were to ask most prisoners, they would say that they want to get out as quickly as they possibly can. In fact, history shows some will risk life and limb to escape, knowing full well that they will probably be unsuccessful and even if they do make it out, they will most likely be caught and returned to "serve" even longer sentences.

We contemplate what it would be like to be in prison, being isolated from your dearest family members and friends. What about the inmates? You would be stuck on their turf. Some quite violent and maybe even crazy.

Would you really be willing to go to jail for your Faith?

Now I know, being a member of this Body, you men are saying to yourself, "Yes, I'd go to jail." But would you be willing to stand by and watch your wife go to jail? Some have faced that. Would that pressure you to change your mind?

Or, how about this one? Do your beliefs mean so much to you that both you and your wife would go to jail, knowing that your children would be taken by the State and raised by foster parents you do not even know?

Then there is the Pressure of Death.

This final test is obvious, yet some have learned through experience that there is a fate worse than death.

When a person's resolve over a belief fails, his guilt can be crushing. Look at Luke 22:34 and 59-62. This shows the Apostle Peter in such a circumstance:

"And he said, I tell thee Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.

"And about the space of one hour after another confidently affirmed, saying, Of a truth this fellow also was with him: for he is a Galilaean. And Peter said, Man, I know not what thou sayest. And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew. And the Lord turned and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And Peter went out, and wept bitterly."

Why did I bring this message to you, the Remnant? Because in the times we are living in we may very well have to choose whether what we have been privileged to

learn regarding Bible Truth is a conviction or just a preference. These are the questions we all must ask ourselves.

What does your belief mean to YOU? What are you willing to sacrifice in exercising your belief? Friends, relatives, church membership, job security, income, etc. Here are a few guidelines to follow according to the (not so) Supreme Court's test. If you felt you should do something, but have the right not to do it, it is merely a preference and therefore not protected by the Constitution.

The Court says that a conviction is a belief you will not change. Why? What creates that conviction?

The Court's answer: "A man must believe that his God requires

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it of him."

A belief that it is *God-ordered* is a conviction. It is not merely a matter of resolve or dedication, but a matter of believing with all our heart, mind and soul that God requires it of us. The Court rightfully says that if we hold our beliefs as God-ordered, we will be able to withstand all the above tests! Unfortunately, even Israel-Identity seems to be a preference and not a conviction for many.

Read Daniel chapter 3 for a positive example! Courtesy The Dragonslayer, Box 766 LaPorte CO 80535

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

This letter was written by a Christian man in the Midwest and sent to his local newspaper, and actually published. It is an excellent example of one of the ways that we can help to fulfill the Great Commission that we are charged with. We may never know how many seeds are planted with this article. Let it be an encouragement to each of us to take every opportunity to share the Gospel, to sow seeds of righteousness

A letter to the Editor that was actually published.

I just happened to be reading in the Encyclopedia Britannica the other day and noticed a very interesting fact of history. A fact that should make you tremble at least a little bit. It shows that the prophecy of the Word of God has come true once again and that the time of tribulation grows very near. I saw that according to Britannica, Christendom had begun about 1000 years ago (Rev. 20:4). Now many of you will say, so what? Well, if you know that Christendom stood for Christ's Kingdom on earth and that it ruled virtually the entire world at its peak. They had even ruled with a rod of iron (Rev. 2:26-28), just as the Word of God says. It



also fulfilled the Great Commission and took the Word of God to the entire world (Matt. 28:18-20). Christendom held fast until the anti-Christ communist formed the one-world-government called the United Nations in 1945 (1st beast) and the false prophetic nation (the little horn) in 1947, which I will leave nameless.

Christendom began approximately 967 AD and lasted until about 1967 AD. 1967 was the year that the people who claim that they are the savior of the Jewish people had taken control of the temple in Jerusalem. By 1967 most all of the Christian nations of Christendom had now fallen into the hands of the communist anti-Christs and only a remnant of Christendom remained. Mainly, the US and Britain who are the two witnesses of Revelation remain.

Right from the very beginning, the UN's main goal & mission was to destroy Christendom. This mission was called 'decolonization' and was focused on letting the anti-Christ communist take over the world from Christianity. After 1967 it should be very clear to see that the Church

and our nation had become apostate and has become a cage for every unclean and hateful bird (Rev. 18:2). Just to mention a few things that have changed: integration socially accepted, fornication socially accepted, pornography socially accepted, homosexuality socially accepttrans-sexuality socially accepted, pagan rituals like tattoos - body piercings - skin stretchings socially accepted, adultery & divorce, shackingup, socially accepted, censors gone from TV & music and are now filled with gore and perversion that destroys the minds of

children, and housewives leaving their children to enter the work force, creating an epidemic of disintegrating families. This has gone on for so many decades now that the youth don't really understand what has gone on and what has been lost. It all seems normal to them, because of our failure to maintain Christian morality.

The Abrahamic Covenant has been fulfilled. The Great Commission has been fulfilled, the beasts of Revelation are here, the false prophet is here, the apostasy is here, thousands of Christians have already had their heads cut off, the anti-Christ's are here, the 1,000 years reign of Christendom has ended and the (muslim?) devil has been loosed for a time (Rev. 20), Much of prophecy has been fulfilled and the fall of Babylon is very near.

Now would be a very good time to turn back to God (Rev. 12:17, Deut. 30:16; Rev. 14:12), repent (Acts 2:38), prepare, rebuke sin and show your faith by your work (James 2:18). Be ye doers of the Word not just hearers of the Word (James 1:22).

Pray for peace because war is now at hand, Cpt. J.W.P. Courtesy the Dragonslayer

THE SIN OF ONE RESULTS IN DEATH TO MANY

Jonathan R.R.

Let me start out this article with this statement. To date I have received quite a bit of correspondence regarding the article on Tithing and Communion, primarily regarding the realization that God's Word is clear in Malachi 3:7-9.

"From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from My statutes, and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. But you say, How shall we return? Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, How have we robbed Thee? In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you!"

The majority of comments revolved around two key points in these verses.

- 1- Return to me and I will return to you, saith the Lord.
- 2- Ye are cursed with a curse for ye have robbed Me.

Both of which tie back to one Biblical truth; Tithing. Believe me when I tell you, it was not my intention to bring you yet another article regarding tithing. However, the Lord brought an illustration to my attention that I believe is critical for all of the true followers of Jesus the Anointed to understand. So bear with me as I attempt to do just that.

To illustrate this we need to turn to the book of Joshua. The first Scripture we will be looking at is found in Chapter 6, verse 27:

"So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame was in all the land."

Here we see that God himself proclaimed that He was with Joshua. Why is it important that we emphasize this? It is to show you that there are things that can hinder, even stop, the blessings and benefits of God Himself being with you. Stay with me and Lord willing, I will show you.

In the very next chapter, the very next verse it says "that the anger of God was kindled against Israel."

And God Himself being with Joshua was not enough to stop the damage, to save the lives, or to deliver Joshua and

Israel from an enemy when there was sin present. Now I'm sure that there are those of you out there that don't know the story and are asking, what sin did Joshua commit? Well, the answer is none. Joshua didn't sin. Yet about thirty six men died just because there was sin present.

What's that, you ask? What sin did those thirty six men commit that it would cost them their lives? Again I tell you the answer is none. They didn't sin. Okay then, what sin did Israel commit, or the priests, or one of the tribes of Israel do? Once again, none of them as a whole committed a sin. So the question remains; why did God kindle His anger against Israel so that He was not on their side? Now let's look at Joshua 7:2-3 to read the story first hand.

"Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth-aven, east of Bethel, and said to them, Go up and spy out the land. So the men went up and spied out Ai. And they returned to Joshua and said to him, Do not let all the people go up; only about two or three thousand men need go up to Ai; do not make all the people toil up there, for they are few."

What's important to note here is this: They were so confident in victory because they thought God was with them that they said let's not trouble everyone. Let's just send a few men.

"So about three thousand men from the people went up there, but they fled from the men of Ai. And the men of Ai struck down about thirty six of their men, and pursued them from the gate as far as Shebarim, and struck them down on the descent, so the hearts of the people melted and became as water." Joshua 7:4-5.

Ai, a small army defeated and ran off 3000 men. Again, the question you should be asking, is why? Let's keep read-



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ing, verses 7-9.

"And Joshua said, Alas, O Lord God, why didst thou ever bring this people over Jordan, only to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy is? If only we had been willing to dwell beyond the Jordan? O Lord, what can I say since Israel has turned their back before their enemies? For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear of it, and they will surround us and cut off our namje from the earth. And what wilt Thou do for Thy great name?"

What Joshua knew was that if this small band could defeat 3,000 of this army of Israel, then all the mighty armies around him would join forces and would wipe Israel from the map. Reading on in verses 10-11,

"So the Lord said to Joshua, Rise up! Why is it that you have fallen on your face? Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them. And they have even taken some of the things under the ban and have both stolen and deceived. Moreover, they have also put them among their own things."

Here we see that God has revealed to Joshua that Israel has stolen and in doing so, Israel had sinned.

"Therefore the sons of Israel cannot stand before their enemies; they turn their backs before their enemies, for they have become accursed. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy the things under the ban from your midst." (vs12).

This sin was so egregious that God said, "I will not be with you any more unless you resolve the sin." And by resolving it He mont

sin." And by resolving it He meant destroying it.

"Rise up! Consecrate the people and say, Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, for thus the Lord, the God of Israel, has said, There are things under the ban in your midst, O Israel. You cannot stand before your enemies until you have removed the things under the ban from your midst."

The ASV reads like this: Up, sanctify the people, and say, Sanctify yourselves against tomorrow: for thus saith Jehovah, the God of Israel, There is a devoted thing in the midst of thee, O Israel; thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the devoted things from among you.

A devoted thing? What devoted thing? vs, 14-15,

"In the morning then you shall come near by your tribes. And it shall be that the tribe which the Lord takes by lot shall come near by families, and the family which the Lord takes shall come near man by man. And it shall be that the one who is taken with the things under the ban shall be burned with fire, he and all that belongs to him, because he has transgressed the covenant of the Lord, and because he has committed a disgraceful thing in Israel."

So, it wasn't all of Israel, it wasn't a tribe, it wasn't a small group that caused Israel to be in sin and to lose the battle. It was a "he," just one person.

"So Joshua arose early in the morning and brought Israel near by tribes, and the tribe of Judah was taken. And he brought the family of Judah near, and he took the family of the Zerahites; and he brought the family of the Zerahites near man by man, and Zabdi was taken. And he brought his household near man by man; and Achan, the son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, from ther tribe of Judah was taken. Then Joshua said to Achan, My son, I implore you, give glory to the Lord, the God of Israel, and give praise to

Him; and tell me now what you have done. Do not hide it from me."

But, just what was Achan's sin?

"So Achan answered Joshua and said, Truly, I have sinned against the Lord, the God of Israel, and this is what I did: when I saw among the spoil a beautiful mantle from Shinar and two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold fifty shekels in weight, then I coveted them and took them; and behold, they are concealed in the earth inside my tent with the silver underneath it. So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent; and behold, it was concealed in his tent with the silver underneath it." (vs 20-22).

Basically it was the first fruits which were to be devoted to God that Achan had stolen. A tithe, if you will. So it was Achan, one man, that sinned. God held all of Israel accountable for that sin. It should make every one of us examine ourselves, as well as our households, to see if there may be sin present that we either tolerate or ignore. And if there is, I ask the question" What is that sin costing you?

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So Achan had stolen an idol (Babylonish mantle) and some gold and silver. But why was this so awful that it would cause God to turn His back on the children of Israel so that thirty six men died?

Here's why I believe Achan's sin was so egregious to God. This was an idol and gold and silver from the battle at Jericho. Jericho was the first victory that God had given Joshua, after which God commanded that everything that was plundered was to be destroyed. What was the pun-

ishment for stealing a devoted thing? This devoted thing that had cost families thirty six loved ones, thirty six husbands, fathers or brothers, lost their lives because of one man's sin. What should the punishment be?

"And they took them from inside the tent and brought them to Joshua and to all the sons of Israel, and they poured them out before the Lord. Then Joshua and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, the silver, the mantle, the bar of gold, his sons, his daughters, his oxen, his donkeys, his sheep, his tent and all that belonged to him: and they brought them up to the valley of Achor. And Joshua said, Why have you troubled us? The Lord will trouble you this day. And All Israel stoned them with stones; and they burned them with fire after they stoned them with stones. And they raised over him a great heap of stones that stands to this day, and the Lord turned from the fierceness of His anger. Therefore the name of that place has been called the valley of Achor to this day." (vs 23-26).

Looking back it was evident that Israel had been blessed by God mightily. I believe what we need to glean from this story is this: When you are close to God, then even the small sins are huge. The Bible says "that to whom much is given much is expected." We know through the Word of God that we the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are to be a blessed people. Yet as a people, we seem to be hindered in many ways.

Could the cause of those hindrances be the sins that may be in our lives, our families' lives or in our homes? What may seem to us as little and insignificant sins may be much more in God's eyes, given our relationship with Him.

Then, in this Bible story, something amazing happened. As soon as the sin in Israel was found out and dealt with, look what happened:

"Now the Lord said to Joshua, Do not fear or be dis-



mayed. Take all the people of war with you and arise, go up to Ai see, I have given into your hand the king of Ai, his people, his city, and his land. And you shall do to Ai and its king just as you did to Jericho and its king; you shall take only its spoil and its cattle as plunder for yourselves. Set an ambush for the city behind it" (8:1-2).

God's favor and His power returned to all of Israel, along with His blessings and protection. I encourage you to read the rest of the story, and when you do you will see that Ai, the army that had defeated Israel earlier, was utterly destroyed.

By now a lot of you may be saying, "I get all that, but what does that have to do with me?" The reality is it all leads back to one question. Have you robbed God? Have you stolen a devoted thing? If so, are you hindered in areas in your life that you feel defeated in? Could it be that you can't seem to get ahead in the area of money or business? Could it be you are stuck in a job and not getting ahead, while others around you seem to move up and over you?

And you know something, the strange thing is that those that might do better than you, that seem to move up and over you, that get ahead in business, may not even be Christians, yet they are prospering far better than you. Why is that?

A very inst

GENESIS DEBATE

Believe, Arguments for Michael Behe: Intellig

Again I say, to whom much is given, much is expected. As the true Christian followers of Jesus, we've been given much truth throughout the years that others have not been given. As His ecclesia, the Anointed body, it makes conset that we will be held for more

sense that we will be held far more accountable than those that are of the World. After all:

"Judgment will begin in the house of the LORD."

"From the days of your fathers ye have turned aside from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return unto you, saith Jehovah of hosts. But ye say, Wherein shall we return? Will a man rob God? Yet ye rob me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings, Ye are cursed with the curse; for ye rob me, even this whole nation." (Mal. 3:7-15, ASV)

The tithe is a devoted thing and if you choose to not be obedient, then you are a thief according to the Word of God.

But now the Good News! What does He say to those that want to come back to Him, that want to return to His blessings? The Word of God is clear; there can be no ambiguity.

guity.

"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it" (Mal. 3:10). (Note: we will not have room enough to store all of the blessings). "And prove me now herewith..."

In Other Words, Test Me, And See If What I Have Told You Is True. Reading On:

"and I Will Rebuke The Devourer For Your Sakes, And He Shall Not Destroy The Fruits Of Your Ground; Neither Shall Your Vine Cast Its Fruit Before The Time In The Field, Saith Jehovah Of Hosts. And All Nations Shall Call You Happy; For Ye Shall Be A Delightsome Land, Saith Jehovah Of Hosts. Your Words Have Been Stout Against Me, Saith Jehovah. Yet Ye Say, What Have We Spoken Against Thee? Ye Have Said, It Is Vain To Serve God; And What Profit Is It That We Have Kept His Charge, And That We Have Walked Mournfully Before Jehovah Of Hosts? And Now We Call The Proud Happy; Yea, They That Work Wickedness Are Built Up; Yea, They Tempt God, And Escape." (Mal. 3:11-15).

Why do we tell you these things? Because we want you and yours to be blessed and protected. We want all of true israel to be blessed and protected. We know that there are those of you out there that have promised, committed, and yes, even devoted their tithe and yet have never paid it.

How do we know? Because we too were there at one time. We too thought that we could do more with 100% than god could with 90%, when the truth is that god can and does do more with 90% than we could ever do with 100%.

Remember what we kearned from Joshua. It could be that the wife tithes and the husband doesn't, or vice versa. Or that the parents tithe and the offspring do not. It still affects the whole household, just as achan's one sin affected the whole nation of israel and cost thirty six men their lives.

So i ask you brethren, after reading one of these exam-

ples these past couple of months as to the importance of being obedient to this command, it kind of sounds foolish not to, doesn't it?

That Is If You Believe The Word Of God Is True.

If not, then there's not much that can be done for you. It is the fool that has said in his heart that there is no god, and the same applies to those that simply do not believe that his word is true. If that is you, repent while you still

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can.

In fact, I am so strongly convinced that this one simple truth is so critical to the survival, power, and victory of true israel, that i humbly but boldly ask you this: if your heart's desire is not to earnestly seek the greatest gifts, and you're not serious about taking all of your thoughts captive to the obedience of Jesus the Anointed, the King Of kings and the Lord Of lords, then please remove yourself from the body.

I believe that this hidden truth in the story of Joshua was revealed for one reason and one reason alone: to show us that God cannot and will not bless and deliver His people if there is sin in the camp. He cannot and will not bestow upon His people the greatest gifts until we put him first in all aspects of our lives. he cannot and will not punish the disobedience of those that hate Him and His people until we come to complete obedience.

Repentance. - Seek Him And His Kingdom First. Trust And Obey.

Have I therefore become your enemy by telling tou the truth? Gal. 4:16..

And, if you should envy the wicked, who seem to have more and achieve more, and be blessed more, Go And Read Psalm 73, To see what their end will be. *Envy Them Not!*

Courtesy The Dragonslayer, Box 766, Laporte Co 80535

REJOICE! GOD IS AND ALL IS WELL!

Robert McCurry

Who is regulating affairs on this earth today—God, or the Devil? That God reigns supreme in Heaven is generally conceded; but that He reigns supreme over this earth, is almost universally denied—if not directly, then indirectly. More and more are men in their philosophizing and theorizing, relegating God to the background. Take the material realm. Not only is it denied that God created everything by personal and direct action, but few believe that He has any



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immediate concern in regulating the works of His own hands. Everything is supposed to be ordered according to the (impersonal and abstract) "laws of nature." Thus is the Creator banished from His own creation! Therefore we need not be surprised that men, in their degrading conceptions, exclude Him from the realm of human affairs. Throughout Christendom, with an almost negligible exception, the theory is held that man is "a free agent," and therefore, man is the master of his fortunes and the determiner of his destiny. That Satan is to be blamed for much of the evil which is in the world, is freely affirmed by those who, though having so much to say about "the responsibility of man," often deny their own responsibility, by attributing to the Devil what, in fact, proceeds from their own evil hearts (Mark 7:21-23).

But does not everything seem to show that the Devil has far more to do with the affairs of earth, than God has? Ah, it all depends upon whether we are walking by faith, or walking by sight. Are your thoughts, my reader, concerning this world and God's relation to it, based upon what you see? Face this question seriously and honestly. And if you are a Christian, you will, most probably, have cause to bow your head with shame and sorrow, and to acknowledge that it is so. Alas, in reality, we walk very little "by faith." But what does "walking by faith" signify? It means that our thoughts are formed.

means that our thoughts are formed, our actions regulated, our lives molded by the Holy Scriptures, for "faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10:17). It is from the Word of Truth, and that alone—that we can learn what is God's relation to this world.

Ours is peculiarly an age of irreverence, and as the consequence, the spirit of lawlessness, which brooks no restraint and which is desirous of casting off everything which inter-

feres with the free course of self-will, is rapidly engulfing the earth like some giant tidal wave. The members of the rising generation are the most flagrant offenders, and in the decay and disappearing of parental authority we have the certain precursor of the abolition of *civic authority*. Therefore, in view of the growing disrespect for human law and the refusal to "render honor to whom honor is due," we need not be surprised that the recognition of the majesty, the authority, the sovereignty of the Almighty Law-giver, should recede more and more into the background, and that the masses have less and less patience with those who insist upon them. Conditions will not improve; instead, the more sure Word of Prophecy makes known to us that they will grow worse and worse. Nor do we expect to be able to stem the tide—it has already risen much too high for that. All we can now hope to do is warn our fellow-saints against the spirit of the age, and thus seek to counteract its baneful influence upon them

Here is the fundamental difference between the man of faith—and the man of unbelief. The unbeliever is "of the world," judges everything by worldly standards, views life from the standpoint of time and sense, and weighs everything in the balances of his own carnal making. But the man of faith brings in God, looks at everything from His standpoint, estimates values by spiritual standards, and views life in the light of eternity. Doing this, he receives whatever comes—as from the hand of God. Doing this, his heart is calm in the midst of the storm. Doing this, he rejoices in hope of the glory of God. (Arthur W. Pink, *The Sovereignty of God*)

"But without faith it is impossible to please God: for he

that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Hebr. 11:6.

Courtesy The Wake-Up Herald, 605 Moore Rd, Newnan GA 30263

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THE STATE-MUZZLED CHURCH

Martin Selbrede

One of the most telling passages n all of Scripture occurs in the seventh chapter of Amos. The conflict between the prophet and the state comes to a head when Amaziah, the priest of Bethel (not to be confused with King Amaziah, son of Joash), sends an evil report to the king of Israel concerning Amos. "Amos hath conspired against thee in the midst of the house of Israel: the land is not able to bear all his words" (Amos 7:10). We see here the direct attack upon the words Amos is speaking, and that the land of Israel cannot tolerate such offensive speech coming from within its borders. Such destructive words are to be silenced for the sake of the land and its people, that their collective conscience not be pricked.

This same priest later sets out a pecuniary argument (vs 12), affecting to say that there's no money to be made in prophesying up here in the north. He basically tells Amos, "If you want to be like us and earn money as a prophet, go south to Judah and prophesy there, and you'll make more than enough to eat bread." Stay up here in Bethel and starve: there'll be financial repercussions for speaking your mind here. Amaziah's attack terminates at the thirteenth verse, where he demands

of the prophet that Amos no longer prophesy at Bethel "for it is the king's chapel, and it is the king's court." It is harder to find more stunning words that so clearly spell out how statism pollutes the house of God to the point it is no longer His house. It is worth examining this exchange in a bit more detail.

The So-called House of God The first thing to note is that Bethel's name is itself execrable. The city was called the house (Beth) of God (El). By this artifice, the setting up of worship in places other than where God required it (at Jerusalem) was papered over and whitewashed. Here we see these early statists casting about for legitmacy by taking advantage of the fact that in Hebrew, the same term is used for both "word" and "thing" (the Hebrew *dabar*)¹ If the city is called the House of God, that must mean *it really is* the House of God—so long as nothing shatters the illusion.

Amaziah, Bethel's priest, is unhappy that the prophet is criticising the legitimacy of his profession and standing and office. The truth poses a threat to the nation's refuge of lies, and might expose what's hiding under the whitewash (see Eze. 13:10-15). Amaziah knows he can't appeal to God against Amos, so he appeals to temporal authorities to subvert the eternal ones. This makes sense to Amaziah in light of his view of Bethel being (as C.F. Keil put it) "the principal seat of the worship which the king has established for his kingdom." Note here the centrailty of the king/state, driving the conclusion that in that land "no one could be allowed to prophesy against the king."

To amplify the appeal to King Jeroboam, Amaziah outright lied in his accusation against Amos (vs 11) by asserting that Amos had predicted the king's violent death (which



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he hadn't).⁴ Amaziah never acknowledges that Amos was speaking for God or against the nation's grievous sins: he focuses entirely on the fact that the prophet's words created "misgivings about the national religion and worship." The priests believed that Bethel "must be guarded against such intrusion.." For this reason faithful Amos was characterized as "dangerous to the State, as he disturbed the peace of the land." In all this, Amaziah omitted any mention that Amos's "intercession had turned away first one judgment and then another" from the nation. Selectivity was thus a key statist campaign weapon.

Living Out Amos 7 in Today's World

The perspective of Amaziah, recorded centuries before Jesus walked the earth and supposedly lost to history, eventually became the pervading legislative reality in our modern world. The state *does* ultimately hold the view it has the authority to regulate the Word of God, to throttle it back, to channel it to favor state prerogatives and validate them. As Rushdoony long ago noted, the functional law of our land is actually anchored in *public policy*; never mind the various statutes and ordinances of the surface. What accords with public policy is promoted and protected. What conflicts with public policy is impugned and destroyed.

One can gain what Rushdoony called *cheap virtue* by criticizing the state and its usurpations. But those issues are merely the symptoms of the disease. The reason that judgment begins with the house of God (and not first with the state) is because the modern church has turned its back on Amos and chosen to co-opt the views of Amaziah. This erosion has been justified on the grounds of political expedience (the same factor that led to Jesus' crucifixion, John 11:50). It is no surprise, then, that as compromise and dereliction have dominated, theater has gained ground in the house of God as much as it has in the state. In an alarmingly prescient comment published 23 years ago, Dennis Peacocke made note of the theatrical element polluting the political arenna:

"Throughout the Presidential campaign, I had the strangest sensation: what I was beholding was not so much a political contest as an exercise in public theater. It looked spontaneous, but it was theater, novertheless. The persons were acting; they had their scripts; the stages wer4e set; the stage managers were shrewd; the production expenses were enormous. Most importantly, the audience didn't suspect it was a play. The production was so convincing because the subject matter is so vital; the vast majority of the people thought it was real life."

When the core is hollowed out, all that is left is the shell, is political theater. Posturing then becomes infinitely more important than substance. And interlopers who expose political theater, who tear away protective facades, who indict the emperor for his nudity, are unwelcome: "the land cannot bear all their words." They are unwelcome in church and unwelcome in the state.

The spirit of Amos is routinely driven out of church and state, for the church has become "the king's chapel" in actual fact, if not quite in name. Amaziah was thus more honest about Bethel than today's Christian leaders tend to be about their fiefdoms, which now require more theater than Bethel ever needed to placate the ten northern tribes it served.

The church at large refuses to apply the Word of God. Its silence renders it complicit in the nation's sins. It claims to be Bethel—house of God—in name and in fact. To cover up its failures in the latter capacity, it invariably turns to theater. As Peacocke warned above, "because the subject matter is so vital" we easily fall prey to a deadly illusion. It is the same illusion that blinded Jesus' disciples as they pointed out the formidable bulwarks of the temple to Him

(Matt 24:1): the idea that such mighty institutional edifices are too big to fail, and that the authorities are entrenched on solid ground.

It was the solidarity of the ground underlying Bethel that Amos directly challenged. Ironically, his counterclaims provoked Amaziah to concede that the sanctuary at Bethel was not actually God's but the king's. All pretenses about the name were summarily dropped. The religion of statism had taken off its mask. The underlying reality that had been hidden was fully exposed. Church and state today cannot bear the very words that would heal them. The resentment coursing through Amaziah as he attempts damage control against Amos lives on today on a grand scale. The same tactics, used the same way, with the same justification, are now central to our political and religious theater.

Finally, the timing of Amaziah's slanderous attack on Amos tells us something very important. The false priest ignored the prophet until he realized Amos was actually making headway with some of the people. In other words, Amos committed the crime of being effective. Countless rice bowls get kicked over when God's people are effective, when they apply God's Law-word faithfully. In the eyes of statist churchmen hiding their true affiliations, this is the unforgivable sin. It is provocation enough to drive them out into the open, to give an honest answer to the question "Who's your Daddy?" They have no king but Caesar, only conceding this ground to protect their turf. Some factions have refurbished the original façade of orthodoxy by molding kingdom doctrine to harmonize the sell-out. Others embrace the modernistic impulse to the same practical end. These two factions, fully analogues to the ancient Pharisees and Sadducees, strike hands in agreement that the land cannot bear God's words.

Statism in both church and state has no future because God's Word will stand. Amos told the statist priests of Bethel that because he ordered the word of God to be muzzled, "thou shalt die in a polluted land" (Amos 7:16-17).

The church is "the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Tim 3:15) and is the true Bethel only when it ful; fills this criterion and abandons the gospel of statism. Only then can it resist the tempting lure of financial security, like that dangled by Amaziah in front of Amos, ever content with his blue-collar layman statuis. The spirit of Amos lives in committed laymen today in church and state, who unleash God's healing word as ministers of reconciliation, "to wit," that God was in the Anointed, reconciling the world unto himself" (2 Cor. 5:19a). This spirit directs the path to the victory that overcomes the world.

Does this same spirit, the spirit of Amos, also dwell in you? -- *Sorry* - there was no room enough to list the references.

Courtesy Chalcedon Report, Box 158 Vallecito CA 95251

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