

MEDIA



SPOTLIGHT

A BIBLICAL ANALYSIS OF RELIGIOUS & SECULAR MEDIA

CHARLOTTESVILLE

... on who's side is God ?



THE FALLOUT CONTINUES, even at this late date. The mainstream media are playing to the hilt their hatred for President Donald Trump, displaying an irrational attitude that says, “It doesn’t matter what you do, or how you handled the riot in Charlottesville, you were and are wrong. For that matter, you have been and continue to be wrong about everything you say and do.”

Unable to face reality, the leftist “sickopants” of the “Alt-Left” movement in both the media and government turn their myopic eyes from the facts. Worse, they turn those eyes away from the truth—especially God’s Truth.

Let’s get this straight. The “Alt-Right” neo-Nazis, KKK, and other white supremacists are an ungodly bunch. They claim patriotism, but their real motivation is a reaction to the disenfranchisement of white European males for the sake

of diversity and inclusion favoring non-Europeans—especially blacks and other people of color. That motivation has devolved into a palpable hatred for everything they see as contrary to their interests.

On the other hand, the Alt-Left, including whites in the movement, has demonstrated an extreme hatred for everything white. The popular narrative is that racism is a sin of white people; there is no racism in the hearts of non-whites. Both sides are self-righteous in their sanctimonious railing against the other. But many honest blacks will admit to the racism that festers among their people, as will honest Hispanics and other people of color. Having grown up in Southwest Los Angeles, I’ve seen black prejudice against whites.

Both extremes dishonor not only the nation and its rational elements among the population, they dishonor God

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MEDIA SPOTLIGHT

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WHY MEDIA SPOTLIGHT?

Media Spotlight is a ministry to the Body of Christ, bringing understanding of the ways in which the world shapes our thinking and lifestyles through the influence of the mass communications media.

God's Word exhorts, "Buy the truth and do not sell it" (Prov. 23:23). Therefore we do not sell *Media Spotlight*.

Begun in 1977, *Media Spotlight* was the first ministry on a national scale to address the ungodly nature of the secular media—motion pictures, television, toys, games and other things that contribute to Christians living no differently than the rest of the world.

The mass media have impacted the Body of Christ as much as they have society. Many Christians are so dependent upon the media that they aren't aware of how lukewarm they have become. We have many testimonials from readers who tell us that, because of *Media Spotlight*, they have become aware of the effect the media have on their thinking, and are now more selective in their choices.

But the problem of ungodliness is not exclusive to the secular media. Of major concern are the religious media that present messages contrary to God's Word. *Media Spotlight* addresses the impact that religious teachers have upon believers in Christ, whether for good or for evil.

It has escaped the understanding of many Christians that what they believe is more often shaped by the teachings and traditions of religious men and institutions than by Scripture. Most teachers in the institutional churches rely more upon their theological disciplines than on the pure Word of God. Yet the wisdom of the world is no substitute for God's Word, even if offered from the pulpit or in the Christian media.

Jesus tells us in Matthew 24:24 that in the last days false christs and false prophets would arise and would show great signs and wonders, "so that, if possible, they will deceive the very elect." He also states in Matthew 24:12 that in the last days the love of many toward Him would grow cold because evil would increase in the world. If we believe Him, then we would be foolish not to guard ourselves against deception. There is little time to waste in the short span of life granted us by God. We must choose today whom we will serve. ❖

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Scripture quotations in *Media Spotlight* are from the King James Version of the Bible, rephrased in modern U.S. English unless otherwise stated.



A PERSONAL NOTE

Dear Friends,

We've had a difficult three months leading up to this issue of *Media Spotlight*. In June, Al caught a cold that turned into bronchitis. In July the weather was unusually hot, and the air quality even here in Sequim was compromised by all the fires in Canada. The air became stagnant as temperatures rose into the 80s and Al's bronchitis was severely affected. Coughing so hard one Friday evening, he noticed a slight greyish cloudy area in his left eye, and his speech became slurred. Concerned about a possible stroke we headed for the emergency room at Olympic Medical Center in Port Angeles. Soon after arriving, the cloudiness began to dissipate and his speech started to normalize. But the doctor kept him in the hospital for two days, fearing he had experienced a TIA (minor stroke), and wanting to make certain he was okay to go home. The doctor told us to make an appointment with a neurologist as soon as possible.

We saw a neurologist who, after a series of tests, determined that Al had not suffered a TIA, but that the severe coughing caused the problem. Exactly what happened, we don't know. But we were relieved to know the problem wasn't a stroke. There's still has a lingering cough from the bronchitis.

We have told you this because we covet your prayers for our health and the ability to continue to minister through our writings. And we ask your indulgence if you feel this issue isn't quite up to snuff.

Our thanks to all our friends who knew of this and kept us in prayer. And our thanks, as always, to those of you who keep *Media Spotlight* viable through your prayers and gifts. You cannot know how grateful we are.

With all the turmoil in the nation as we've never seen before, but as we've expected for the past 50+ years, it is imperative that we continue to keep our nation in prayer also—especially our brethren in Christ who are suffering for standing up for God's Word in an increasingly hostile environment. The onslaught against not only the faith, but common decency, is unprecedented in America. Violence is becoming more pronounced as anti-Christ elements seek to destroy any vestige of truth and even the facts of history and present events.

What is it that Yahweh requires of us, but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our Elohiym (Micah 6:8)?

There is little justice in this world today. Mercy is severely lacking on the side of the Left that excuses the violence we see meted out against innocent people by anarchists, communists, and others.

As for humility before our God, it is difficult to find "on all sides" engaged in this spiritual battle.

Unless God's mercy comes into effect on behalf of the few righteous in the land, this nation will become as Sodom and Gomorrah.

Do not count on our formidable and honorable military to save us. Our salvation does not rest in the hands of men; our salvation comes from Yahweh.

In Jesus' love,

Al and Jean

EDITORIAL

So you think you love God?

By Albert James Dager

ASK ANY CHRISTIAN if they love God, and you can be sure the answer will be an unequivocal “Yes!” They might even wonder why you would ask such a question in the first place. Certainly any believer in Jesus would say he loves God and would be offended if that love were questioned.

But wait a minute. How can we gauge accurately our answer in the affirmative? How can we put to the test whether we truly love God, or if we are merely assuming that we love Him because of our belief in His existence, our belief that Jesus died and rose again—that He paid the price for our redemption?

Jesus asked a simple question of His followers: “Why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not the things that I say?” (Luke 6:46).

Couple that question with His statement, “If you love Me, keep My commandments” (John 14:15).

We cannot call Jesus “Lord” if we don’t do as He says (His commandments), and we can’t say we love Him if we do not do what He says.

Our love for Him is intrinsically linked to our love for His Word. If we hate His Word, we hate Him.

Now, no Christian would say he hates God’s Word. But let’s take it down a notch.

If we are casual about His Word, we are casual about Him. If we are indifferent to His Word, we are indifferent to Him. If we disdain His Word, or any part of it, we disdain Him.

We may agree with His Word on many points. But are there any points on which we don’t agree? Are we offended because we don’t like what He has to say to us as a man, as a woman, as a person caught in a particular sin? Do we draw a line where His Word condemns our lifestyle or actions? Do we try to make His Word fit our desires? Do we avoid studying His Word because it’s just too difficult, or because we “just don’t have the time”? (Although we do find time for “fun” things.)

However we esteem His Word is how we esteem Him. As Yahweh revealed in the writings of the Psalmist, “You have magnified Your Word above all Your name” (Psalm 138:2b).

In spite of many Christians’ claim to love God, or Jesus, they betray the low degree of their love by holding a low degree of love toward His Word. They make excuses why the

Scriptures don’t really mean what they say. They go to great lengths to defend their religious or cultural traditions rather than submit those traditions to the test of Scripture. Their response to challenges to their dearly held beliefs is, “Yes, the Bible says that, but...” The most often used word that reveals our lack of love for God’s Word is “but.” “But the Holy Spirit has told me otherwise.” “But that doesn’t seem right to me.” “But God understands.”

We need to get off our “buts” and on to receiving and obeying without question—without trying to justify our rebellion.

Yes, that’s a harsh word, “rebellion.” But what else is it when we make excuses and go our own way, claiming on one hand to love the Lord while on the other holding His Word to any degree with less love.

To the degree that we love His Word, which He has magnified above all His name, that is the degree to which we can say we love Him.

Now, we must ask ourselves, “Do I truly love God? Or am I fooling myself into thinking I can love Him while holding His Word in less esteem than I do all His name?❖

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Louis Farrakhan: 'Jesus is my redeemer'

REPORTS FROM DIVERSE sources indicate that Louis Farrakhan, the leader of Nation of Islam, has stated that when he dies Jesus will save him. Speaking at Union Temple Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., on July 30, Farrakhan stated:

I thank God for guiding me for 40 years absent my teacher [Elijah Muhammad]. So my next journey will have to answer the question. I'm gonna say it, I know that my redeemer liveth. I know; I'm not guessing that my Jesus is alive. I know that my redeemer liveth, and because He lives, I know that I, too, will pass through the portal of death, yet death will not afflict me. So I say to the Devil, "I know that I gotta pay a price for what I've been teaching all these years. You can have the money, you can have the clothes, you can have the suit, you can have the house, but me, you can't have."

Farrakhan referred to his redeemer as "my Jesus." Has the leader of the Nation of Islam come to Christ? If so, has he rejected Islam and turned from Allah to worship Yahweh?

It may surprise many, but Farrakhan's proclamation of Jesus as his redeemer or savior is not new; he has been stating this for over 20 years. The reason it has gained notoriety of late is because he stated it in the setting of a Christian church. He has been stating it at Nation of Islam gatherings since at least as far back as 1995.

At a 1995 Nation of Islam meeting celebrating Nation of Islam's 37th "Saviour's Day," Farrakhan gave a four-and-a-half hour address titled, "Who will Save the Black Man?" His answer: "Jesus Saves." Following are excerpts from his speech:

I know the Scripture says, "There is no name under the heavens whereby a man can be saved but by the name of Jesus." Well, the name of Jesus is on the lips of millions of people who know not how to save themselves. Nor are they aware of the plan that has already been worked out for their salvation....

The true name of a thing is the nature and the function of that thing. So if the name of Jesus is the name that allows salvation to come, then this saving power is not the recitation of the name alone, but the saving power is being in harmony with the nature, the function, the principle, and the program of the man under that name.

This, actually, is the power. It's the work or the function that saves. Unless we come under his name—meaning accept his nature, his function, his will, his

way, his principals, and his program—there is no salvation for any of us....

The thing that sets Jesus apart and makes him stand above all the prophets is the perfect obedience in Jesus to the will of God. Therefore, Jesus could say, "I and my father are one."...

Jesus represents a body of knowledge that he asks his disciples to discipline their lives by. In our willingness to discipline every aspect of our lives to the word and the example of the Jesus, to that degree we have salvation.

Man, that makes it kinda difficult, doesn't it?

There are a lot of us in church, you know what I mean, playin' church. A lot of us in the mosque, playin' mosque. A lot of us in the synagogue, playin' synagogue. All in the name of righteous men.

Jesus, Moses, Muhammad. Let's stop this foolishness, unless we're willing to discipline our lives to every aspect of that body of knowledge brought by the prophets. To that degree, and that degree alone, we have salvation.

Now there's a Scripture in the Bible that indicates that each of us has the responsibility to work out our own salvation. Well, if we can work it out, why is there a need for a savior?

They got a song, "He will work it out."

No, he ain't gonna work it out. He *has* worked it out. The question is, are you willing to work it out with him according to the plan he's laid out to help us work it out?

The savior comes to give us the means, the method, or the way by which we can be saved. So a man stands up and says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life."

He's telling you, "Watch the way I walk; watch the way I live my life; watch the word I speak, then take me as the way. Follow me. Don't talk about me; follow me.

Jesus hasn't told none of you to worship him. He said follow him. And that's your problem. You say you're worshiping him, but there's hardly too many of you following Jesus!

Now, to the degree that we refuse to work out our salvation by disciplining our lives to the teachings that we accept, we forbid the savior to step in to save and redeem us....

But the poor, the weak, the dispossessed, those of us who live in the ghettos of America, and the ghettos of the world, we know that we're in a terrible condition. Our communities are in total disrepair. We know that we are in need of salvation.

The question is who will save us? And by what means shall we be saved?

This is why I've chosen this subject. Not just who will save the black man and why, or the million man march, but Jesus saves!

But I want to bring you face-to-face with the Jesus who saves!

If it is Jesus who saves, this is not a spirit; this is not a spook! This is a real live human being! But a human being with the wisdom of the time and the knowledge of what must be done in order to bring about salvation.

Not perfect, but so far it seems as if Farrakhan is speaking of the Jesus we know from the Bible. But is he? Let us continue:

Are we referring to the Jesus who prefigured the Jesus of today? Are we talking about the historical Jesus who lived two thousand years ago, or are we referring to the one that he referred to?

Did you know that the Jesus of two thousand years ago let himself out of this work?...

The Jesus two thousand years ago said these words, "There are many things that I could tell you, but you cannot bear it now. Howbeit, when he, the spirit of truth is come, he"—not me, Jesus said; not me—"he will guide you into all truth."

Well, if the people of that time, with that man, could not bear the truth—meaning they didn't have the foundation to carry the weight of the knowledge that it would take to save themselves—you've got to have a foundation for that kind of knowledge, and if you don't have a foundation for that knowledge, God would be unjust to reveal that kind of knowledge to you.

Liiisten! The truth that Jesus was referring to that would free human beings was too much for the people of that time. They didn't have the foundation to bear that kind of knowledge. Plus the world had to grow and experience so much more of the wickedness of Satan and the wickedness of self!

All Satan's wickedness had to be manifested, and all our wickedness had to be so great that we were drowning in our own filth!

Wickedness had to reach its zenith, which it had not done during the time of Jesus of two thousand years ago. So he let himself out of this.

"When he has come, the spirit of truth, he, not I, will guide you into all truth."

This means that the one Jesus saw coming in his name would fulfill the function that he prefigured. The nature, the will, and the way fully developed would be in a future man who would come at the end of the world of the wicked. What would he look like? How you going to tell me you're looking for somebody you've never seen before and don't have an accurate description of the man?

The Scripture describes him. He's not Caucasian. No offense. No racism. The way the book describes him, he's definitely not Caucasian. The way the book describes him, he's not Asian as we know Asians. He's a man of dark color. He's a man of wooly hair. According to the book, he's a black man!...

However, since the world has crushed the black man, and he is the most crushed of all the people of color on the earth, then it seems to me that when you're looking for a Jesus who would deliver, save, reform, reconcile, and redeem, you would not think to look for this one coming from a people who have been rejected and despised.

Nevertheless, the Scripture says he would come to and from a people despised and rejected. He would be a stone that all the builders rejected, yet he would be the headstone of the corner.

This is not just a man—an ordinary man. This is an extraordinary human being—a human being that is a bridge between man and god.

Oh, let me talk about Jesus....

All Muslims are looking for the coming of Mahdi. The Mahdi's not an ordinary man. The Mahdi is an extraordinary man, but he's a human being. As a human being, the power that the Messiah and the Mahdi operate from is the living power of god. So when they function on the living power and reality and word of god, and they are in flesh, then the flesh is the clothing for the spirit of god. He comes in sinful flesh. All this sin comes from us obeying the urges of the flesh. Mastery of the flesh is the spirit of god aroused in man to make man a master of his lower nature. He comes in the duality of the nature of man. Man has a nature that is upright, and man has a nature that is horizontal like that of animals or beasts of the field.

We crush the conscience if it speaks against the desires of our flesh. And so he comes in that sinful flesh to show us how to overcome as well as master the flesh. And when we master the flesh, we now become master of the grave in which the spirit of god is buried, or is dormant within us. That's what is meant by the resurrection. Resurrection don't mean somebody dead in the cemetery poppin' up. Go on out and try hollerin'; get you a trumpet and blow tonight and tomorrow, ain't no dead people in there getting' up now....

That body that you put down in the earth decomposes and goes back to the earth. That's not what the resurrection is all about. The resurrection is the trumpet of god—Gabriel—a man of god sounding a brassy truth that goes past the ear of opposition and then enters into the heart. And if it finds the heart a repository for itself, then the word quickens within

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Huckabee: God is no respecter of persons

WHILE COVERING THE events that took place during the Unite the Right demonstrations in Charlottesville, Virginia, and the ensuing riot, Fox Network's Jeanine Pirro interviewed Mike Huckabee.

Asked Pirro:

What is your take on the events of today?

Replied Huckabee:

Judge, I've got a special repulsion to white supremacists, and it's part because I'm white, it's part because I have seen this evil and hateful attitude that elevates some people above others. And as a believing Christian, I'm especially offended, because anybody who believes the Bible—especially the Gospels—will have to accept that there is no way that God is a respecter of persons, as the Scripture makes clear. He doesn't love some people more than others because of their color, because of their affiliation even with Him. And so, I find it just disgusting and repulsive, and I don't know of anybody who is doing anything other than condemning the violence, and condemning the very spirit of white supremacy. I find it as disgusting as I do those who say that some people have a greater right to live. It's why I'm pro-life, Judge. How can I say that I believe the Gospels that every person has equal worth before God; every person has intrinsic value, but some people really aren't as valuable as others. And that's why I'm pro-life, and it's why I'm so repulsed by the idea of white supremacy.

COMMENTARY

Before he entered politics to become, first, Lieutenant Governor of Arkansas in 1993, then Governor of Arkansas from 1996 to 2007, Mike Huckabee was a pastor at Immanuel Baptist Church in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, from 1980 to 1986, then the Beech Street First Baptist Church in Texarkana, Arkansas, from 1986 to 1992. Prior to that, at age 21, he was on the staff for televangelist James Robison.

Mike Huckabee has strong convictions about his faith and about American politics, most of which I am in agreement with. In attempting to express his revulsion toward white supremacy, however, he misstated something very important—something that I'm sure he didn't consider as it pertains to the Gospel.

Although Peter said that God is not a respecter of persons (Acts 10:34-35), we cannot use that particular Scripture to prove that God loves all people equally. Let us look at the context. Peter had just received a vision on the rooftop of Simon the tanner, in which he saw all manner of unclean

animals. He heard a voice telling him, "Kill and eat." Peter protested that he had never eaten anything profane or unclean. The voice said to him, "What God has cleansed, do not call profane."

This happened three times before the vision ended, leaving Peter doubting what was meant by it. While he was pondering the meaning, the men who had been sent by the centurion Cornelius arrived to tell him that an angel had appeared to Cornelius telling him to call for Peter to come to him at Caesarea. Arriving there, Peter met with Cornelius and many others with him. Although Peter stated that it was unlawful for a Jew to company with Gentiles, God had shown him that he should not call any man common or unclean.

Cornelius gave his testimony of the angel's appearance, and how the company was present to hear everything that was commanded by God.

Then Peter opened his mouth and said, "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons, but in every nation he who fears him and works righteousness is accepted with Him. (Acts 10: 34)

Peter then proceeded to proclaim the Gospel to those present.

The idea that God is not a respecter of persons applies to God's acceptance of anyone, regardless of race, who fears Him and lives righteously. It cannot be applied haphazardly to include all of mankind.

So although Mike Huckabee's intentions were good, he misapplied the Scriptures. He was connecting the humanistic idea that all men are created equal to a Scripture verse that applies only to those who fear God and live righteously.

But is there a Scripture that would substantiate Mike Huckabee's well-intentioned idea that God loves all people equally, without special regard to those who are in relationship with Him?

No, it is just the opposite.

Speaking to Israel through the prophet Malachi, Yahweh said:

"I have loved you," says YHWH. "Yet you say, 'How have You loved us?'"

"Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" says YHWH. "Yet I loved Jacob and I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness." (Malachi 1:2-3)

That word "hated" is *sane'* (saw-nay'), meaning to hate personally as it would apply to an enemy.

Speaking of King David, Yahweh said:

"I have found my servant David with whom my hand shall be established. I have anointed him with My holy oil; My arm also shall strengthen him.

"The enemy shall not have him indebted, nor shall the son of wickedness afflict him.

“I will beat down his foes before his face, and plague those who hate him. But My faithfulness and My mercy shall be with him, and in My name shall his power be exalted.” (Psalm 89:20-24)

There are many Scriptures that distinguish God’s love for those who are faithful to Him, and His disdain for His enemies and the enemies of His people. One is Psalm 5:5: God hates all “workers of iniquity.”

Even so, He continues to offer His love and grace to all mankind without distinction, calling everyone, everywhere, to repent and live in obedience to Him. When they do so, then they may enter into His love.

Jesus distinguished the faithful from all others:

“As the Father has loved Me, so I have loved you. Continue in My love.

If you keep My commandments, you shall abide in My love, even as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.” (John 15:10)

“He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And He who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will reveal Myself to him.” (John 14:21)

What does this speak to those who are in rebellion against Jesus and the Father?

There are conditions to entering into the Father’s love.

The only place in which God’s love can be described as “unconditional” is found in the Gospel of John:

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, so that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but so that through Him the world might be saved.

He who believes in Him is not condemned. But he who does not believe is condemned already because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. (John 3:16-18)

Those who do not believe are condemned from the start. God’s “unconditional love” is extended to the whole world through His offering His Son for the remission of sins. There were no conditions attached to that act of love. But His love is extended to individuals with the condition that they believe in and obey His Son’s commands.

It isn’t so much that God hates His enemies, but that His love is extended only to His children adopted according to their faith in God’s only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

To be outside of Christ is to be outside of God’s love.

It’s too bad that Mike Huckabee forgot that when speaking to the world about God’s love. I’m sorry for your error, Mike, but God’s love is extended only to those who *are* in “affiliation even with Him.”❖

Jeffress: Trump has moral authority to assassinate Kim Jong Un

ROBERT JEFFRESS, CONSIDERED by many to be President Trump’s “religious advisor,” has created some apoplexy among Trump’s detractors with the following statement:

The Bible gives President Trump the moral authority to use whatever force necessary, including assassination or even war, to take out an evildoer like Kim Jong Un. And I think most Christians understand that....

When it comes to how we should deal with evildoers, the Bible, in the book of Romans [13], is very clear: God has endowed rulers full power to use whatever means necessary, including war, to stop evil. In the case of North Korea, God has given Trump authority to take out Kim Jong Un.

Is that what most Christians understand from Romans 13?

For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Will you then not be afraid of the power? Do that which is good, and you will have praise from the same, for he is the minister of God to you for good. But if you do that which is evil, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the minister of God—a revenger to execute wrath upon him who does evil. (Romans 13:3-4)

The context was Paul’s admonition to believers that we must be subject to the higher powers in this world because the powers that exist are ordained by God (v. 1).

Kim Jong Un is not under President Trump’s authority; he is a sovereign power unto himself.

The truth is that Kim Jong Un, as evil as we perceive him to be, is also ordained by God. Scripture does not give one power the “moral authority” to assassinate another power, or to go to war with that power unless provoked to do so by an enemy striking first.

That’s not to say it may be human wisdom to take a preemptive move against another power, but that decision cannot be unequivocally attributed to God’s Word.

But what about Adolf Hitler? Wouldn’t it have been better if someone had taken him out before he could have started World War II?

If such an action had been ordained by God, it would have happened. But God did not ordain it, fully aware of what would ensue through Hitler’s evil designs. All of the

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who made all men and who has extended His hand of mercy to those who would put aside their selfish, sinful motives of every kind, including ethnic pride.

As a descendant of Lebanese extraction, I can stand apart from both groups and look at both sides of the racial divide. I can easily discern that, although the Alt-Right thugs are prone to violence, there has been far more violence perpetrated by the Alt-Left thugs, particularly since the election of President Trump. Even so, regarding the Charlottesville riot, both sides must share the blame for what happened. But it was the “idiotology” of the Alt-Right that prompted pro-Nazi James Alex Fields, Jr. to recklessly hurdle his Dodge Challenger into the crowd of Alt-Leftists, killing 32-year-old Heather Heyer and injuring some 19 others, several critically.

President Trump was correct in his initial assessment that both sides share the blame. Under pressure from the media and even from elements within the Republican Party, he made sure to call the KKK, the neo-Nazis, and all hate groups repugnant at his press conference held at Trump Tower on Tuesday, August 15.

Not good enough. The media and his detractors essentially said it was too little, too late. Pressed by catcalls, boos, and disruptive shouts by the media representatives, Trump again pointed out that both sides share the blame.

That resulted in his being charged with back peddling on his denunciation of the Alt-Right groups. Again, not good enough.

The display of disrespect for the President of the United States by those who claim to be unbiased “journalists” is unprecedented. No president, at least in modern history, has had to endure such venomous hatred of the press. Their darling girl lost the election, and they aren’t about to forgive Trump for daring to destroy her political career.

The Democrats won’t do anything to work with him while accusing him of not working with them. Their hubris is obvious considering that not one Democrat will treat him with respect. But that can be said of certain members of the Republican Party as well. There is a visceral hatred for outsiders—those who are not politicians by trade. And a

billionaire president who calls the corrupt swamp in Washington, D.C. for what it is strikes at their black hearts.

So what can be done about it?

For believers in Christ we must not forget that all authority is ordained by God (Romans 13:1-5).

We accepted that Barack Obama’s authority was ordained by God, even as we criticized his ungodly and traitorous pandering to God’s enemies.

At this present time, Donald Trump has been ordained by God. But we cannot expect the ungodly elements within government, the media, and leftist organizations to recognize that. They are determined to undermine God’s will and get rid of His choice for this particular time in America’s history.

So on whose side is God?

Certainly not on the side of the Alt-Right or the Alt-Left. Both sides are rebellious and subject to His judgment. Spiritually, it must be said that God is on His own side even as He uses men to accomplish His will throughout history.

Even His people Israel had to face that reality. Recall an incident concerning Joshua:

And it happened, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said to him, “Are you for us, or for our adversaries?”

And he said, “No, but as captain of the host of YHWH I have now come.” (Joshua 5:13-14a)

God’s servants must first be on His side. His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

That does not allow us to become inordinately involved in the world’s conflicts, even as we discern right from wrong. We may certainly stand on the side of right, although from a human perspective.

Pragmatically, it must be said that God is on the side of all who hold authority, both on the left and the right, because they have all been placed there by Him. If we had to select anyone in particular as the supreme authority in the land, it would have to be the President of the United States who is Commander in Chief of the nation’s might—its armed forces.

So although many will choke on this, scripturally, God is on Donald J. Trump’s side—at least for the time being. And although many others may choke on this, scripturally God was on Barack Obama’s side while he held the office.

But there’s nothing to say that this cannot change. Ultimately, God will give this nation what it deserves. His choice of Donald Trump may please or offend different people, but his election has resulted in something deeply spiritual. It has exposed the darkest elements of American society for what they are, both on the extreme right and left. The festering hatred that has clung like a boil on the skin of America has erupted into a pus-filled, putrid foulness that stinks to the high heavens. That could not be so exposed

under Barack Obama because those on the right have been less prone than those on the left to demonstrate violently against those they oppose. The left is not so reticent, being financed and pushed by communists, fascists, socialists, and other radical elements.

May this be why Donald Trump was elected? To show unequivocally that the nation has such a large element of corruption making it ripe for judgment?

With the perceived threat of a nuclear-armed North Korea rattling its sword against America, it would merely take one finger of a spiritual principality to “push the button” that could decimate some of our major cities, even while calling down a rain of destruction upon Kim Jon Un’s head in retaliation. And President Trump could be the catalyst for that scenario as well.

Would that be so bad?

In a human sense, yes; it would be terrible.

But God’s ways are higher than our ways, and His thoughts are higher than our thoughts (Isaiah 55:8-9). If the destruction of a large portion of America—particularly its major cities—turns out to be His answer to the vileness that permeates our major cities, then so be it, even at the loss of good lives. His rain (even of destruction at times [Matthew 5:45; Luke 13:2-5]) may fall on the just and the unjust alike.

Do not believe the false prophets who say, “Peace, peace; all will be well with God’s people because He has a bright future for us.” Wisdom dictates that we act with caution, living our lives in holiness of purpose, recognizing that although we are perfected in the spirit, having been redeemed through faith in Jesus for the remission of our sins, we are not perfected in our humanity. Our flesh continues to war against our spirits.

So believers living among the vileness must take heed and recognize the signs of the time. The choices we make today may save us or destroy us. How much evil are we willing to put up with for the perceived “good life” that carries no guarantees?

As believers in Jesus Christ, we cannot forget that what is happening in the natural realm is being orchestrated in the spirit realm. Why get exercised over what is happening and take sides, calling President Trump vile names because we don’t like him or his agenda, or calling his detractors vile names for their resistance to him and his agenda? There’s nothing wrong with understanding the truth and taking sides, provided we seek the truth and the facts without giving in to humanistic propaganda from any side. Yet we must be cautious not to rail against the powers that be; that will bring a particular judgment from our Father even upon His children for their rebellion against His choices for authority:

The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust until the day of judgment to be punished, but chiefly those who walk

after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government.

They are presumptuous, self-willed; they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities, whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring railing accusation against them before the Lord.

But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they do not understand, and shall utterly perish in their own corruption, and shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as those who count it pleasurable to riot in the daytime. They are spots and blemishes, reveling themselves with their own deceiving while they feast with you—having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls; a heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children that have forsaken the right way, and have gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness but was rebuked for his iniquity, the mute donkey speaking with a man’s voice forbad the madness of the prophet.

These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a storm, to who the mist of darkness is reserved forever.

For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those who had clean escaped from those who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption. For by whom a man is overcome, he is brought into bondage to the same.

For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: “The dog has turned to his own vomit again, and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mud.” (2 Peter 2:9-22)

We must remember that “our warfare is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places” (Ephesians 6:12).

If we forget that, we may well end up stewing in the festering gruel of the world’s hate-filled violence, having cast aside the assurance we have in Christ. ❖



Photo, Wikicommons.com

The ungodly involvement in sports

their favorite player when he accomplishes some amazing feat—absolute hero worship.

SUPERSTITION: Many athletes have lucky charms and go through superstitious routines, or wear particular articles of clothing or jewelry, hoping to have good luck.

COMMERCIALISM: Professional sports has always had a strong financial motivation. It is, after all, an occupation pursued for profit. Star players are granted multimillion dollar contracts merely for permitting a company to use their name and likeness to sell everything from automobiles to toothpaste. The names and logos of businesses appear on players' shoes, clothes, caps, equipment, everywhere. Absolutely everything having to do with professional sports today is commercialized to the hilt.

This is all true. And it behooves believers in Christ to consider the extent to which we immerse ourselves in professional sports.

Yet even as this is true in professional sports, may the same things not be said about all worldly enterprises? For that matter, may they not be said about the religious world—including Christianity?

PRIDE: How many Christian leaders put themselves above the average believer with their special titles: Reverend; Most Holy Reverend; Bishop; Archbishop; Prelate; Apostle; Priest; High Priest; Patriarch; Pope, etc. How often do these profess to be the best or only mediator for one's relationship to God? How often do they clothe themselves in distinctive garb to separate them from the underlings in their particular religious milieu?

SELFISHNESS: While their congregants are often found in want, many religious leaders gorge themselves with material blessings, even demanding their people give sacrificially so they may attain or maintain their desired level of prosperity?

VAIN PHILOSOPHY: There is no end to the unscriptural religious philosophies permeating Christianity. Every denomination has its own set of vain philosophy. Even non-denominational churches devise unbiblical and/or extra-biblical philosophies that offend God.

COVETOUSNESS: Talk about an orgy of greed. There may be far more money made on religious edifices, artifacts, books, DVD's, movies, trinkets, religious artifacts, pictures, statues, jewelry, household decorations, Holy Land tours and souvenirs, and other things—often promoted by religious leaders—than is spent in professional sports.

A DEAR BROTHER IN CHRIST sent an article on professional sports that gives much valuable insight for believers in Christ. It gave an honest assessment of the shortcomings inherent to professional sports, such as the following (abridged):

PRIDE: Pride is pervasive and emanates from man's fallen heart. But Proverbs 8:13 says God hates pride and arrogance. The pride of life is not of the Father, but is of the world; and God's people are not to love the world. Two times the New Testament says that God resists the proud (James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5).

SELFISHNESS: Sports teaches us to be happy when our opponents fail or when another player is injured so that I am promoted to his position. Winning and promotion of self are what matter most.

VAIN PHILOSOPHY: There is a sports philosophy of "winning is everything." Winning creates happiness. Man is able to reach down within himself to find the strength to overcome any obstacle. He is a god.

COVETOUSNESS: One of the definitions of modern professional sports. Professional sports in the West today is an orgy of greed, and the Bible says this is akin to idolatry.

LICENTIOUSNESS: Consider the ever-present beer commercials, the drunkenness, the gambling, the diabolical, fleshly rock music, the sensual dancing, the indecent clothing, the cursing and blasphemy. The halftime performances at the Super Bowl push x-rated. These pleasures are the exact sins warned about in 1 John 2:16: the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life.

DESPISING THE CHURCH: Ball games are played on Sundays and on Wednesday evenings, tempting multitudes of Christians to disobey the Bible and to exchange the house of God for worldly pleasure.

HERO WORSHIP: There is far too much adulation today in professional sports. Some fans even bow toward

LICENTIOUSNESS: Would that the worst thing engaged in by Christians—including Christian leaders—was drinking beer. The history of Christianity is strewn with evildoing of every kind. Even among evangelical Christians divorce and remarriage has become commonplace. Adultery, fornication, lasciviousness—these are not exclusive to the world. Scripture is replete with warnings to the Body of Christ about these things. Sadly, such activity is not limited to the baby believer or immature brethren; it is openly displayed by many leaders within Christianity.

DESPISING THE BODY OF CHRIST: In most cases, the people aren't in church on Sunday for gathering together in fellowship; they are there to hear a religious leader give them his/her vain philosophy. They are there to fulfill what they believe is an obligation to sit in a pew for one to two hours, sing a few songs, enjoy the entertainment on stage, greet with a handshake their pew neighbors, put their money into the pot, then go home. Perhaps, in some cases, it would be better if they went to a ball game instead.

HERO WORSHIP: Okay, how often have we seen some well-known religious speaker greeted with cheering, clapping, even standing ovations, when presented on stage—especially Christian entertainers? And don't tell me there isn't a monetary element to their appearances. Not to mention their copyrighted songs of worship to the Lord—songs that they forbid to be offered to Him lest those offering them pay the required fee.

SUPERSTITION: Word-Faith; deliverance; prayer circles; point-of-contact prayer; contemplative prayer; meditative prayer; repetitive prayer; prayer cloths; repetitive songs; altered states of consciousness. 'Nuff said.

COMMERCIALISM: See COVETEOUSNESS above.

Okay, so these don't apply to all believers or even to all leaders within the Body of Christ. I offer them only to help our brethren see that, yes, the world is corrupt, but so, too, is Christianity. Our affections must first be toward our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ, and His/our Father in Heaven. We are not of the world, but we are in the world. His grace allows us to use the things of the world for our needs.

He also allows us to use the things of the world to satisfy our souls. There are many Scriptures that speak of satisfying our souls, first with the things of God, but also with the things of the world—provided we do not sin in the process.

It satisfies our souls to enjoy a good meal but we are not to be gluttonous; it satisfies our souls to listen to music but we are not to enjoy the ungodly messages found in some music; it satisfies our souls to play or observe sports but we are not to succumb to the temptations listed above.

And so we come back to Christians and their relationship with sports—especially professional sports.

In western society especially, sports are an integral part of growing up. When I was a boy my favorite thing to do was play sports. Football, baseball, and basketball were, in that order, my preferred choices. Tennis came later, as did golf, although limited by finances and opportunity. Although Little League Baseball and Pop Warner Football started in the 1930s, there weren't options of any note in the forties and early fifties when I grew up. So my experience was mostly in pickup games at public parks or even on the streets of Los Angeles.

Now, to a boy of tender age, the idea that professional sports was anything more than a fun way to earn a living—that there was anything unseemly about the enterprise—never entered my mind. These guys were “heroes” to me. If there was anything unsavory about a ballplayer's life it was largely hidden from public view. In those days scandals among sports figures were treated the same as scandals among movie stars. And the media were happy to comply for the sake of not offending or corrupting the innocence of youth.

Today, of course, it's different. Every sordid detail of a player's missteps is splashed across all media outlets, printed and electronic. Even so, among the tens of thousands of professional athletes, the number of miscreants remains relatively few. Most seem to respect the game and the fans. Most are family-oriented, and a surprising number are open about their faith in Jesus.

Yes, by most standards they are overpaid. But that doesn't bother me beyond the fact that the cost to attend most professional sports games (the major league variety) is prohibitive. But that in itself is a blessing. It keeps me from being tempted to attend games unless someone gives me the tickets or invites me to join them on their dime.

Although never having played professional sports, I can attest that, yes, occasionally the evils enumerated above sometimes rear their ugly heads. Sometimes guys lose their tempers; sometimes they purposely try to hurt an opponent; sometimes they revel in their accomplishments. But for the most part, no one wants to see an opponent injured.

I've been on both the giving and receiving end of a hurt. I always tried to see if the guy I hurt was okay. The only time I was really hurt was when I received a cracked rib by messing up a block on a bigger guy who caught me with his knee. Ooof.

Yes, it felt good to score a touchdown or hit a homerun, or sink a 30-foot bucket. And so my soul was satisfied on occasion. I wouldn't trade the memories or the experiences.

As for professional athletes, I give them due respect. I pray for them if they are caught in something unseemly. I admire them for standing for something worthwhile. I especially appreciate them if they openly profess their faith in Jesus.

The article on which I am commenting also addressed Christian athletes. The author commends athletes who are model citizens, good family men, and overt Christians. Even so, he faults them for missing church on Sundays and for willingly immersing themselves in a very sensual atmosphere

for months at a time. He also faults many for following the unscriptural charismatic and/or ecumenical philosophy.

But is it willfully absenting oneself from the assembly if one is not attending church services every Sunday? First, Sunday church service is a Roman Catholic construct meant to replace Sabbath keeping to separate Christians from their Hebrew foundation. It really doesn't matter on which day brethren gather. To judge Christian athletes for this doesn't accomplish anything. Most do gather together for fellowship somewhere, sometimes. Nor is there a biblical rule for weekly, monthly, or any-interval gathering. We are simply not to forsake or avoid gathering together (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Most of the time, athletes are too busy training and practicing to immerse themselves in the sensual atmosphere of the world that surrounds them. The times some of them get in trouble are when they decide to leave the confines of their training environment and go out seeking worldly pleasure (which is not exclusive to professional athletes). Most believers among them don't do that. Some might think the most difficult time would be when football players are with NFL cheerleaders on the field. But their attention is on the game, not on the girls. It's the fans who have to take care.

Yes, some are charismatic/ecumenical. But that's the same outside of sports as well. It's difficult to tell a particular athlete's depth of faith or understanding of God's Word unless he reveals it publicly. But one thing I have learned, even while being critical of religious philosophies such as these, is that I have to allow individual believers to be who they are, particularly if I am not able to have any direct influence on them. There are charismatics who truly love the Lord and who have genuine faith, just as there are fundamentalists who truly love the Lord and have genuine faith. We can point the finger at Catholics, Lutherans, Calvary Chapelites, Assembly of God people, Evangelicals, whatever. None of us has attained perfection. We must take strong stands against institutions; let God judge His people. And let's pray that all who are truly His will one day separate from the ungodly elements of their religious affiliations.

As for professional athletes who express faith in Jesus, lift them in prayer, and be thankful they are not ashamed of their testimony.

I have to admit to being touched by one such testimony I heard recently. In an interview for a local television station, Seattle Seahawks linebacker Kam Chancellor was asked by Channel 13 sports director Aaron Levine, "It might be a debate as to who the face of the Seahawks is, but when you hear, 'You are the soul of the Seahawks,' what's your response?"

Said Chancellor, "I guess it's a compliment, but at the same time, you know, Jesus is the soul of the Seahawks. You know, we've got a lot of guys who are believers, and we're fighting, and we're fighting, and we're fighting, and our faith is strong, and we're believers."

Chancellor, who carries the nickname, Bam Bam Kam because he's such a hard hitter, was most likely referring to how they fight to win, but ultimately their faith is in Jesus.

This may seem shallow to many, and that's understandable. These guys are millionaires because of nothing more than their athletic abilities, so what's the big deal about confessing Christ?

Yet more than one athlete has suffered for his faith, at least to some degree. An example is former University of Florida quarterback Tim Tebow who, in 2008, pulled his name from consideration for the Playboy Preseason All-American team because it conflicted with his faith. This incident revealed that Tebow was outspoken about his faith, and it haunted him to distraction as he was ridiculed in the media while attempting to transition from college football to the NFL. Today he is a minor league baseball player with the New York Mets organization.

The bottom line is this: let's not judge professional athletes who are not believers in Jesus. What have we do to with judging those outside the Body of Christ; it's enough to judge within the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 5:12-13).

Let's also not judge believers who are professional athletes unless they betray their faith in Christ through ungodly behavior and/or speech without repentance. Even then, let us pray for their genuine conversion to godliness, allowing that perhaps they are yet immature.

Ultimately, our heavenly Father will judge us all. ❖

WAL-MART REJECTS 'RACY' CHRISTIAN MUSIC

FROM LARK NEWS - Wal-Mart has refused to offer the latest Vineyard Music Group's CD, *Intimacy*, vol. 2 without a parental warning sticker. The album includes what some would call risqué worship songs such as "My Lover, My God," "Touch Me All Over," "Naked Before You," "I'll Do Anything You Want," "Deeper" and "You Make Me Hot with Desire."

"We've had concerns about previous Vineyard CD's, but this time they went overboard in their suggestive imagery depicting the church's love affair with Christ," said a Wal-Mart spokesman. "It would be irresponsible to sell this to 13-year-old kids."

"We felt this was the next logical step in furthering people's intimacy with the Lord, as the title implies," said Vineyard Music Group spokesman Sam Haverley. "People aren't content with yesterday's level of closeness. They want something more. We feel this album gives them that."

VMG proposed adding a heart-shaped warning sticker rather than the black-and-white label more often seen on raunchy rap albums, but Wal-Mart refused.

"If Christians want to make R- or X-rated music, that's up to them," said a Wal-Mart spokesman, "but we don't have to carry it."

Kudos to Wal-Mart. Shame on Vineyard. ❖

The super capitalists that run the world



Graphic from *Technocracy News* – No Attribution

ACCORDING TO A report in *Technocracy News*, a study by the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich reveals that fewer than 150 transnational companies (TNCs) control the world, orchestrating events and controlling governments.

Using data from Orbis 2007, a database listing 37 million companies and investors worldwide, the Institute isolated 43,060 transnational companies and the ownerships linking them. From that list they constructed a model of which companies controlled others through shareholding networks, coupled with each company's operating revenues, to map the structure of economic power. This work resulted in a core of 1318 companies with interlocking ownerships.

Technocracy News states:

Each of the 1318 had ties to two or more other companies, and on average they were connected to 20. What's more, although they represented 20 per cent of global operating revenues, the 1318 appeared to collectively own through their shares the majority of the world's large blue chip and manufacturing firms – the “real” economy – representing a further 60 per cent of global revenues.

When the team further untangled the web of ownership, it found much of it tracked back to a “super-entity” of 147 even more tightly knit companies – all of their ownership was held by other members of the super-entity – that controlled 40 per cent of the total wealth in the network. “In effect, less than 1 per cent of the companies were able to control 40 per cent of the entire network,” says Glattfelder. Most were financial institutions. The top 20 included Barclays Bank, JPMorgan Chase & Co, and The Goldman Sachs Group.

The top 50 of the 147 super-connected companies

1. Barclays plc
2. Capital Group Companies Inc
3. FMR Corporation
4. AXA
5. State Street Corporation
6. JP Morgan Chase & Co
7. Legal & General Group plc
8. Vanguard Group Inc
9. UBS AG
10. Merrill Lynch & Co Inc
11. Wellington Management Co LLP
12. Deutsche Bank AG
13. Franklin Resources Inc
14. Credit Suisse Group
15. Walton Enterprises LLC
16. Bank of New York Mellon Corp
17. Natixis
18. Goldman Sachs Group Inc
19. T Rowe Price Group Inc
20. Legg Mason Inc
21. Morgan Stanley
22. Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group Inc
23. Northern Trust Corporation
24. Société Générale
25. Bank of America Corporation
26. Lloyds TSB Group plc
27. Invesco plc
28. Allianz SE
29. TIAA
30. Old Mutual Public Limited Company
31. Aviva plc
32. Schroders plc
33. Dodge & Cox
34. Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc*
35. Sun Life Financial Inc
36. Standard Life plc
37. CNCE
38. Nomura Holdings Inc
39. The Depository Trust Company
40. Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance
41. ING Groep NV
42. Brandes Investment Partners LP
43. Unicredito Italiano SPA
44. Deposit Insurance Corporation of Japan
45. Vereniging Aegon
46. BNP Paribas
47. Affiliated Managers Group Inc
48. Resona Holdings Inc
49. Capital Group International Inc
50. China Petrochemical Group Company

(Continued on next page)

Is this proof of a conspiracy among an elite group of financiers to rule the world? Not necessarily, suggests the study. Rather, TNCs tend to gravitate to highly connected members of any network. TNCs buy shares in each other for business reasons, not for world domination. Wealth naturally clusters to itself with money flowing towards the most highly connected members. The consensus is that super-entities may not result from conspiracy, but whether they may exert concerted political power. They may compete in the market but act together on common interests.

COMMENTARY

The world system belongs to Satan. This doesn't mean that every individual or corporation operating within the world system is consciously serving Satan; it merely means that the world system will not serve God, whether consciously or otherwise. It is natural for Mammon worshipers to seek common ground with other Mammon worshipers. Should we be surprised?

These transnational megacorporations tend to be run by the ungodly simply because the godly do not focus on attaining wealth and power in this world. Should we be surprised by this, as well?

Although it is good for us to be aware of these things, believers in Jesus should not spend an inordinate amount of time and energy demonizing the powers that be in the world. We should accept them for what they are—anti-Christ at the core, but offering temporal benefits of which we may take advantage provided we do not sin in the process.

If we recognize that a specific company is acting particularly and openly ungodly (e.g., Target's transgender/sexual deviancy policies), we may certainly protest and boycott that company. But if we expect that the god of this world is going to, or should, play nice in relation to our faith, we are in store for a rude awakening. The climate today is tending toward sexual deviancy and anti-Christ attitudes. If that's where the money is to be made we cannot expect these corporations to do other than pander to it. The time will come for them to pay for whatever evils they engage in for the sake of financial gain:

Come on, now, you rich men! Weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth eaten. Your gold and silver is corroded, and their rust shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as if it were fire. You have heaped treasure together for the last days.

Look, the wages of the workers who have reaped down your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out. And the cries of those who have reaped have entered into the ears of the Lord of hosts.

You have indulged in luxury on the earth, and lived in pleasure; you have nourished your hearts as in a day

of slaughter. You have condemned and killed the just, and he does not resist you.

Be patient therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Look, the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, and has long patience for it, until he receives the early and latter rain. You also be patient; establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord draws near. (James 5:1-8)

And I saw when he had opened the sixth seal, and, look! There was a great earthquake. And the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood, and the stars of the heavens fell to the earth, even as a fig tree casts her unripe figs, when she is shaken by a mighty wind.

And the heavens departed like a scroll when it is rolled together, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every slave, and every freeman, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, for the great day of His wrath has come, and who shall be able to stand?" (Revelation 6:12-17)

Perhaps, before we get too upset about the evils perpetrated by the Mammon lovers of the world, with whom our Father will eventually deal, we should first look inward at the Mammon lovers within the Body of Christ—those who make merchandise of God's children, building religious empires and swaying people from the purity of God's Word even while using God's Word for the acquisition of filthy lucre.

The whole world lies in iniquity, and so do the religions of the world, including Christianity.

But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways, by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

And through greed they shall with deceptive words make merchandise of you—they whose judgment from old is not delayed, and their damnation does not sleep. (2 Peter 2:1-3)

The large financial empires of the world are under Satan's control. So, too, are the large financial empires of the religious world.

Let us not forget that we are pilgrims in this land, journeying toward the Kingdom in which we hold our true citizenship. ❖

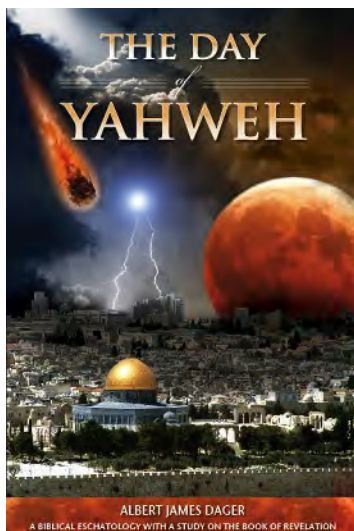


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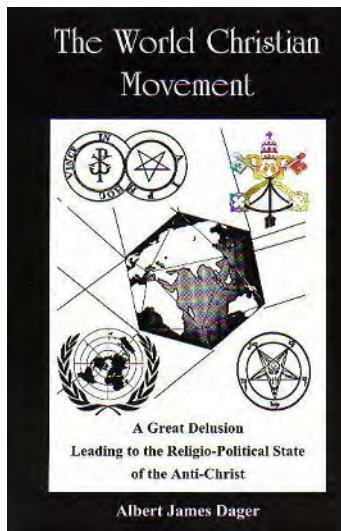
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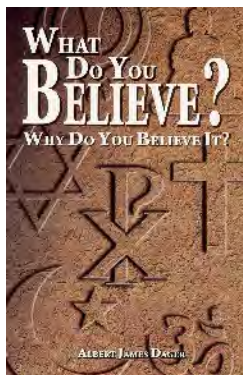
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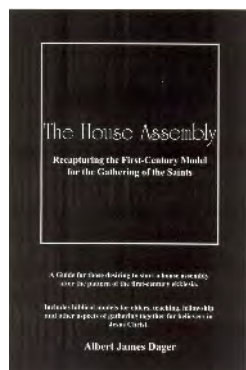
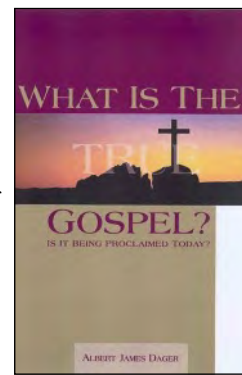


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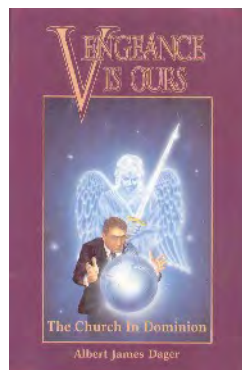


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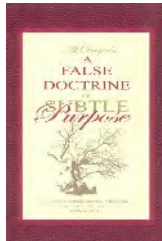
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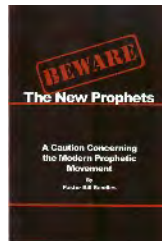
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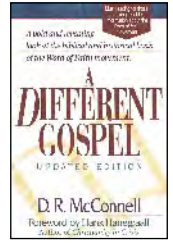
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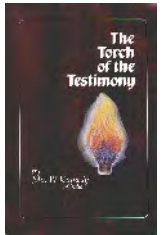
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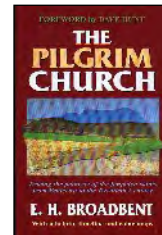
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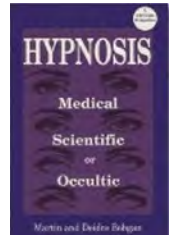
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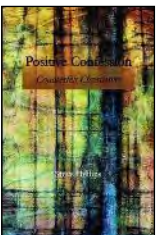
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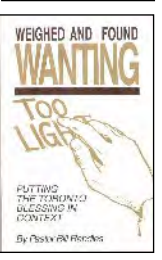
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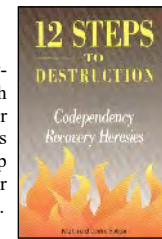
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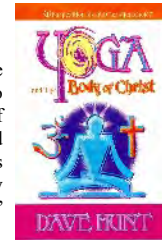
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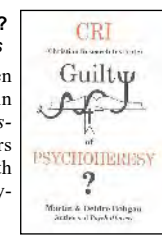
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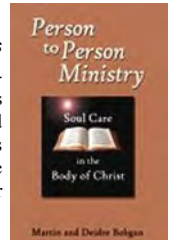
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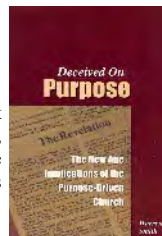
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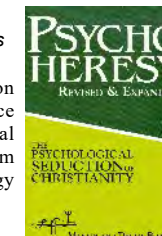
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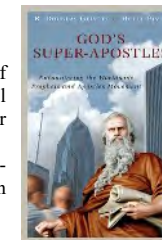
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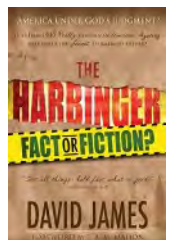
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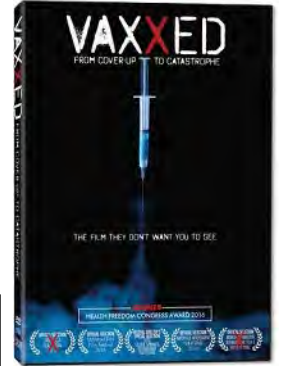
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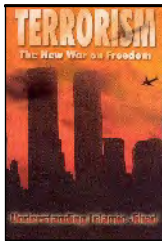
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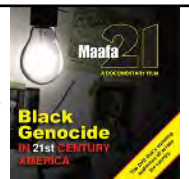
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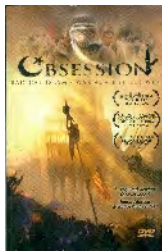
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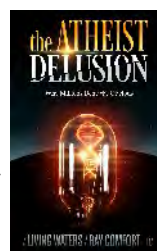
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Robert Jeffress

(Continued from page 7)

assassination attempts against Hitler failed, even though some should have succeeded. Does that not tell us that Hitler was not ordained to die until an appointed time?

It is not man's prerogative to decide who dies when, except in the case of execution for certain crimes, and only after a just trial. Assassination of world leaders is man's attempt to exercise his own wisdom in how he thinks history should play out.

Yes, terrible events ensued through Hitler. But if he weren't there, the threat would have been from Josef Stalin and the USSR or some other existential entity.

Christians too often forget, or even do not know, that the wars waged on earth are merely engaged in by pawns moved by the invisible hands of spiritual principalities under the direction of both Satan and God. Are we so forgetful of God's authority over these things that we think He has lost control?

Satan can do nothing without God's permission. Human history is the outcome of sinful men submitting consciously or unconsciously to Satan's machinations, yet with the oversight of God who works according to His greater wisdom in fulfilling His redemptive plan.

All of human history, as fraught with evil as it has been, has culminated in where we are today. It will eventually culminate in the Lord Jesus' return to make the kingdoms of this world the kingdoms of Yahweh and of His Messiah (Revelation 11:15).

Our Father in Heaven is well aware of all that evil, and has allowed it to continue. Otherwise He would have had to totally obliterate all of mankind. Is that what we would want? Or are we grateful for His patience that has allowed for His love to be extended to whoever will believe in His only-begotten Son, with the promise of eternal life?

Had there been any deviation from the historical events that have transpired, as evil as many have been, the vast majority of those living today would not have been born. Others would have taken their place.

This applies no less to worldwide slavery that existed up to the middle of the 19th century, and continues even today in many nations.

Let us learn from history, but let us not rail against the evils that transpired in the past beyond acknowledging them for what they are. Although we lament the evils of history, including wars, slavery, mayhem of every sort, let us be grateful to our Father for tolerating them for our sakes.

The alternative for virtually all of us living today would have been oblivion. ❖

Louis Farrakhan

(Continued from page 5)

man his true nature, which is the nature of god. Then man begins to rise up in the spirit of god, and the spirit of god begins to condemn his weakness, his immorality, her weakness and immorality. And when the resurrection is accomplished and man has ascended to god then he has the power to say to his lower self, "I'm in control..."

The Scripture says Jesus was raised from the dead. Who are the dead that he's raised from? It's you; it's me. Just as Moses was drawn out of the water, Jesus is raised from a people who are dead. And it means the knowledge and the wisdom and the power of god is seen in the last days among a people who are considered no people at all.

There we have it. When Farrakhan speaks of Jesus as his redeemer, he isn't speaking of Jesus of Nazareth; he is speaking of another "Jesus"—a black man who will redeem mankind and right the wrongs done to his black brethren. Farrakhan applies Scriptures about the Holy Spirit to his coming black redeemer. He also denies the reality of the bodily resurrection, the expectation of all true believers.

In an August 20, 2017, sermon to his black Nation of Islam adherents, Farrakhan said he received a message from his deceased mentor Elijah Muhammad, that Allah is not going to destroy America through a nuclear attack, but by nature, for oppressing god's people, the black man. He would use Donald Trump to destroy the white man's America through confusion, and would use wind, rain, and fire to destroy it physically. On August 26, Hurricane Harvey, one of the most destructive natural forces in American history struck Houston, Texas.

One might think this a true prophecy, justifying Allah. But America has suffered through hurricane and tornado seasons for centuries. And this is tornado season. Harvey was so destructive because it hit Houston, the fourth largest city in the U.S.—a city with a large black population and a black mayor, that voted for Hillary Clinton. It then struck several cities in Louisiana, also with large black populations.

Farrakhan calls his redeemer "Jesus" because he says it means "God with us." He also claims to have the spirit of Elijah, heralding the coming of the Messiah in the last days.

He may rail against how the white man has exploited his black brethren, but Farrakhan is exploiting them spiritually. The price they will pay for following him will be far greater than the servitude their ancestors paid under slavery. His followers remain slaves to their sins, having rejected the only true Jesus who can redeem them in favor of a mythical savior who they will never see. ❖

Racism in America

Tear down all vestiges?

WHEN WE LOOK at the Charlottesville riot, its causes and consequences, we have to perceive it as first an affront to God, second an affront to common decency. The germination of the Charlottesville riot actually began in February, 2017, when the City Council decided to remove the statue of Robert E. Lee from the city's Emancipation Park. Some residents sued the city, and Judge Richard Moore ruled against the statue's removal for six months as the case continued.

The proposed removal of Lee's statue was a catalyst for "Alt-Right" groups including neo-Nazis and Ku Klux Klan adherents to protest. The problem with the Alt-Right is that they, like the Alt-Left, are ignorant of history. There is no way Nazism can be associated with the American ideal. This nation provided the greatest effort, blood, and courage in defeating Hitler's insane quest for world domination. If anything, neo-Nazis should be protesting against everything American, past and present. Their muddled minds are confused by the false idea that a nation can embrace both fascism and freedom of the individual, provided the individual is an accepted class to the fascist state. Conversely, the Alt-Left are confused by the equally false idea that communism or socialism can coexist with freedom. Both run counter to the American ideal of freedom and justice.

On Friday, August 11—the day before the riot—the Alt-Right group marched in protest, carrying torches and chanting "We will not be replaced by Jews!"

Months before, fearful of violent consequences should the original permit to march remain, the city of Charlottesville, revoked the permit. But the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) took the group's cause to court, and their petition to march was again granted.

So what happened on Saturday, August 12?

Somehow, radical left organizations—principally Antifa (Anti-fascist), Black Lives Matter (BLM), and the Communist Revolutionary Party managed in one day to show up at the march, vastly outnumbering the Alt-Right group, to protest the Alt-Right's right to air their grievances. After having watched numerous video images of the incident, taken from various angles, I am convinced that, at least during the march, the Alt-Left group purposely obstructed the marchers, then attacked the vanguard. This sparked a response from the Alt-Right group, which resulted in a full-blown riot. The Alt-Left group vastly outnumbered the Alt-Right group. At this time, it's difficult to assess who struck the first blow. But the fact remains that most of the Alt-Right weapons were their flag staffs, while the Alt-Left attacked with clubs, pepper spray, and even incendiary canisters shooting flames at their targets.

A false media report said the Alt-Right group had guns, but police stated that no guns were present. Yet that fact has either not been retracted, or has been casually stated.

Lest I am accused of taking sides, I have only revulsion for both groups; they are both racist and prone to violence. No true believer can take sides in this disgrace. But all true believers should desire the truth and the facts in order not to be unduly swayed by either side in the world's conflicts.

So here are the facts:

Despite the media's refusal to place blame on the Alt-Left rioters, the Alt-Left has a history of violence. Comparing the violence displayed by Alt-Right elements at times, the violence of the Alt-Left has become legendary. We haven't heard anyone on the Alt-Right calling for the assassination of President Trump, police officers, and Trump supporters. That is a staple of the Alt-Left. And the Alt-Left's attack against the Alt-Right marchers fits their modus operandi.

Thus, the media attacked President Trump because he did not initially blame the Alt-Right for the violence, but stated that both sides were evil and violent. And even when he did place blame on the Alt-Right, the media wouldn't let go of his initial statement, demanding with catcalls and hysteria that he blame only the Alt-Right. Yet even the ACLU (an extremist left organization) admitted that both sides were violent and blameworthy. And the left-leaning *New York Times* reporter, Sheryl Gay Stolberg, said she observed "club-wielding 'antifa' beating white nationalists being led out of the park." Following the riot, Stolberg was interviewed by *Washington Journal* host Bill Scanlan on C-Span. Asked by Scanlan what sparked the violence, Stolberg replied:

The white nationalists started amassing in the city park, called McIntire Park, around 9 o'clock. And the protest—the counter protesters—had gathered at a church for a sunrise service. And each made their way separately to Lee Park—it's actually called Emancipation Park now—it used to be Lee Park—where the statue of Robert E. Lee was, or is. The white nationalists gathered inside the park as they have the right to do by their permit. And the counter protesters encircled the park from the outside. And it was very, very tense, and as more, and more, and more people came—more white nationalists and more counter demonstrators—things got violent. I witnessed skirmishes, street fights, people clubbing one another in the street as the white nationalists tried to make their way into Lee Park, and ultimately I didn't witness the actual flashpoint inside the park. But around 11 o'clock or so the police declared an unlawful assembly, the barricades started coming down, and things turned into absolute chaos.

On her Twitter page Stolberg tweeted:

A few wrap-it-up thoughts from Charlottesville: 1. Striking how many of the white nationalists were young people, almost entirely men; 2. The hard left

seemed as hate-filled as alt-right. I saw club-wielding 'antifa' beating white nationalists being led out of the park. 3. Among my unanswered questions: police response. Why did things get out of hand so quickly? Could violence have been prevented?

Yet pressured by leftist elements, she later essentially retracted her blame placed on both sides, tweeting in regard to the Alt-Left, "Rethinking this. Should have said violent, not hate-filled. They were standing up to hate."

Stolberg's tenure at the *New York Times* may have been in jeopardy, demonstrating again how the media are controlled by the radical communist/fascist "idiotology."

Amazingly, except for Stolberg's initial remarks and a few voices on Fox News, for once the media largely didn't criticize the police, even though they stood down in the face of potential violence. The police do not stand down in the face of threats unless commanded to do so. We cannot fault the men in blue; it is their political overlords that must be blamed. And although the mayor and other city officials decried the violence, they, too, guilty of inaction, laid the blame solely on the Alt-Right factions. It's as if they purposely knew the Alt-Left would have far greater numbers to oppose the Alt-Right, and decided to allow them to take care of business for them.

Rather than take an objective stance, condemning both sides, the politically-correct mainstream media have not only taken the side of the Alt-Left, they have hysterically blamed President Trump for the riot. And not only for the riot, but for the death of Heather Heyer! Even more ludicrous, some blamed Trump for the Islamic terror attacks in Barcelona, and Cambrils, Spain, suggesting strongly that the terrorists took their tactic of mowing down crowds with vehicles from the despicable action of Alex Fields, Jr.! They conveniently ignored the fact that such vehicle attacks have been a modus operandi of Islamic terrorists many times over the past years. And they have released scant information about the fact that the terrorists had originally intended to load their trucks with 120 propane tanks in order to detonate a massive bomb. The only reason the terrorists didn't do so is because one of the tanks exploded while they were preparing, resulting in the destruction of the house in which the terrorists were plotting their evil. Those preparations had to have taken at least months to plan—long before Fields's evil act.

That doesn't matter to the media; if they can conjure any ruse to blame President Trump for every evil that exists they will do so with wringing hands and smug appeals to the American public to get rid of him as President of the United States. They have ignored or downplayed reports of celebrities, Alt-Left radicals, and even elected Democrats calling for Trump's assassination, as well as the assassination of police officers. None of these people have faced repercussions for their hate-filled tirades, even though it is an act of sedition to even suggest that someone should assassinate the President of

the United States. People have been imprisoned for far less. Threats against any public official will automatically trigger an FBI investigation followed by prosecution and incarceration in a federal prison. But these threats against President Trump are consistently ignored, not only by the media but by the federal and state governments.

The violence from the Alt-Right pales in comparison to the violence from the Alt-Left. The Alt-Right has generally confined their protests to words with few actions. Of course the infamous Timothy McVeigh's 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City is cited as an example of Alt-Right violence, but McVeigh wasn't connected to any Alt-Right organization; he was called a "lone wolf" acting with the assistance of a friend, Terry Nichols. Authorities determined there was no evidence he had any connections to any extremist group. Raised a Roman Catholic, he eventually became an agnostic and claimed that science was his religion. Thus McVeigh's philosophical beliefs were more aligned with the Alt-Left.

Does that ever get mentioned? Not by the purveyors of yellow journalism who ignore facts in order to push their philosophical beliefs, the vast majority clinging to the communist/fascist left.

And by the way, let's get one thing straight. The so-called Alt-Right adherents are not on the right of the political spectrum; they are on the left. They have been placed on the right because of the history surrounding World War II.

Hitler's rise came as a result of the struggle between two socialist factions—Nazism and communism. Because the Nazis (National Socialists) opposed the communists, the media even back then decided that any opposition to communism will be assigned to the right. Thus, today, any opposition to the Alt-Left is assigned not only to "the right," but "the extreme right," falsely equating benign conservatives with Nazis. This is why President Trump is called a right wing extremist and is accused of being racist, anti-Semitic, Islamophobic, homophobic, and misogynistic, among many other pejorative terms.

Is he a racist? He has blacks, Jews, Hispanics, and other minorities in high positions within his considerable businesses. If he were anti-Semitic would he be so passionately pro-Israel? If he were misogynistic would he have women in positions of power within his businesses? His cabinet contains all the sorts of people he is accused of hating.

But, again, truth and facts don't matter to the true haters in government, the media, and on the Alt-Left, as they wave their placards stating "Love Trumps Hate," even as they use them to hatefully attack the Alt-Right.

This is not a defense of President Trump—and certainly not of the Alt-Right—as much as it is a desire for the truth to be embraced by our brethren in Christ. Thus, we don't do our research lightly; we explore as many avenues as is reasonable, including reports from both the left and the right, in order to be sure of the things we write. →

We also look to history, not merely through the prism of “accepted wisdom,” but through searching less available resources that convey facts attained through historical documents. And this is where we must address some “inconvenient truths” (thank you, Al Gore).

The ostensible cause of the Charlottesville violence was the removal of a statue of Robert E. Lee from a public park, based on the idea that he represents racism—specifically the South’s War of Secession (i.e., “Civil War”). We have been propagandized to believe that the war was fought by the South to protect its right to keep slaves. In truth, that war was fought on much more complicated grounds, and the history written by the victors seldom addresses those grounds. Today, due to much ignorance, there is an hysteria fomented by radical leftists, Democrats, communists, and anarchists to tear down every vestige of southern culture as a protest against “America’s racist character.”

Here are some facts regarding the War of Secession:

Abe Lincoln’s position on slavery: Lincoln opposed slavery, calling it “wrong,” but only late in the war. In his zeal to destroy the sovereignty of the southern states for the sake of the Union, he continued to ignore slavery in the northern states. In truth, he had no designs to abolish slavery otherwise:

In his first inaugural address, Lincoln stated, “I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no inclination to do so.”

His stated desire was to send all Africans back to their native climes, even to South America, rather than have them integrated into the general populace. But faced with a formidable enemy in the South, Lincoln issued his first Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862, threatening the South that if they did not surrender, the Proclamation would go into effect. So the Proclamation was based not primarily on abolishing slavery. It was issued as a means to force the South to surrender. When that didn’t happen, he issued the final Proclamation on January 1, 1863.

One of the inconvenient truths: the Emancipation Proclamation was written by Lincoln to apply only to the southern states he considered in rebellion. The purpose was to hinder the South’s position in the war. Slaves were used to help the South’s army in the field and to manage the home front, allowing for more men to fight. Lincoln wanted to prevent as much as possible the South’s use of slaves in its war effort.

Robert E. Lee’s position on slavery: In spite of propaganda to the contrary, many southerners, including generals such as Robert E. Lee, were seeking ways to abolish slavery. That, too, is largely lost to political correctness. Long before Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation, Lee stated in 1856, “There are few, I believe, in this enlightened age, who will not acknowledge that slavery as an institution is a moral and political evil.” Lee was compelled to fight, not for slavery, but for the South’s ability to resist the political and economic tyranny of the North.

The reason for the war: Slavery was not the impetus for the War of Secession. The quest for economic power on the part of the northern industrial base against the agricultural southern states resulted in intolerable conditions for the South. Lincoln was also influenced by Marxist elements in his administration who strove for a large, centralized government. Some of his top generals were exiled German Marxists. Only when Lincoln saw the advantage of freeing the slaves as a means to cripple the South’s war effort did he do anything. The war began on April 6, 1861—a year and a half before Lincoln issued his Emancipation Proclamation.

For those who insist that white Americans are racists, they should understand that slavery has been practiced by virtually all civilizations since time immemorial. There was a huge slave trade between tribes within sub-Saharan Africa. The African slave trade to the west was a Muslim enterprise, many Muslims owning slaves themselves. We could go on about non-white slave traders and owners, but it’s important to realize that, had it not been for the abolition of slavery in America, many nations today would still be practicing it. America has been the major catalyst to end slavery anywhere. The false narrative that condemns Americans as racist comes from the communist elements in the nation striving for class warfare. Those who follow that narrative are dupes of a satanic conspiracy.

If left wing radicals insist on tearing down all vestiges of racism, they should include in their pogrom the abolition of their beloved Planned Parenthood. The founder of Planned Parenthood, Margaret Sanger, was a flaming racist and eugenicist associated with the KKK. Her purpose was to eliminate, or at least seriously curtail, the propagation of Negroes whom she considered sub-human. Her method was birth control, but when the means for abortion arose later, Planned Parenthood entered the abortion business big time. They found it financially lucrative, deriving funds from large corporate donors, government subsidies, and the selling of baby parts.

Yet the hew and cry of the left is against President Trump’s desire to defund the satanic-guided organization.

For that matter, the “anti-racists” should demand the abolition of the Democrat Party. The KKK were Democrats, and it was the Democrats who opposed any attempts to abolish slavery. It was Republicans who proposed the 13th Amendment (1865) to the U.S. Constitution and voted for abolition. Only two Democrat senators, Reverdy Johnson of Maryland and James Nesmith of Oregon, voting “aye.”

We don’t relish writing about tragedies that occur in this fallen world; they are to be expected. Jesus’ return is the only remedy. But sadly, even many believers have “drunk the Kool-Aid” dished out by those factions on the extreme left. They have developed such a passion for their worldly choices that they refuse to recognize the hatred festering in their own hearts.

Should they take up the cause of hatred on either side of this worldly conflict it may well result not only in the destruction of their temporal lives, but of their eternal souls. ❖



SOME SIX THOUSAND years of human history has brought us to where we are today—a world population that in April of this year exceeded 7.5 billion souls. That is an increase of some 40% since only 1990 when the population stood at around 5.1 billion people. It is expected to rise another billion within the next 13 years, to 8.5 billion!

With the population explosion, concern over how to feed and otherwise sustain so many people has increased to the point of alarm. World leaders are predicting dire consequences for not only the human race, but for the entire planet. And as more and more agriculture falls into the hands of giant multi-national corporations, there has been growing concern over the safety of our food supply. Toxic farming techniques poison much of the food that makes its way into the market. Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are incorporated with the promise that they will promote resistance to pests and blight. But at what cost to human health? There are too many unanswered questions, but once man begins to tamper with God’s design for nature we cannot expect optimal outcomes.

We live in a fallen world. We can expect less than optimal outcomes for virtually everything man touches. And as history winds down to the culmination of all that is ordained to occur before our Lord returns, we can expect anti-Christ to wreak as much havoc as possible before his end comes.

The vast majority of humanity have no relationship with God, even as they are religious, worshiping they know not what. The gods of mankind are not only fickle, they are downright dangerous. Adherents to false religious systems live in fear of their gods, believing they are subject to the caprice of forces beyond their control. Superstition still reigns in all religion, including Christianity. Superstition breeds uncertainty, and uncertainty leads to despair. Despair leads

to a desire to escape one’s circumstances by any means possible.

If this seems an overly dramatic analysis of the human condition, consider the violence that is filling the earth as never before. Although violence has been a staple of mankind’s dealing with itself since the time Cain slew Abel, the sheer increase in the world’s population engenders a commensurate increase in the incidents of violence.

Man’s violence filled the earth during the time of Noah, so God determined to destroy all of mankind with a flood. Only Noah found favor in His eyes because he was a righteous man and perfect in his generations (Genesis 6:8-9); his ancestry was not polluted with ungodly relations.

Today the entire world lives in fear of Islamic terrorism—a fear that didn’t exist as late as thirty years ago.

The angst that characterizes the human condition without Christ has resulted in a despair that saw a marked increase in the drug trade during the decade of the 1990s. At the beginning of the decade it seemed that drug use by the general populace in America was on the decline from the previous decade. Yet the use of methamphetamines (aka “crystal meth” or “meth”) among high schoolers more than doubled between 1990 and 1996.

For the most part, as people seek escape from reality they do not turn to the only source of personal peace—the Lord Jesus Christ. They turn to synthetic means of finding peace. In the process, they too often find death. And death, after all, is anti-Christ’s final weapon against the mankind he hates.

As we look at the decade of the 90s we’ll see much death, both physical and spiritual. We’ll see Islamic terrorism become one of the more prominent means to death as it begins to raise its ugly head over the landscape of human despair.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Hubble Telescope

Ever reaching for greater knowledge about the universe in which we live, man has devised ingenious means to probe the night sky. From the earliest known telescope—a refractor type made by eyeglass maker Hans Lippershey in the Netherlands in 1608—and Galileo’s improvement a year later, ever more powerful telescopes have been developed over the centuries. Isaac Newton is said to have built the first reflector telescope in 1668, making it possible to collect more light from the stars in a smaller instrument. The early 1900s saw the advent of large astronomical research telescopes, including the Mount Wilson 60-inch (1908), the 100-inch Hooker Telescope (1917), and the 200-inch Hale Telescope at Mount Palomar Observatory in California (1948). In 1931 came the advent of radio telescopes that do not gather light, but radio waves. The 1960s saw development of space observatories that allowed access to radio bands unattainable from ground observatories, including x-rays and infrared bands.

And let’s not forget LUCIFER, the Vatican’s research telescope searching for extraterrestrial life: LUCIFER is an acronym for the instruments lengthy title, “Large Binocular Telescope Near-infrared Utility with Camera and Integral Field Unit for Extragalactic Research.” Why the Vatican had to stretch so hard to come up with the name of God’s archenemy for its instrument is curious.

The pride of astronomical research, however, is NASA’s Hubble Space Telescope with a 7.9-ft mirror, launched into low earth orbit in 1990. Unhindered by the distortion of light that filters through earth’s atmosphere to ground-based telescopes, Hubble can take extremely high-resolution images with considerably less background light. It has recorded some of the most detailed light images, and is said to allow a deep view into space and time.

Ever since man was created he has looked to the stars for guidance, not only in keeping his bearings during travel on land and sea, but spiritually. From early observations he developed the pseudoscience of astrology, attempting to divine the future and the fate that may lie ahead for the observer. This is another place where anti-Christ has influenced mankind in the discipline of science. Like all science, most astronomy is used not to glorify God (although early Christian astronomers did do so), but to glorify the human spirit—to help man rise above the stars to be equal with God. Man’s quest is little different than Satan’s quest for equality with God.

So today scientists are not looking for God in the majesty of the cosmos; they are looking for signs of intelligent life, hoping that some advanced alien civilization can come teach us how to live in peace and harmony.

Like most things perverted through the lens of satanic deception, science—in this case astronomy—ignores the truth that we already have the teachings necessary to bring us to

peace and harmony. It is God’s Word, given “for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, so that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished for all good works” (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

But mankind, repulsed by the demand for holiness in the lives of those who would be saved, seeks for alien life forms to cure his self-inflicted horrors. He may well find himself in contact with alien life forms, but they won’t be what he expects. Or maybe the Vatican does expect to find Lucifer and his devils masquerading as aliens in UFOs.

Dolly the Sheep

Having meddled in nature among inanimate elements such as our food supply, scientists had to take it a step further and begin meddling with animals. In 1996, the first cloned mammal was born. Dolly the sheep was an international sensation.

Before Dolly, several clones had been produced in laboratories, including cows, mice, and frogs. These had been cloned from the DNA taken from embryos. Dolly was the first mammal to be cloned from an adult cell. This was a major scientific achievement, demonstrating that the DNA from adult cells, despite having specialized as one particular type of cell, can be used to create an entire organism.

What does this portend for the future? Almost immediately speculation began whether humans could be cloned in a similar way. Thus far (as much as we know) no attempt to clone humans has gone forward due to challenges pertaining to the ethics of such an attempt. But given the ungodly direction in which humanity is hurdling itself, can we be too far away from cloning humans?

Add to this that scientists are already combining human genes with animal genes for various “beneficial” purposes such as developing medicines.

If cloning humans becomes reality, what would we end up with—a race of soulless entities programmed to serve humanity like automatons? Perhaps an army of warriors to do the anti-Christ’s bidding?

Sure it’s farfetched. For now. But considering how far mankind has come in his godless approach to science, who can say what may come of it?

Y2K

As the Second Millennium (Y2K) approached, there was a sudden concern expressed that, because computer programmers had reduced the four-digit year to two digits, computers would not be able to distinguish between the years 1900 and 2000. There was almost universal certainty that a whole class of electronic bugs would manifest related to the formatting and storage of calendar data for dates beginning in 2000. Computer systems were checked for possible problems, fixes and upgrades were installed, and the world waited to see what would happen.

As it turned out, nothing of any great significance occurred. But the Y2K experience proved again how fearful mankind can be when faced with the unknown. Perhaps we are stretching things a bit to suggest that such fear plays into the hands of anti-Christ. It will be through much fear that the anti-Christ will expand his empire when he comes on the scene. Considering how, even today, we fear a simple crash of our computer systems, and how we are so dependent upon technology, how will mankind as a whole react when anti-Christ's technology is holding it ransom, unable to buy or sell without taking his mark?

TERRORISM

As familiar as the word terrorism is to us today, there remains no commonly accepted definition. It comes from the Latin verb *terrere*—"to frighten." The word had its origins in the French Revolution, and applied to an adherent or supporter of the Jacobins, the most influential political club during the period. From May, 1793, until July, 1794, the French government came under the control of Maximilien de Robespierre's Mountain Faction, and was responsible for high degrees of political violence. The period came to be called by some historians the "Reign of Terror."

Many opponents of the Mountain Faction were guillotined or executed in some other manner to the tune of some 17,000. Today, the term Jacobin is used in Britain as a pejorative term for radical, left-wing revolutionaries.

Over the centuries the term terrorism came to be applied to any act of violence emanating from a revolutionary political base, especially Marxist and Islamic bases, although it has also been used to describe any act of violence, even by individuals.

It is also applied retroactively to terrorist acts committed for any reason, including religious, from any period in history. Terrorists may be individuals, groups, or states.

Islamic Terrorism

Today, fundamentalist Islam has become the foremost propagator of terrorism in the world. Prior to 1993 the United States remained immune from Islamic terrorism. But on January 25 of that year, a Pakistani national, Mir Qazi, killed two CIA employees and wounded three others as they waited for a stoplight in their cars. Qazi fled the country and became the subject of an international manhunt. He was captured in Pakistan in 1997 and extradited to the United States for trial where he was found guilty of capital and first-degree murder. He was executed by lethal injection in 2002.

Also in 1993, the World Trade Center in New York City came under a terrorist attack when a truck bomb containing 1,336 pounds of urea nitrate-hydrogen gas detonated below the North Tower. The terrorist group intended to have the North Tower fall into the South Tower, bringing both down and killing tens of thousands of people. Although the plot failed, six people were killed and over a thousand injured.

In March, 1994, four men were convicted of various charges related to the bombing. In November, 1997, two others were convicted. All are serving some form of life sentence at the ADX Florence, Colorado, supermax prison. One terrorist, Abdul Rahman Yasin, remains at large, his whereabouts unknown.

Hutu Terrorism

Perhaps the most vicious terrorism incidents in recent history were the 1993 Burundian Genocide and the 1994 Rwandan Genocide. Burundi's first democratically-elected president, Melchior Ndadaye, a Hutu, was assassinated by Tutsi officers. This sparked a violent response in which some 25,000 Tutsis were slaughtered by the Hutu political structure, and as many Hutus were murdered by the Tutsi military.

In Rwanda the Hutus had come to power in 1962 and oppressed the Tutsis who fled the country. The exiled Tutsis formed a rebel movement and attacked Rwanda in 1990, hoping to liberate the country from the Hutus. With strife festering over the ensuing years it was only a matter of time before this would result in the Hutus carrying out mass killings of Tutsis in which an estimated 500,000 to 1,000,000 people were put to death in a 100-day period.

These genocidal attacks were primarily class warfare. Both tribes speak the same Bantu language and generally practice Christianity, although there are Muslims among the Tutsis.

Conflicts such as this call into question the genuineness of faith among any who call themselves by Christ's name. And they play into anti-Christ's hatred for that name.

Oklahoma City Bombing

The worst domestic terrorism act in the United States prior to the World Trade Center attack on September 11, 2001, was committed by Timothy McVeigh on April 19, 1995, when he detonated a truck bomb outside the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in downtown Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. McVeigh acted in retaliation for the U.S. federal agents' killing of survivalist Randy Weaver's wife in August, 1992, and for the federal government's attack against the Branch Davidian cult in Waco, Texas, on April 19, 1993, in which 75 members of the cult died. McVeigh targeted the Murrah Building because it housed regional offices of the Drug Enforcement Agency, the Secret Service, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives—the agency that had launched the initial raid on the Branch Davidian compound. Questions still unanswered surround McVeigh's possible working underground for the CIA, but there is no empirical evidence to support those suspicions.

Compared to certain other areas in the world, even today, the United States has had nowhere near the incidents of Islamic terrorism. One of the most targeted nations is Israel, which is not a surprise. Anti-Christ especially hates Jews and Christians, but there is a hatred for all mankind made in the image of Elohiym.

WAR

The Persian Gulf War

If there is a single greatest contribution to the rise of anti-Christ's power in the Middle East it has to be the 1991 Persian Gulf War that saw a U.N. military coalition led by the United States under President George H.W. Bush to force Saddam Hussein's Iraqi forces out of Kuwait. Hussein's army had invaded Kuwait on August 2, 1990, over several factors, not the least of which was Kuwait's slant-drilling for oil in Iraq's territory, costing Iraq an estimated \$10 billion in lost oil revenues. Although the U.N. coalition was successful in driving out the Iraqi forces, there remained a lingering antagonism between the United States and Iraq which would later lead President George W. Bush to again engage in war against Iraq in retaliation for the 2001 World Trade Center attack. The excuse given was that Iraq was somehow responsible for the attack and had amassed "weapons of mass destruction."

The result was the deposition of Saddam Hussein and his eventual execution for "war crimes." This effectively destabilized other Middle East factions which had been somewhat beholden to Hussein's military strength, creating a vacuum which would be filled by radical Islamic terrorists such as ISIS.

This is admittedly an abbreviated version of what happened, and there were many difficult and questionable factors involved in the decision to depose Hussein. But his absence certainly affected the stability of the entire region, giving anti-Christ opportunity to employ forces of demonic character that the West has been hard pressed to deal with.

One of those forces has been the Taliban who seized control of Afghanistan in 1996. The United States has now been embroiled in a conflict against the Taliban for over 16 years.

POLITICS

End of the Cold War

One bright spot in the world of foreign conflicts came in 1991 with the collapse of the USSR, ending the longstanding Cold War. The incredible events that led to the demise of the Soviet Union involved collaboration between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Pope John Paul II, building on the unrest among Polish workers led by labor activist Lech Walesa. Walesa had co-founded and headed Solidarity (*Solidarność*), the Soviet bloc's first independent trade union. At the same time, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's policies of Glasnost and Perestroika were having an impact on the communist regime in the Soviet Union, weakening its resolve against western ideas and culture. Glasnost (openness) instilled a greater willingness to allow western goods into the Soviet Union; perestroika (restructuring) introduced market reforms that allowed for private ownership of businesses in the services, manufacturing, and

foreign trade sectors. These policies emboldened the constituent republics to move toward nationalism.

The first to act was Poland which, in 1989, elected a noncommunist opposition government to its legislature. When Gorbachev took no action to bring Poland into line, other Eastern European communist dictatorships followed suit. Gorbachev did not interfere with Eastern European defections, but he drew the line at the Soviet republics such as Ukraine, the Caucasus, and the Central Asian states. In December of 1991, Ukraine, Byelorussia, and Russia itself declared independence. The Soviet Union was dissolved.

Yet with the dissolution of the Soviet Union there has never come a dissolution of the Marxist revolution. Communism is alive and well, now in the West more than in the East. Anti-Christ continues to foment revolution among the youth of the West through indoctrination into Marxism in our educational institutions and the mass communications media.

Bill Clinton's Election

When Bill Clinton took the office of President of the United States in 1992, and was subsequently reelected in 1995, the United States entered an era of prosperity, largely because a Republican Congress stifled many of his socialist objectives. But it also entered an era of loose moral ambiguity. Clinton's womanizing led to what would have been scandals in earlier days. When he was caught lying to Congress about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky in 1999 (among other, earlier dalliances) European leaders scoffed at the idea that there would be moral outrage over a political leader having such affairs. To them, Clinton was just one of the boys. The media in the United States likewise attempted to downplay the significance of moral turpitude which, according to the U.S. Constitution, was grounds for removal from office.

With even the Republican members of Congress reticent to convict Clinton during his impeachment process, the matter became little more than an amusing distraction. Perhaps there are just too many members of Congress who could be found in the same unsavory situation to risk carrying out their duty. In any event, the Clinton scandal opened the door for sexual sin to be deemed of no consequence even if practiced at the highest level of government. This may have emboldened Bill Clinton to sign the "Don't ask, don't tell" policy toward sexual deviants in the U.S. military in 1993. This, in turn, opened the door for more liberal attitudes toward sexual deviancy in all areas of American society, which would come to full fruition under the future presidency of Barack Obama.

LITERATURE

Sword-and-sorcery, a subgenre of fantasy stories incorporating elements of exciting and violent adventure coupled with magic and the supernatural, can be traced as far back as the myths surrounding the legendary King Arthur and the Knights

of the Round Table. As a modern construct it goes back to 1961 when the term sword-and-sorcery was coined by American author Fritz Leiber in response to a request by British Author Michael Moorcock in the fanzine *Amra* for a name for such stories. Sword-and-sorcery gained great notoriety with the works of T.R.R. Tolkien (*Lord of the Rings* epics), and C.S. Lewis (*Chronicles of Narnia*). Out of such literature grew role playing games such as *Dungeons and Dragons* and later versions.

Harry Potter

The most popular and bestselling of all sword-and-sorcery literature has been the Harry Potter series of books by British authoress J.K. Rowling. Having sold over 400 million copies, Rowling's books have become the best selling book series in history. Her first book in the series, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, was published in 1997, followed by six sequels, the last being *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* published in 2007. Rowling's books moved her from living on state benefits to multi-millionaire status within five years. In October, 2010, Rowling was named the "Most Influential Woman in Britain" by leading magazine editors.

Amazingly, the sword-and-sorcery genre is among the easiest to write. A fertile imagination and even a limited ability to write are all that are required. Because there are no firm parameters such as science, truth, or facts on which one must rely, the success of a fantasy fiction writer rests primarily on how well he tells his story, and whether or not his story gets read by a publisher.

Admittedly there's more to it, but it isn't nearly as difficult to write fantasy as it is to write say, an historical novel or one based on science (such as science fiction).

Man's imagination being corrupted by his sin nature, it is a tool easily used by anti-Christ to lure the masses into his web of deceit. Occultism in fantasy literature often provides the opening for readers to assuage their curiosity by taking the next step—delving into occult practices.

Although this may not be true of the vast majority of Harry Potter devotees, the overwhelming popularity of occult-themed literature, games, and movies has moved many in that direction. Coupled with the use of hallucinogenic drugs, occultism has produced some pretty scary elements, such as Charles Manson and other serial killers.

CHRISTIANITY

New Apostolic Reformation

"Back in the 1990s," said C. Peter Wagner (late head of Global Harvest Ministries), "we began hearing the Holy Spirit speaking about restoring apostles and prophets as the foundation of the church as God originally designed."

The idea is that God is going to bring about revival throughout the world as the Body of Christ submits itself to these latter-day apostles and prophets. And—prior to his death in 2016—Wagner was allegedly the particular apostle God was going to use to implement that restoration.

The New Apostolic Reformation is really nothing new; it is a rehash of the Latter Rain Movement of the mid-twentieth century. That was Pentecostalism on steroids which was led by such notorious men as Franklin Hall, William Branham, and, lately, Paul Cain, recently exposed as a homosexual by some in his own ranks. (For an in-depth study of the Latter Rain Movement see my book, *Vengeance is Ours: The Church in Dominion*, Sword Publishers, 1990.)

The impact of this movement in North America has been observed in the Kansas City Prophets, "the Toronto Blessing," "the Pensacola Revival" (aka "Brownsville Revival") and other similar charismatic foolishness. The unscriptural nature of these movements is a clue to their ungodliness.

The Toronto Blessing

On January 20, 1994, what was intended to be the start of several "revival" meetings was held at Toronto Airport Vineyard, a small church located in an industrial complex near Pearson International Airport in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Within one year it had become what Daina Doucet, writing for *Charisma*, called, "a mecca of sorts." Huge crowds were seeking a "sign from God," and because of certain phenomena occurring at the meetings, even the secular media focused on what was happening. According to Doucet:

...Worshippers are overcome by laughing, weeping, groaning, shaking, falling and, to the chagrin of some, noise-making that has been described as "a cross between a jungle and a farmyard."

These experiences became known as "holy laughter," this particular outbreak being called "the Toronto Blessing," which Doucet attributed to Vineyard pastor Randy Clark of St. Louis, Missouri, who had been influenced by former South African evangelist Rodney Howard-Browne in late 1993. Howard-Browne popularized "holy laughter" through worldwide appearances at charismatic events and television exposure on Trinity Broadcasting Network. (See our special report, *Holy Laughter: Rodney Howard-Browne and the Toronto Blessing*.)

A year later a similar outbreak took place during the so-called "Brownsville Revival" (aka "the Pensacola Revival") at Brownsville Assembly of God in Pensacola, Florida. That church became a hub for the phenomenon, not only among other Assembly of God churches, but among many outside that organization. The movement made considerable inroads into the Assemblies of God, and several national officers endorsed it.

The phenomenon of holy laughter, like all alleged "moves of God" within Pentecostalism/charismaticism, has died out or been severely curtailed within the churches that succumbed to it. But to the delight of anti-Christ, the New Apostolic Reformation remains on the agenda of the self-professed "apostles" and "prophets" as they promote their deception through the Christian media.

Alliance of Christian Churches

What had been an informal networking of churches and ministries under the umbrella of ADVANCE Christian Ministries, Dallas, Texas, became officially chartered in 1996 as Alliance of Christian Churches (ACC)—an international Christian fellowship of churches originally founded by homosexuals for evangelism in the homosexual community. Begun with 27 member churches, the ACC grew to 50 affiliate congregations including both homosexual and heterosexual communities, and 10 parachurch ministries. The greater majority of congregations are said to be full-gospel or Spirit-filled, and all are evangelical.

We could not find any such organization today, but that doesn't mean it doesn't exist. There is just no Internet presence under the ACC name. However, we have found other organizations, such as Celebration of Faith, that are associated with the founder of ADVANCE Christian Ministries, Thomas Hirsch. Celebration of Faith's objectives fit those of ACC.

As much as we love people caught in the sins of sexual deviancy, we cannot abide the idea that they should be welcomed into fellowship in Christ until they have repented of their sins.

But now I have written to you not to keep company if any man who is called a brother is a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or abuser, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—with such a one not even to eat. (1 Corinthians 5:11)

Anti-Christ has successfully deluded many well-meaning believers into thinking that the mere confession of belief in Jesus qualifies one for unquestioned standing within the Body of Christ. It was one thing for traditional churches to adopt that thinking—most have long ago abandoned the purity of biblical faith. But for self-professed “evangelical,” “full-gospel,” and “Spirit-filled” churches to take that road demonstrates how far from biblical truth most of Christianity has strayed.

Jesus warned us that in the last days iniquity would abound and that it would be as it was in the days of Noah and Lot. He also said that because men would not receive the love of the truth so that they may be saved, God would send a strong delusion so that they would believe a lie, “so that they all might be damned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness” (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12).

More and more prominent Christians today are succumbing to the lie propagated by sexually deviant, rebellious “Christians,” believing that unrepentant sin won't disqualify anyone from entering the Kingdom of God. By doing so they are cooperating with anti-Christ in the destruction of the souls they should be ministering to in love with the hope of helping them escape the judgment that is to come.

Alpha Course

Out of Holy Trinity Brompton—the birthplace in England for the “holy laughter” movement—came the Alpha Course.

The Alpha Course was endorsed by such notables as Bill Bright, president of Campus Crusade for Christ, J.I. Packer, Professor of Theology at Regent College, Vancouver, BC, Chuck Colson, founder of Prison Fellowship Ministries, Luis Palau, ecumenical Latin American evangelist, Cardinal William H. Keeler, Catholic Archbishop of Baltimore, MD, and Jack Hayford, president of King's Seminary, among others. The Alpha Course continues to be used in many churches around the world.

Alpha “covers the basics of Christianity” for all churches regardless of their denominational structure, and can be found in Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Anglican, Episcopal, charismatic, Pentecostal, Baptist, evangelical, non-denominational, you-name-it churches.

On the surface, Alpha seems benign. According to the course's information, “Each week people meet together for a meal, talk on topics such as ‘Who is Jesus?’, ‘Why Did Jesus Die?’, ‘How can I be Sure of My Faith?’, and ‘Does God Still Heal Today?’, followed by small group interaction. There is a day or weekend retreat midway through the course, which focuses on the person and work of the Holy Spirit.”

There are some subtle deviations from truth within the Alpha Course that make it particularly onerous. One subtlety leaves the question of Jesus' sinlessness open to question. For example, in one of the Talks, Hebrews 4:15 is quoted: “Jesus was tempted in every way.” But the suffix “yet without sin” is strangely omitted. It is stated that “Jesus was tempted in every way, just as we are. Jesus had evil thoughts.”

Earlier in the Talks it is explained from where evil thoughts come: “...from within, out of your hearts, come evil thoughts...they make you unclean.”

What conclusion might novices to the faith draw from this?

There are other aspects of the Alpha Talks that leave Jesus' sinlessness to ambiguity. There are also left questions as to Jesus' infallibility, His perfection, His righteousness and holiness, even His divinity. The Alpha Course doesn't deny the truths of Jesus' person and character; it merely leaves room for questions regarding them. (See our special report, *The Alpha Course: Chapter and Verse on Alpha's Jesus.*)

It is appalling that so many well-known leaders within Christianity lack the basic discernment necessary to protect themselves and other believers from anti-Christ's subtle lies.

CONCLUSION

With the close of 1999 came the close (one year later) of the second millennium of history since the Lord's presence on the earth. As the world entered a new millennium, it seemed reasonable to expect that the spiritual battle between the truth of Christ and the lies of anti-Christ would come into greater conflict. We haven't long to go before that conflict comes to its conclusion. ❖

NEXT ISSUE
THE 2000s



Feedback

Greetings Dear Brother Al.

I sent you a letter about the person in the W.H. whom I call “dump” because we don’t say his name in our home or lives. He is so vile, evil and repulsive.

Al, I realize my letters on dump are very strong, and I could have eased into them little more gently, but I believe you have to speak the truth in love, which is what I was and am trying to do.

One day, Al, the Lord will ask us what we did to resist the vile, demonic, satanic beast antichrist in the W.H. today. I would not want my name associated with this evil, sub-human, wild, feral animal under any circumstances. Count me out of any such horror.

Al, my wife and I love you and your wife in the Lord, and as I said, we appreciate your ministry. But somehow you have made a horrible mistake in supporting dump. Al, he is unequivocally a vile, evil, sub-human, demonic, satanic beast, antichrist freak of his dad, the Devil.

Al, you have got to see that you have got to come into the Lord’s REVELATION on that. People all over the world are seeing it clearly and vividly.

Matt. 24:21-24 and II Thess. 2:11 speak of the very elect being deceived, if possible. Well, we are in the “possible” period. Millions of evangelicals are deceived right now.

Al, don’t be deceived; don’t be one of them, swallowing the “great tribulation” deception and the “strong delusion.”

Al, thank you for the *Media Spotlight* (Summer 2017) edition. Your “The Age of Anger” article, I agree with your comments about violence and physical attacks being unacceptable. But my letters are not “hateful attitudes” about dump (in your “Personal Note”). They are the truth about an evil, lying, child idiot, and everyone who has eyes and ears to see and hear, by God’s revelation, knows that.

Al, this is the biggest mistake you have ever made, to support dump in any way!!!

Al, he is unsupportable; he is sick, twisted, insane, demented, evil, vile, filthy, demonic, satanic, bestial, antichrist, and a sub-human freak of nature. You can’t defend or support him in any way. Dump is pathetic and the world knows it. Please help the deceived evangelicals see the truth.

In Him,

B.L., Barboursville, VA

Dear B.L.,

It isn’t so much that I support President Trump as it is my abhorrence at seeing a man unjustly treated by elements of obvious hatred in the leftist media, the opposing party, and the Beltway elites, even in his own party. Trump is a fallible man with as many flaws as you or I may possess, but I do not perceive him the ogre his detractors paint him to be.

Other than personal sins of the past, if you can present a pattern of specific things President Trump has said and/or done, particularly of late, to support your opinion of him, I’m open. I’ve not been able to find fault with his political agenda, particularly his desire to defund Planned Parenthood, promote a pro-life agenda, strengthen our border security, develop a comprehensive healthcare plan in place of Obamacare, defend Israel’s right to

exist, institute a more equitable tax reform, take better care of America’s veterans, willingness to face harsh criticism from the sexually deviant in the military, fight the illegal drug trade coming across our borders, support law and order, and reinstate America’s sovereignty in the face of the globalist elite, all of which have made him enemies of the socialists, communists, anarchists, and other evil elements of our society.

So far he hasn’t displayed any Hitlerian attributes, although elements on the left want to paint him as a Hitler.

But if you know something I don’t, other than by “revelation,” I’m open to hear otherwise if you will be specific.

Thanks for the compliments, by the way. We can certainly use all the encouragement we can get.

Al



Dear Al,

I had intended to write to you after the last edition of *Media Spotlight* in which you wrote about Donald Trump. I thought your article was brilliant! I also think the way you handled your review in this latest issue on Young’s book dealing with his anti-Christ philosophy is equally brilliant! Kudos to you for writing it so well and making clear all the points you hit on. I tried to read *The Shack* when it first came out just so I could speak with knowledge to those I knew were excited about it. But I could not get into it. I was angry and appalled that anyone could drag God down to the level of man! If I remember right, I burned the book as I have done with others that are just plain deceptive.

You were well justified for “shouting” in your conclusion. It is truly disheartening when people take the words of men over the Word of God. As you stated on page 14, “Deceivers count on the laziness of people so they can put things over on them.”

I have been shocked at the realization of how many who have been Christians for years have not even read the Bible. But mostly, my heart breaks over the influence of those who are well known “leaders” in the Body of Christ that do not understand that the death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ was the end of the old creation in Adam, which was judged in AD 70, and do not get that in Christ, the second Adam, we are members of a new creation—the Kingdom of God initiated by the coming of Jesus.

Media Spotlight is a ministry that is greatly needed. We are so propagandized by the general media that we need someone to point out the untruths they are continually spouting off about.

Thank you, Al, for all your hard work in putting out this publication. I write myself, and know how much time and effort it takes.

Blessings to you and Jean!

L.S., Bothell, WA



Dear Al,

I just wanted to drop you a note of encouragement to never stop! Please!

I absolutely love *Media Spotlight*, and whenever I read the letters portion I love that you print many that are from inmates at various prisons!

I've never been in prison myself, but have known a few that have been. I only wish back then I knew of your ministry to share with them. I know of two who gave in to the pressure while in prison to join the Black Muslims. Oh, brother! Talk about confusion!

After a while [at least one] totally rejected the Holy Bible for the Koran. Please pray for James.

I'm giving the address of a friend of ours who wants to read your stuff. I'm excited for him because I know the Holy Spirit is going to change his life with all the truth that's in them.

Thank you, Al.

E.S., Colville, WA

Dear Media Spotlight,

Thank you for your recent article regarding *The Shack*. Media Spotlight is a fitting name. Your organization casts light on subjects that are in direct opposition to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. It is our job to boldly defend the Word of God.

Over the years, I've seen Bible scholars deviate from sound doctrine. The latest quest is the teachings of Joseph Prince: hypergrace—one doesn't have to ask forgiveness for his or her sins because Christ covered it all on the cross.

Another Joseph Prince teaching: the communion makes you well (heals all diseases).

Thank you for not sugarcoating the truth. I pray that God will renew your strength as you stand boldly for Christ.

I will keep these false teachers in prayer. May the Lord pull the blinders from their eyes.

Sincerely yours,

V.F., Dallas, PA

We'd like to respond to all the letters and emails we receive, but it's impossible. Be assured, though, that we read every one of them, and do pray for those who ask it of us.

For those who phone, it would be helpful if we could keep calls to about 15 minutes if possible.

Thank you.

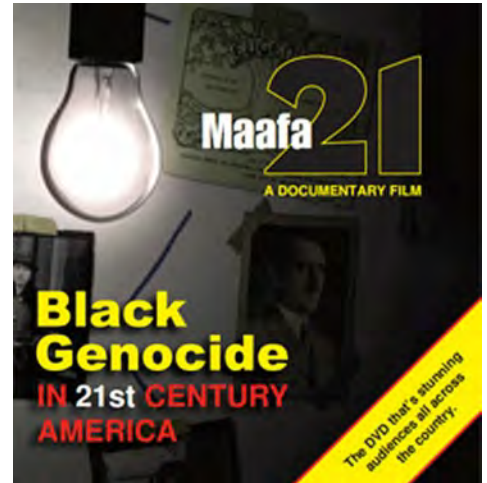
RANSOMWARE FIX

The scourge of ransomware is costing victims thousands of dollars to get their computer files unlocked. Not to mention the grief and loss of time and effort.

If you get hit with ransomware, try this:

IMMEDIATELY hard boot your computer (turn it off by pushing the “Off” button rather than shutting down normally).

We can't guarantee that this will work every time, but it has worked for us.



The connection of Planned Parenthood with the eugenics movement will shock and disgust right-thinking people. The cover-up by the government and media is exposed in this important video. Warning: contains brief non-graphic scene suggesting homosexual act.

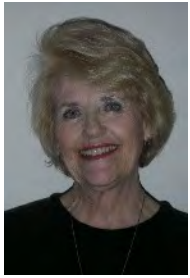
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Have you ever wondered how and why so many of America's elected officials have consistently and inexplicably given advantages to our enemies while insulting our friends, and acting in overtly treasonous ways? This video is the most comprehensive and in-depth exposé of the globalist/communist elements behind the Islamo-fascist conspiracy that has engulfed the United States.

DVD-2036 - \$15

SEE PAGE 17 FOR ORDERING DETAILS



Jean's Turn Where's the Fruit?

By Jean Dager

BACK IN THE dark ages, some of us can remember a catchy TV ad showing Clara, a tiny, elderly lady barely reaching the top of a fast food counter, shouting, "Where's the beef?" It reminded me of my recent experience in a fledgling attempt to grow food—specifically tomatoes.

This is the first time I've tried growing food (it might be the last). Friends from Canada were visiting for a few days and we took a trip to a local apple orchard. They were giving away tiny tomato and red pepper plants. The plants were so small and cute that I gratefully accepted one of each for planting. The weather was cold at the time so I put the plants in the garage where there was sunlight with the door open. Later I transplanted them into a pot with a self-watering lower tray and put it outside in the sun. Each day I faithfully added water to the tray and fertilized frequently. Quite suddenly there was magnificent foliage. But where's the fruit?

I asked Al what he thought but his response was that we could buy tomatoes from the store cheaper.

Jesus spoke of growing in Him so that our lives can produce spiritual fruit:

"By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus by their fruit you will recognize them." (Matthew 7:16-20).

In a YouTube interview with Joel Osteen, he was asked about the phenomenal growth of his Lakewood Church in Houston, Texas. The gigantic church seats 16,000 and is the largest in the U.S. According to a report on the Internet, televised services reach over seven million weekly viewers in the U.S., and approximately twenty million people in over 100 countries. Osteen told the interviewer the ministry receives donations of \$90,000,000+ yearly. Wow! In the plant world, that's lots of foliage.

The Lord will judge the spiritual "fruit."

A close brother in the Lord, Dennis, sent me a picture of the wonderful tomatoes and other vegetables his tiny backyard garden has produced. Since he and his wife Bev moved to a retirement community, there is barely any space in which to grow things. Despite this disadvantage, he planted, fertilized, and carefully nurtured the garden, and an abundance of delicious home-grown food was produced!

I asked him how this was possible, and he replied, "In my newer reclusive later years, God is leading me into understanding again His basic lessons. In a piece of soil no bigger than a postage stamp, I can see His mysteries unfolding. One plants. One feeds and waters. One tends. One harvests. One preserves the harvest. But in between these things are the invisible works of God.

"Yes, God showed me His abundance where it almost seemed impossible. [An] overwhelming crop of blueberries, tomatoes, plums, and an amazing performance from a little stick called a peach tree that most would have uprooted and cast into the fire. Hard to explain what God demonstrated to me in all of this, but I'm so glad He did!"

Al and I have known Dennis and Bev for many years. They both walk closely with the Lord, demonstrating their faith by their love and concern for others. Dennis is a humble man, devoted to the Lord and mature in understanding God's Word. To me, Dennis's abundant garden is a reward from the Lord to him. I've personally seen the Lord's light shining through him, encouraging others in their faith. This is surely a sign of good spiritual fruit in his life. ❖

PS: My tomato plant finally has fruit!

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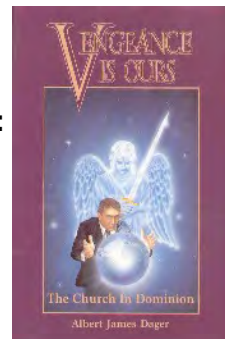
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