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Eradication Of The Wrong Thing!

By Duane V. Maxey

"And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, **Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them**" (Luke 9:54-56).

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The same mistake made by pre-Pentecostal, unsanctified James and John is the mistake of the Afghan Taliban and of Osama Bin Laden:-- viz., the **eradication of men** -- instead of the **eradication of sin** -- as the means of purging the world of evil. The time will indeed come when Christ Himself will eradicate from this earth both evil and evil doers -- but that final, radical purging of the world is not a work that He has assigned to men -- especially not to carnal legalists who know not what manner of spirit they have in their own hearts!

Today, it is being reported that Mulla Mohammed Omar, head of the Afghan Taliban has stated that even though his soldiers are on the run, the goal of the Taliban remains the same: **THE "ERADICATION OF AMERICA"**! He has further threatened that their purpose to destroy America will soon be implemented! -- a chilling threat that makes one wonder what they may try while now suffering the throes of defeat and humiliation.

It is to be noted that prior to the time the American military bombardment of the Afghan Taliban targets began, the Taliban denied any connection with the September 11th Attack on the WTC in New York, and reported that Osama Bin Laden also denied having done this deed. Now, when their fiendish and murderous administration is about to collapse totally, their true connection with that horrendous atrocity is finally being seen! In Mulla Mohammed Omar's statement that **THEIR GOAL REMAINS THE SAME -- THE**

ERADICATION OF AMERICA, it can easily be perceived that the **destruction of the USA WAS, and STILL IS** purposed by both the Taliban and Bin Laden! **Their earlier denials were palpable lies!** They were directly connected with the destruction of the WTC and the snuffing out of 7,000 human lives!

Apparently, just like Sun Myung Moon and his deluded "Moonies," the Taliban and Bin Laden also believe that "Divine Deception" is a holy thing -- i. e., that it is considered a righteous thing by God to lie to those whom they believe to be the enemies of God! In other words, according to their deluded concept, it is a commendable thing in the sight of God to "do evil that good may come"! St. Paul finished Romans 3:8 with the following observation concerning the fate of those who believe in such: "whose damnation is just"!

On the Day of the Lord, Christ will eradicate this false representation of God from the earth, along with all who espouse it -- but that is HIS work. I suspect that it is His will to allow justice to be meted out to Bin Laden and the Taliban through the assaults and military actions of the US and its coalition partners, but even in these administrations of justice, all should remember that the eradication of men is that which God endorses at the hands of other men only in the clear administration of justice and lawful government, and it is not left by Him to the whims and notions of religious legalists or to those bent upon a hateful, carnal vengeance.

I continue to see some striking similarities between the moral concepts of the Taliban and those of many in the Conservative Holiness Movement -- and these similarities are unfortunate:

The Taliban forbade the use of **Make-Up** -- as do Holiness conservatives.

The Taliban banned **Participation in Sports** -- likewise Holiness conservatives.

The Taliban outlawed **TV** -- as do Holiness conservatives.

The Taliban made **Movie Watching** a Taboo -- as do Holiness conservatives.

The Taliban ruled against **Wearing Shorts** -- as do Holiness conservatives.

The Taliban required **Modest Attire** -- as do Holiness conservatives.

The Taliban forbade **Worldly Music** -- as do Holiness conservatives.

The Taliban required men to wear **Long Beards** -- as **DO NOT** Holiness conservatives, but who instead require that men **Shave Off their long beards and go clean-shaven.** (Ironically, both, in the persuasion that the one is worldly, and the other is God's will!)

Perhaps many who read this will think differently. Personally, however, I do not wear a beard, nor any facial wool. Nevertheless, I see nothing wrong with most of the moral code of the Taliban, for God gave me convictions similar to some of theirs years ago. I see no sense in women wearing veils over their faces, but I think that both feminine and masculine modesty in attire is very commendable -- the less skin exposed, the less temptation there is to lust, especially when the clothing is worn loosely, and not skin-tight. And, personally, I believe that Christians should scrupulously and carefully abstain from all appearance of evil and commingling with worldly people and things.

But it is not the particulars in the moral code of the Taliban that I would herein address. Regardless of one's concordance or disagreement with the items in their code, one is compelled to see that **both Bin Laden and the Taliban are HEARTLESS LEGALISTS!** bent upon literally forcing others to **ACCEPT THEIR STANDARDS -- OR ELSE BE ERADICATED!**

This, my friends, is what is so totally wrong with them! It is **GOD**, and not mankind, who holds the right to eradicate men! **Capital punishment? YES**, when justice and punishment by a lawful government require it. **Eradication of men because they disagree with our religious persuasions? NEVER!** There is a vast difference between the execution of justice and the eradication of those who do not hold our religious views! The former can be done by a sanctified executioner with a perfectly right spirit; the latter can never be done with a right spirit, for the very spirit that prompts such killings is wrong!

Thus, what I am addressing in this little treatise is **THE SPIRIT** in the hearts of those who force their beliefs upon others, cutting them off from all consideration as worthy of mercy.

High, and holy standards of moral dress and behavior are themselves not wrong, and when properly held and practiced they can contribute much to the moral sanctity of the individual and society in general. But when an individual -- or a group -- begins to hate others who do not adopt their code and begins to openly make those who do not comply with their persuasions the target of their disdain and hatred, it is clear that **SOMETHING IS BAD WRONG IN THEIR HEARTS!** -- **something that needs to be eradicated instead of those whom they would eradicate.**

Jesus saw that this was the case with pre-Pentecostal, unsanctified James and John:-- They wanted to eradicate the Samaritans, when what they really needed was to have the Old Man eradicated from their own hearts! No wonder that Jesus commanded His unsanctified disciples to **NOT "DEPART FROM JERUSALEM"** until He had purified their hearts from that awful, legalistic and murderous hatred of others!

No wonder also, that the Holy Ghost is grieved yet today with religious folks who want to eradicate others who do not agree with their codes of dress and behavior. One

can be "as straight as a gun-barrel and as clean as a hound's tooth" on these things and still have a heart full of awful and murderous hatred toward others. This is vividly shown in the deeds of Mulla Mohammed Omar, the Taliban, and Osama Bin Laden!

Every religious group, has the right to require what they will in the way of dress standards and moral codes of behavior -- including not only the Taliban, but Conservative Holiness groups and all others as well. Yet further, when an individual within a group no longer complies with those required standards, that group has the right to expel that person. But no one, and no group, has the right to expel anyone from their love -- to exterminate them from their compassion, and certainly not to eradicate them from the face of the earth!

Herein, the Taliban do greatly err -- herein those who kill abortionists do greatly err. Herein also, have some who profess holiness and who hold strict standards of dress and moral behavior also erred -- not in that the latter physically slay those who do not comply with their codes, but sometimes in that they expel them from their love and exterminate them from their compassion -- their spirit being quite the same as that of the carnal James and John and that of the deluded Taliban.

Let the words of the apostle James speak to this, when he said: "**THESE THINGS OUGHT NOT SO TO BE**" (James 3:10). Do I hear a hearty **AMEN!**?

As a professing Christian, far from heaping scorn on those who disagree with you, yea, far from divorcing them from your love, and far from exterminating them from your compassion -- is the following command of Christ:

"Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" (Matthew 5:43-48).

And what is the right spirit when you are the object of legalistic hatred? It is the Spirit of the despised Son of God, Whose head was crowned with thorns and Whose arms were stretched wide-open upon the Cross -- to take all men into the circle of His Great Love, and into the benefit of His Great Salvation! I think that Jesus' spirit at that dark, and yet beautiful, hour is well expressed in the following poem by Edwin Markman -- the "I" in the poem being considered as expressing the sentiments of Christ, and the "He" expressing the attitude of those legalist religionists that brought about His ostracism,

His pain, and His crucifixion. After reading the poem, please read again the message in the graphic accompanying this article.

**"He drew a circle that shut me out,
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout,
But LOVE and I had the wit to win:
We drew a circle that took him in."**

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END OF THIS ARTICLE