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ELEVEN ARTICLES ON VARIOUS SUBJECTS

By Duane V. Maxey

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01 -- OUR DAY NAMES DID NOT COME FROM GOD

Psalm 147:4 -- "He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names."

Genesis 27:36 -- "And he said, Is not he rightly named Jacob?"

While Christians are commanded in 2 Timothy 2:14 to "strive not about words to no profit," and warned that such debates will result in "the subverting of the hearers," we can also see in God's Word that He -- The Great Creator -- has given NAMES, even to such inanimate things as the stars. Furthermore, God wants things called by their correct names.

After his blessing was stolen by his brother, Esau protested to Isaac: "Is not he [Jacob] rightly named Jacob?" -- and of course Esau was bitterly noting that Jacob had, by his deceitful actions, lived up to his name. Yes, Jacob was rightly named.

But what has all of this to do with my subject? Simply this: -- While God gives and has correct names for people and things, WE DO NOT HAVE THE GOD-GIVEN NAMES FOR THE DAYS OF OUR WEEK.

To quote Uncle Bud relating something regarding his "Hospital Experience": -- "You say it don't matter. Well, maybe it don't." And, I would not present the following in order to incite a "strife about words to no profit."

However, if we were to ask concerning each individual name for a day in our week: "Is [it].. rightly named?" -- I assert that the answer would have to be "NO"! The English names for the days of our week are not rightly given -- and, for the most part, the names for days of the week are not rightly given in any language. And, it is interesting to note that even though the English names given to the days of the week are pagan in their origin, millions of English-speaking Christians use them with little or no thought as to their origin, and in the case of Sunday, the name is even revered.

Have you ever learned the origin of the English names given to the days of the week? In Latin, each of the 7 days of our week were named after one of the bodies in our solar system:

Sunday = Dies Solis -- Day of the Sun
Monday = Dies Lunae -- Day of the Moon
Tuesday = Dies Martis -- Day of Mars
Wednesday = Dies Mercurii -- Day of Mercury
Thursday = Dies Jovis -- Day of Jupiter
Friday = Dies Veneris -- Day of Venus
Saturday = Dies Saturni -- Day of Saturn

The Bible presents God's name for only one of the 7 days of the week, that being the 7th day, the Sabbath -- the Hebrew name being "Shabbat". We don't know God's reason for not recording in the Scriptures His names for the other 6 days of the week, however, I seriously doubt that ANY of the names given to the days of the week in Latin were inspired of God. And, I assert that neither are any of our English names for the days of the week given of God. Consider the following, which gives more detail concerning the origins of these names.

* * *

A -- SUNDAY -- "SUN'S DAY"

The name "Sunday" comes from the Latin "Dies Solis," meaning "Sun's Day". From prehistoric times to the close of the fifth century of the Christian era, the worship of the sun was dominant. Thus the first day of the week was named in honor of the "Sun" god. In the year 321, Roman Emperor Constantine ruled that the first day of the week, "the venerable day of the sun,"

should be a day of rest. The sun's old association with the first day is responsible for the fact that the Lord's Day of Christianity bears the pagan name of Sunday -- a name honoring something God created, and not honoring Him Who made it!

The Christian designation for this day, as "The Lord's Day" honors Christ, and that the day would far better be called "THE SON'S DAY" rather than "The Sun's Day," probably no true Christian would dispute. I wonder why there has been no outcry among English-speaking Christians across the centuries to have this improper name for the first day of the week changed into that which honors God and glorifies Christ? Of course, in today's anti-Christian climate, such a proposal would be doomed to failure, for millions of English-speaking people now openly mock Christ's Majesty and deny His Deity.

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B -- MONDAY -- "MOON'S DAY"

The name "Monday" derived from the Latin "Dies Lunae," "Day of the Moon," reflects the ancient observance of feast days dedicated to a false-moon goddess, or to that planet. More precisely, our English word "Monday" is derived from the Anglo-Saxon word "Monandaeg," "Moon's Day" -- and once again, the name gives honor to that which was created, and not to the God Who made the moon.

* * *

C -- TUESDAY -- "TYR'S DAY"

While the Latin name for this third day of the week is "Dies Martis" -- "Day of Mars" -- our English name "Tuesday" is derived from "Tyr" or "Tir," the god of honorable war, the wrestler and the son of Odin, or Woden, the Norse god of war and Frigga, the earth mother. His emblem is the sword, and in olden days the people paid him great homage. Tuesday [Tyr's Day] was named in his honor. In Danish, our "Tuesday" is named "tirsdag" and in Swedish it is "tisdag" -- both names also reflecting that same, misplaced honor given to the false-god, Tyr.

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D -- WEDNESDAY -- "WODEN'S DAY"

The Latin name for Wednesday is "Dies Mercurii" -- "Mercury's Day" -- honoring that body in our solar system. But our English name derives from the Scandinavian Woden (Odin), chief god of Norse mythology, who was often called the All Father. The false-god Odin, was also known as the God of War, Wisdom, Agriculture, Poetry, and as the God of the Dead. The Anglo-Saxons changed the name from "Odin's Day" to "Woden's Day".

When the saints gather for Wednesday prayermeetings across the land, how many of them even once give a thought to the fact that this day, to which they looked forward as a refreshing time of withdrawal from the world at mid-week, is named in honor of "Woden," a

false, Anglo-Saxon god? It is a shame that the name "Wednesday" bestows such an honor to a god who never existed, nor ever shall, except in Satanically inspired, false superstitions.

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E -- THURSDAY -- "THOR'S DAY"

Our English name "Thursday" for the fifth day of the week corresponds with the Latin name for this day, "Dies Joves," "Day of Jupiter." In Middle English our name for this day was "Thoresday, or Thursdays." Thor, was the false-god of strength and thunder, defender and help in war, son of Odin. Thor was considered to be one of the twelve great gods of northern mythology. He was thought to be the only god who could not cross from earth to heaven upon the rainbow, for he was so heavy and powerful that the gods feared it would break under his weight. It was said that when Thor threw his hammer, the noise of thunder is heard. Thor was, therefore, the false god of Thunder. Hence the day has also been known as "Thunderday". In the Norse languages our Thursday is called "Torsdag," reflecting this same honor given to the false-god Thor.

Those saints' whose mid-week service is on Thursday, instead of Wednesday, probably seldom, if ever, realize that they meet on a day giving honor to the false-god Thor, instead of to Him Whom they praise in those gatherings. Rev. 16:18 speaks of that which shall occur at the end of Time: "And there were voices, and THUNDERS, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great." Those "THUNDERS" shall be from the True God, the Almighty Creator of Thunder, Jesus Christ, and not from the superstitiously-supposed, and false-god, Thor. Let me assure you that if this occurs on our "Thursday" it will be CHRIST, and not Thor, Who is feared and revered then!

* * *

F -- FRIDAY -- "FRIGGA'S DAY"

Friday is the sixth day of the week. The name given to this day in ancient Rome was "Dies Veneris" as it was a day dedicated to Venus. However, our name for this day, "Friday," is derived from the Germanic "Frigga," the name of the Norse, false-god Odin's wife. Frigga is considered to be the mother of all, and the goddess who presides over marriage. The name means loving or beloved. In Old High German this day was called "Frigedag". Among Anglo-Saxons, the name "Frige Dag" (or "Frege Dag") evolved into "Friday".

Once again, it is an insult to the true God that the false-goddess Frigga is honored as "beloved" on this day. Peter testified that when he and the other disciples stood upon the Mount of Transfiguration, beholding the glistening Christ, "He received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." JESUS, not the false-goddess Frigga, is God's "BELOVED"! And when God the Father "presides over the marriage" uniting His Son with His Bride, let me

tell you, not one voice shall be raised in honor of "Frigga," even if the event could be said to be occurring on an earthly "Friday"!

* * *

G -- SATURDAY -- "SATURN'S DAY"

Saturday, the seventh day of the week, was called by the Romans, "Dies Saturni," "Saturn's Day". In Anglo-Saxon this same, misplaced honor was given to Saturn as "Sater Daeg" or "Soeterdoeg". Saturn was associated with the ancient Greek word "Kronos" or "Time". Saturn was also known as the God of the Seed and Harvest, being symbolized by a scythe. Thus, our English name for this day, Saturday, does not correspond with God's name for it, "Shabbat" -- "Sabbath" -- and gives honor to Saturn, instead of to the God who created that planet.

The Spanish word for the seventh day is equal to the Hebrew, being "Sabado" -- "Sabbath". But, the name given to the seventh day in one of the Norse languages equates to "Wash Day"! -- perhaps a bit more acceptable, if one thinks of "Wash Day" as being the day in which one should get all washed up and ready for the Lord's Day. Nevertheless, our English name for the day, "Saturday," honors Saturn, falsely known as "the God of the Seed and Harvest," when in Genesis 8:22 we see that it is only the True God who oversees all such, saying, "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."

Furthermore, Revelation 14:16 shows us that it shall be the Omnipotent Christ Who shall "thrust in His [scythe] sickle on the earth" when its everlasting Harvest shall be "reaped"! In that awesome hour, Saturn, and all of the other bodies in the heavens shall roll back like a scroll and depart with a great noise! Then, He alone Who is correctly "symbolized by a scythe" shall have the honor and reverence falsely given to Saturn!

* * *

In conclusion, let me quote from Deuteronomy 4:15, 19 -- "Take ye therefore good heed unto yourselves.. lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, even all the host of heaven, shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them, which the LORD thy God hath divided unto all nations under the whole heaven."

Do I suggest that English-speaking Christians must, or should, refuse to use the names now given to these days in our language? NO! I make no such statement by this little article. I simply say that it is a shame that all of the names given in our language to the days of the week, render honor to that which is not God! It is a pity that English-speaking Christians, and Christians speaking other languages also, have not long ago decried the honors given by these names to heavenly bodies and false gods in direct contradiction of God's Word! With the prevalent anti-Christian climate in today's world, it is likely that such changes will never occur during the time remaining before Christ's Return. Then, there shall be "Time No Longer" (Rev. 10:6), and all of God's Children shall rejoice with Him in that Eternal Day where "the Lord alone shall be exalted" (Isa. 2:11, 17), and where all things shall always be called by their right names.

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02 -- THE FOUR "ERSITYS" THAT ARE DESTROYING AMERICA

Yes, there are, if you please, four "ersity"s that have America sliding down the slippery slopes of degradation toward national destruction and dark damnation! And, probably only a fifth "ersity" -- sent by God upon this land will offer any hope of deliverance from the influences of the other four, destructive and damning "ersity"s.

Have I caught your attention? Then please read on.

* * *

(A) The first "ERSITY" I shall mention that is destroying America is UNIV-"ERSITY".

None of us should place a premium on ignorance, but all should remember that the Fall of Man in the Garden of Eden began with the temptation to gain more knowledge:

"And when THE WOMAN SAW THAT THE TREE [THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE -- Gen. 2:9] WAS... A TREE TO BE DESIRED TO MAKE ONE WISE, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat" (Gen. 3:6).

There is nothing wrong with obtaining more knowledge of that which is purely GOOD. But, the tree of which Eve and then Adam partook was "the tree of KNOWLEDGE of GOOD AND EVIL." The knowledge of Good alone produces true wisdom and purity; whereas the knowledge of Good mixed with Evil always produces a form of knowledge that distorts the facts, debases the mind, disdains the truth of God's Word, destroys the body, and damns the soul.

It is actually A VIRTUE, NOT TO KNOW MANY THINGS! St. Paul wrote to the Romans: "I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil" (Rom. 16:19). And this, of course, was God's will for Adam and Eve -- and for all of their offspring: -- that Mankind be wise only in that which is good, and ignorant of all evil. I do not mean by this that God wanted Mankind ignorant of the FACT of evil, but rather He wanted Mankind to be ignorant of the ACT of evil -- ignorant of experiencing evil by having done it, and thereby making it a part of themselves.

I recall that years ago there was a comical, radio-character portrayed by Edgar Bergen, named Mortimer Snerd, who would sing in a goofy manner:

"It pays to be ignorant,
To be dumb, to be dense,
To be ignorant,
Just like me!"

One might chuckle at Mortimer's claim in that ditty that "It PAYS TO BE IGNORANT," but it is no laughing matter that Mother Eve bought into the Satanically induced idea that: -- "IT PAYS TO GAIN KNOWLEDGE, EVEN AT THE PRICE OF KNOWING EVIL BY EXPERIENCE. When first she, and then Adam, gained the knowledge of evil by touch, taste, and experience, they lost their virtue, and since that hour Man's increasingly insatiable desire to know more and more has always been coupled with that which is debasing, deceptive, destructive, and damning. Satan would have Fallen Men believe that their endless pursuit of knowledge, while experiencing evil, is making them "as gods" (Gen. 3:5), when it is actually making them "as devils" -- refusing to believe God's Word, ignorant of all that really matters, while being "wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!" (Isa. 5:21).

The American UNIV-"ERSITY" -- with its highminded professors and doctors -- has probably done as much, or more, to destroy and damn our nation than about anything else. Methodism fell victim to this "ersity" -- along with other denominations in our land, and our entire populace has been debased by the proud but false theories and notions put forth in our universities and accepted as facts by millions of students.

The American UNIV-"ERSITY" has done much toward fulfilling the prophesy in Daniel 12:4 that "even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased," but the higher our learning, the lower our morals as a nation. And, the more highminded we become intellectually, the more low-minded we become morally.

The Bible has the following to say about being highminded:

Romans 11:20 -- "Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear."

1 Timothy 6:17 -- "Be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy."

2 Timothy 3:4 -- "Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God."

The American UNIV-"ERSITY" has turned loose on our nation increasing numbers of highminded graduates who think they know too much to: (a) believe the Bible and fear God; (b) live by faith instead of trusting in riches; and (c) be loyal to their nation, not being traitors, and be lovers of God more than lovers of pleasures!

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(B) But let me now move to the Second "ERSITY" that is destroying and damning America: -- PERV-"ERSITY".

Sadly, and now shockingly, SEXUAL PERVERSITY IS BEING SET FORTH AS ANOTHER FORM OF NORMALCY!

When I was a lad, homosexuals were called "Queers" and "Perverts" because their behavior was considered abnormal and perverted -- and these names correctly label those who engage in such warped and deviant acts.

One of my computer dictionaries defines "Perverse" thus: -- 1. Directed away from what is right or good; perverted. 2. Obstinate persisting in an error or a fault; wrongly self-willed or stubborn. 3. Marked by a disposition to oppose and contradict."

Let me tell you something folks: -- No matter how vehemently and widely it is insisted that homosexuality and lesbianism is another form of normalcy, IT IS PERVERSE! -- "directed away from what is right and good," --and those who practice it are those "persisting in an error," being "wrongly self-willed, stubborn," and they are "marked by a disposition to oppose and contradict" the true facts about their evil, and totally abnormal conduct!

Along with millions of "straight" Americans, I am appalled by the increasing boldness of "Queers" as they are succeeding like never before to force America to accept them and their filthy, perverted behavior as both normal and acceptable -- now, to the point of demanding that they have the right to enter into the bonds of Holy Matrimony!

Some such even call themselves, "Queer Nation"! And I fear that is what America is becoming indeed: -- "A Queer Nation"!! Call me an Homophobe if you will -- I FEAR WHAT I SEE DEVELOPING BEFORE MY EYES! -- and ANYONE WHO LOVES EITHER GOD OR THIS NATION SHOULD FEAR IT! GOD HATES IT! AND HIS JUDGMENT SHALL BE Poured OUT UPON IT, JUST AS SURELY AS HE DESTROYED SODOM AND GOMORRAH FOR IT!

Jeremiah 5:9 -- Shall I not visit for these things? saith the Lord: and SHALL NOT MY SOUL BE AVENGED ON SUCH A NATION AS THIS?"

Jeremiah 5:29 -- "Shall I not visit for these things? saith the Lord: SHALL NOT MY SOUL BE AVENGED ON SUCH A NATION AS THIS?"

Jeremiah 9:9 -- Shall I not visit them for these things? saith the Lord: SHALL NOT MY SOUL BE AVENGED ON SUCH A NATION AS THIS?"

As per Joseph's definition of Pharaoh's dream, when God says something TWICE, it is because the thing most certainly shall come to pass, and He wants everyone to know that. When He repeats a warning THRICE, LOOK OUT! It could mean that every Person in the Triune God-head is angered: -- God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost -- and HEAP BIG TROUBLE IS BREWING AND SHALL SOON BE Poured OUT!

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(C) I shall now move to the third of the four "ERSITY"S that are destroying and damning our nation: -- DIV-"ERSITY".

During the last several years, I have repeatedly heard a radio ad, sponsored I think by some national agency. It says: "OUR STRENGTH IS IN OUR DIVERSITY." And, what it teaches is that we, as Americans, should accept those who are different from us: -- those with a different color of skin, those whose religious beliefs differ from ours, those with political views other than our own, and even those whose sexual orientation is "queer" in our sight.

Now, while I agree that we should not be racially prejudiced -- while I agree that we should be tolerant of those who differ from us religiously -- while I agree that you and I need not hold identical views politically -- and even while I agree that all should love, and be kind to those whose so-called "sexual orientation" is abnormal -- I DO NOT AGREE THAT AMERICA'S STRENGTH LIES SO MUCH IN ITS "DIVERSITY" AS IT DOES IN ITS "UNITY"!!

According to our Pledge of Allegiance, we are "ONE NATION" (to say nothing here of the fact that it says, "One nation UNDER GOD"). Let me just say here that we are supposed to be "ONE NATION" -- not the "UNTIED" States of America -- but, the "UNITED" States of America. Politically and socially speaking, our strength as a nation lies in OUR UNITY, and the insistence that we must accept DIVERSITY as one of our main strengths is being misapplied.

At one time, America was a "melting pot" -- all of the diverse immigrants and groups who came into this country being melted together into one people, speaking one language, and having one national-loyalty.

Now, we are increasingly becoming a diverse people, and we define ourselves as Hyphenated-Americans: -- Native-Americans, African-Americans, Asian-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, and so forth.

Now, it is insisted that Americans should speak two or more languages: -- when you listen to a phone recording after calling a business you are quite apt to hear the message in both English and Spanish, and when employers hire a person (especially here in the Southwest), they may be required to speak Spanish as well as English. On top of this, I heard a while back that one group of "African-Americans" was trying to get their own "lingo" legalized as a legitimate language to be taught in schools -- or some such outlandish demand.

Even more recently, I heard on the news of a certain school that periodically selected an honorary "African-American" student. But one "African-American" student proposed for the honor was disqualified -- even though he was probably more truly an "African-American" than any of those who were regularly chosen. He was a Caucasian boy who was born in South Africa, but who was now an American citizen. He did not qualify as an "African-American" because of the color of his skin.

What am I saying here?: -- Just this, that America's strength must not be thought of as lying in our DIVERSITY, so much as in our UNITY. The more we insist upon the acceptance of unnatural and unnecessary diversity, the more divided and weak we become as a nation.

Someone said long ago: -- "IF WE DO NOT HANG TOGETHER, WE WILL ALL HANG SEPARATELY!" This sounds too much like the unity of knaves who seek to avoid detection and prosecution. But, it is a fact that whether it be dishonorable "knaves" or very honorable "knights" -- often the strength of a people lies in their unity, and while "united they stand, divided they fall."

Jesus prophesied that at the end of the age, "ethnos" would rise up against "ethnos" -- race against race -- and it would now appear that we are seeing a quite reverse-effect in the push to eliminate racial segregation in America:-- too often we are seeing, instead, race hyphenated against race in our land. The insistence upon the acceptance of the most absurd forms of DIVERSITY is dividing us, not uniting us -- and "divided, we shall fall."

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(D) But the fourth "ERSITY" that I would mention as having a destructive and damning effect upon America is DISP-"ERSITY".

Here, I would mention "Dispersity" in reference to "The Holy People" in America -- and it is perhaps this fourth "Ersity" having to do with the power of God's People that is the most destructive and damning of the four, evil "Ersity"s.

"Dispersity" is a form of the word "disperse" -- which latter word is defined thus: -- "1. To drive off or scatter in different directions, to strew or distribute widely. 2. To cause to vanish or disappear."

Technically, the word "dispersity" has been defined in part as: "the degree to which the dimensions of the disperse particles have been reduced."

Spiritually, I would define the word "dispersity" here as "the degree to which the Holy People have been dispersed, scattered, reduced in numbers, their power now having vanished or disappeared."

Daniel 12:7 says: "When he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished."

When the "Dispersity" of the power of God's People is totally "accomplished" the end shall come and all things leading up to Christ's Return "shall be finished."

In the End, the Primary cause for the destruction and damnation of millions in America shall not have been: (1) The University with all of its Satanic, Highminded, and Sophistic Knowledge, nor (2) The Perversity of the Homosexuals and Lesbians in the land, nor (3) The Diversity that is dividing our nation into many different social groups and parties. Ultimately, the Primary cause shall prove to have been: (4) The Dispersity -- the scattering, the vanishing, the disappearance of "the power of the holy people"! The greatest blame for the demise of America shall lie at the door of the Church -- because, the dispersity of the power of the Holy People is their fault -- their failure to fulfill the terms set forth with God's promise in 2

Chronicles 7:14 -- "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." -- even, "a nation such as this" -- America.

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(E) But let me conclude with the fifth "ERSITY" -- and that is ADV-"ERSITY" -- which being sent by God upon this land may offer the only hope of deliverance from the influences of the other four, destructive and damning "ersity"s. In fact, "Adversity" may prove to be the only thing that God can send anywhere on earth now that holds within it the possibility of deliverance from the widespread evil on this planet.

Why are we seeing so many strange and virulent diseases spring forth during recent years: -- AIDS, West Nile, Hanta Virus, Bird Flu, Baby-Killing Flu, Mad-Cow disease, etc., etc., etc.? Why did the World Trade Centers fall? Why, in recent years, have Al Qaeda and the Muslims taken it upon themselves to so vehemently hate us and suicidally destroy us? Why are Americans being slain (military and civilian) in Afghanistan, Iraq, and other places around the globe? Why have we been hit financially so hard? Why are we being flooded with illegals who flaunt our laws, drain our coffers, and dramatically change our society? Why is violent crime being perpetrated so much and in such heinous ways?

WHY ALL THIS "ADVERSITY"???

Many individuals in America are probably saying to themselves something like the mournful complain of Jacob: "all these things are against me" (Gen. 42:36).

The fact is, however, that probably much, if not most, of what has been striking America is intended of God to help turn our nation back to Himself, and thereby bring real spiritual revival and deliverance in our land.

What cannot be learned in a highminded University, in a sexual Perversity, in a supposedly strong Diversity, or in a spiritually-weak Dispensity, might well be learned through a painful Adversity:

Isaiah 30:20 -- "And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers."

Sometimes, it is in the School of Adversity -- "the School of Hard Knocks" -- that God's best, and most profound lessons are learned -- lessons which can make an individual, or a nation, "wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15).

It should appear quite clear to those with true, spiritual perception that in coming days, weeks, months, and years -- the more highminded become those in and out of the American University, the more bold become the practices and demands of those living in Perversity, the more emphasis there is upon an unwise promotion of Diversity, the more weak the power of the

Church becomes in its Dispersion -- the GREATER SHALL BE THE ADVERSITY STRIKING OUR NATION! -- Not because God hates us, but because He loves us, and is doing His best to bring revival and deliverance.

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03 -- FIVE FUNCTIONS OF THE DIVINE ELECTRONICS

John 6:21 -- "Then they willingly received him into the ship: and immediately the ship was at the land whither they went."

With the advent of electronics and the computer age, men think they are pretty smart with these gadgets, but I can see evidence in the Bible revealing that GOD'S ELECTRONICS BEAT EVERYTHING YET TROTTED OUT, or that ever will be invented. Consider the following:

* * *

A -- GOD'S FAST-FORWARD

A man playing an electronic recording can put the thing in "fast forward" and suddenly jump from one place in a sequence of events up to a spot far beyond that. But, there is no man but the God-Man who was ever able to do the "Fast Forward" that Jesus did in John 6:21 -- Here they were at one moment way out there on the Sea of Galilee -- and then the next moment both they and their ship were "immediately.. at the land whither they went"! Now that's what I call a real "Fast Forward" -- something pertaining to the "Divine Electronics" if you please that nobody but God can perform! It was just as if Jesus said, "Let's just put this thing in Fast Forward, forget about the normal time required of these elements to move that far, and suddenly He punched the Divine Fast Forward Button, and there they were -- at the shore in the twinkling of an eye!

Can't you just imagine the shock and surprise of the astonished disciples! Right after Jesus had calmed the storm and entered the boat, I can imagine one of the disciples saying, "Lord, I sure am glad you stilled that storm and got on-board, we were afraid we were never going to make it to sh..." and before he finished saying "shore" THERE THEY WERE!

If you had been one of them, and between the time you began with "sh..." and before you finished with "shore" you had already arrived -- I imagine you would have blinked, shaken your head in disbelief and said to yourself (and perhaps to all others, right out loud), "Whhhhaaaat! HOW DID THIS HAPPEN!?!? I CAN'T BELIEVE MY EYES!! Lord, how on earth did you do that!?!?" And, can't you just see and hear Jesus, with a little twinkle in his eye, saying, "That's my little secret right now. I did that to show you that I am God. 'What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter'" (John 13:7).

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B -- GOD'S PAUSE BUTTON

A man playing an electronic recording can also hit the Pause Button, and then resume playing the recording a moment later, an hour later, or perhaps even a day later. He can pick right up where he left off as if no time had intervened, though he knows that it has.

Well, God has a Pause Button of His Own, and nobody but God, or one empowered by Him, can push that button. You may have already guessed the scripture that I am now going to present: -- "Then spake Joshua to the Lord in the day when the Lord delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon. And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day. " (Jos 10:12-13).

Do I hear somebody say, "I don't believe that! No man on earth can tell the Sun and Moon to stand still and make them obey him!"

Well, I DO believe it! -- because it was GOD that did it, not Joshua! Read that quotation again. It begins with, "Then spake Joshua to the Lord..." It's as if Joshua said, "Lord, you will need to perform a miracle if we shall be able to chase down and destroy all of those Amorites before nightfall!" -- and the Lord replied, "No problem, Son. Here, JUST PUSH MY DIVINE PAUSE BUTTON, AND LEAVE IT ON TILL YOUR TASK IS DONE!" Then, Joshua pushed the button and old Mr. Sun and his reflector, Mr. Moon (not the leader of the Moonies), obediently and immediately came to a halt for "about a whole day." Then, when Joshua's job was finished, God Himself took His finger off of His Pause Button, and ZIP! -- the Sun "hasted" to go down, and suddenly, like the ship that immediately reached land, old Sol caught up with his schedule in a blink!

Well, you say, I believe the story, but I don't believe it happened quite that way. That's OK, just so you agree that God has a Divine Pause Button, and can make such things happen, because He CAN.

* * *

C -- GOD'S REVERSE BUTTON

Yeah, I know, you're way ahead of me on this one, cause you're catchin on. Right? If you are ahead of me, then you know the next scripture I will use has to do with Isaiah the prophet, king Hezekiah, and the sun-dial of king Ahaz.

"And Isaiah said, This sign shalt thou have of the Lord, that the Lord will do the thing that he hath spoken: Shall the shadow go forward ten degrees, or go back ten degrees? And Hezekiah answered, It is a light thing for the shadow to go down ten degrees: nay, but let the shadow return backward ten degrees. And Isaiah the prophet cried unto the Lord: and he brought the shadow ten degrees backward, by which it had gone down in the dial of Ahaz. (2 Kings 20:9-11).

Now I don't know why Hezekiah thought it was such "a light thing" for God to use his "Fast Forward" and jump that shadow forward ten degrees, but anyway, he thought it would be more indicative of God's Power and Presence if God used His Reverse Button instead! So, that is what God did.

Men have often wished that they too had a Reverse Button -- that they could wind the clock back and have a second try after they have failed, or have a second living out of past moments, hours, days, months, and years. But -- that is impossible for finite human beings.

In her poem, "Rock Me To Sleep," Elizabeth Akers expresses such longings, to be able to hit the Reverse Button in life:

"Backward, turn backward, O Time, in your flight,
Make me a child again, just for tonight.
Mother, come back from the echoless shore,
Take me again to your heart as of yore;
Kiss from my forehead the furrows of care,
Smooth the few silver threads out of my hair;
Over my slumbers your loving watch keep;
Rock me to sleep, mother, -- rock me to sleep!

"Backward, flow backward, O tide of the years!
I am so weary of toil and of tears,
Toil without recompense, tears all in vain,
Take them, and give me my childhood again!
I have grown weary of dust and decay,
Weary of flinging my soul-wealth away;
Weary of sowing for others to reap;
Rock me to sleep, mother, -- rock me to sleep!

"Tired of the hollow, the base, the untrue,
Mother, O mother, my heart calls for you!
Many a summer the grass has grown green,
Blossomed and faded, our faces between:
Yet with strong yearning and passionate pain,
Long I tonight for your presence again.
Come from the silence so long and so deep;
Rock me to sleep, mother, -- rock me to sleep!

"Over my heart, in the days that are flown
No love like mother-love ever has shone;
No other worship abides and endures,--
Faithful, unselfish, and patient, like yours:
None like a mother can charm away pain
From the sick soul and the world-weary brain.

Slumber's soft calms o'er my heavy lids creep;--
Rock me to sleep, mother, -- rock me to sleep!

"Come, let your brown hair, just lighted with gold.
Fall on your shoulders again as of old;
Let it drop over my forehead tonight,
Shading my faint eyes away from the light;
For with its sunny-edged shadows once more
Haply will throng the sweet visions of yore;
Lovingly, softly, its bright billows sweep;
Rock me to sleep, mother, -- rock me to sleep!

"Mother, dear mother, the years have been long
Since I last listened your lullaby song:
Sing, then, and unto my soul it shall seem
Womanhood's years have been only a dream.
Clasped to your heart in a loving embrace,
With your light lashes just sweeping my face,
Never hereafter to wake or to weep;
Rock me to sleep, mother, -- rock me to sleep!"

Another has expressed similar wishes in a poem titled, "The Land of Beginning Again":

"I wish that there were some wonderful place
Called the Land of Beginning Again,
Where all our mistakes and all our heartaches,
And all of our poor selfish grief,
Could be dropped like a shabby old coat at the door,
And never put on again."

Alas! Life has no Reverse Button! God can, and does, blot out the guilt of past sins for those who become His children, but -- the past cannot be relived. Indeed, we are not told that Hezekiah relived the brief time represented by those ten degrees of reversal of the shadow on the dial of Ahaz, but God COULD HAVE caused him to relive those moments -- for "All things are possible" for Him. And, in 2 Kings 20:9-11 He demonstrated that He has a Divine Reverse Button that nobody but He can operate.

* * *

D -- GOD'S REPLAY BUTTON

This one calls into view the awesome solemnities of the Judgment -- the time when God shall hit His Divine Replay Button and set in order before the eyes of the assembled universe the unforgiven sins of every lost soul there -- every deed, of every one, from every place, at every time, during the whole span of Man's probation.

Psalm 50:21 -- "These things hast thou done, and I kept silence; thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself: but I will reprove thee, and set them in order before thine eyes."

Revelation 20:12 -- "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."

Before each unforgiven soul and the assembled universe at the Judgment, God will simply hit the Replay Button on His "24-7-Throughout-All-Time Recording," run the Play-Back and "set in order" that person's sins before all -- and "every mouth [shall] be stopped, and all the [unforgiven] world [shall] become guilty before God" (Rom. 3:19) -- with nothing to say by way of defense or excuse.

* * *

E -- GOD'S DELETE BUTTON

With this function of the Divine Electronics, there is both Bad News and Good News -- first the Bad News:

When a person is born, he or she is completely innocent, and therefore has his, or her, name written down in God's Book of Life. And, if that person dies before the age in which God sees that they become accountable, their name shall have remained in God's Book, undeleted. But, if a soul reaches the age of accountability, has received the light of Truth, and then sins, and afterward dies without having been forgiven, they will discover the following:

Exodus 32:33 -- "And the Lord said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book."

The Bad News, then, is: -- God will Delete the unforgiven Sinner from His book, and cast him from his presence -- not into annihilation, but into the Second Death, which is the Lake of Fire -- there to be remembered no more for ever and ever. God's Children in Heaven will not sorrow over the fact that they have loved ones in Hell, for God will delete from their memories every trace of their existence:-- Eccles. 8:10 -- "And so I saw the wicked buried, who had come and gone from the place of the holy, and they were forgotten in the city where they had so done."

But let me close with the Good News related to God's Delete Button.

To those who feel the guilt of their sins and hope for mercy, God says in Isaiah 1:18 -- "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

To the guilty sinner who confesses, repents of his sins, and turns to the Lord, He says in Isaiah 43:25 -- "I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins."

To those who might have any doubt that He can and will hit His Divine Delete Button for the penitent sinner, He repeatedly assures of such in His Word:

Jer 31:34 -- "And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

Heb 8:12 -- "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more."

Heb 10:17 -- "And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more."

All of those who truly experience this fact can joyfully join the songwriter in proclaiming the joyous lines below:

* *

Verse 1

You ask me why I'm happy, so I'll just tell you why,
Because, my sins are gone; and, when I meet the scoffers,
Who ask me where they are, I say, my sins are gone.

Chorus

They're underneath the blood, on the Cross of Calvary,
As far removed as darkness is from dawn. In the Sea of God's forgetfulness,
That's good enough for me. Praise God! My sins are gone.

* *

Verse 2

T'was at the old time altar where God came to my heart. And, now,
My sins are gone; the Lord took full possession,
The devil did depart, I'm glad, my sins are gone.

Chorus

They're underneath the blood, on the Cross of Calvary,
As far removed as darkness is from dawn. In the Sea of God's forgetfulness,
That's good enough for me. Praise God! My sins are gone.

* * *

Verse 3

When Satan comes to tempt me and tries to make me doubt,
I say: my sins are gone; you got me into trouble,

But Jesus got me out, I'm glad, my sins are gone;

Chorus

They're underneath the blood, on the Cross of Calvary,
As far removed as darkness is from dawn. In the Sea of God's forgetfulness,
That's good enough for me. Praise God! My sins are gone.

* *

Verse 4

I'm living now for Jesus, I'm happy night and day,
Because, my sins are gone; my soul is filled with music,
With all my heart I say: I know my sins are gone;

Chorus

They're underneath the blood, on the Cross of Calvary,
As far removed as darkness is from dawn. In the Sea of God's forgetfulness,
That's good enough for me. Praise God! My sins are gone.

* * * * *

04 -- THE FLOOD-TIDES OF FIDDLING WITH LIFE'S BUILDING BLOCKS

Psalm 139:16 -- "Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfected; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them."

Scientists today, are fiddling and tinkering with the very building blocks of life -- harvesting fetal tissue as if it was so much cabbage from a garden, having nothing to do with what can legitimately be called a human being. They are EVER so wrong in such assumptions -- and VERY MUCH in contradiction to what the Bible reveals on the subject!

Perhaps some might suppose that God's creation of individuals ended with the creation of Adam and Eve. NOT SO! -- Yes, He has set in motion certain biological, genetic laws with the means of procreation, but HE IT IS WHO CREATES EACH CONCEPTION.

Yes, there are questions which this fact may elicit in the mind: -- If God really does create every embryonic beginning of human life, why does He create freaks? If God is Personally involved with the genesis of all human life, why does He create individuals from sexual acts which are performed by rapists and other acts which are immoral?

My reply is: -- Belief in, and obedience to, God's Word demands that one accept the truth that some Divine Acts and Facts transcend human logic, and none has the right to question God's Word merely because it is beyond the pale of their comprehension as being so, or right.

Remember, in Isaiah 55:8-9 the Sovereign Creator declares: -- "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

The problem with millions is: -- They place their own reason on a pedestal as a judge of truth and right above the Word of The Omniscient God, Who cannot lie! IF GOD SAYS IT, THEN IT IS SO -- EVEN IF YOU DO NOT, AND CANNOT, UNDERSTAND IT!

It is high time that such millions stop proudly exalting their own, puny, little heads and capacity to reason above that of the Almighty, All-Knowing, God! It is time that those now tinkering with God's building blocks of life stopped such exaltation of their own reason and started paying strict attention to the admonition in Romans 11:20 -- "BE NOT HIGHMINDED, BUT FEAR"!

Whether any man comprehends and believes it, or not, -- GOD HAS CONTINUED TO CREATE EVERY INDIVIDUAL -- FROM THE CONCEPTION OF CAIN, Eve's firstborn, UNTIL THIS VERY MOMENT -- and NOT ONE CONCEPTION SHALL EVER OCCUR TO THE END OF TIME THAT WAS NOT HIS OWN CREATION!

If you doubt that, you had best read again Psalm 102:18: -- "This shall be written for the generation to come: and THE PEOPLE WHICH SHALL BE CREATED shall praise the Lord."

After the the creation of Adam and Eve, it could have been truthfully said, "There are people WHICH SHALL BE CREATED." As the Psalmist wrote the above declaration, he knew that there were then "people WHICH SHALL BE CREATED." And, AT THIS VERY MOMENT, we can truthfully declare that up to the very last conceptions of human life on this earth, there will be "people WHICH SHALL BE CREATED" BY THE CREATOR WHO CONTROLS ALL OF THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF HUMAN LIFE!

Again, God's Word declares in Psalm 100:3 -- "Know ye that the Lord He is God: IT IS HE THAT HATH MADE US, and not we ourselves."

No, I don't have all the answers to all the questions on this subject -- and neither do you, nor does any finite human being. But, I believe that even cloned human beings would have to declare: "It is HE that made us," even though human beings, trespassing into the realms belonging rightly and solely to God, helped bring about their existence.

As the Second Person of the Godhead, Christ "is before all things, and BY HIM ALL THINGS CONSIST"(Col.1:17)! He Sovereignly and momentarily controls every atom, every tiniest particle of every material thing in His Universe. They "consist" only because HE HOLDS THEM TOGETHER -- and though both devils and men may tinker with them, IT IS HE WHO ALLOWS OR DISALLOWS EVERY PARTICLE TO EXIST AND TO DO OR BE THIS OR THAT.

God did not create the Universe like a Swiss watchmaker makes a watch -- a creation which is independent of himself, which can be placed upon a shelf and operate without being connected to its maker.

NO! -- GOD IS THE "MAINSRING" OF THE UNIVERSE. HE IS THE GLUE THAT HOLDS ALL THINGS TOGETHER -- including every particle of our bodies, "For IN HIM WE LIVE, AND MOVE, AND HAVE OUR BEING" (Acts 7:28).

Every material particle "consists" and exists under His Personal, Omnipotent, and Momentary control. With his many miracles, Christ demonstrated His Lordship and control over the elements. Indeed, everything both material and spiritual consists and exists under His authority and command.

In the beginning, "He spake, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast" (Psalm 33:9). Furthermore, God never HAS, and never SHALL, relinquish that control of every material particle and every spiritual being that He has created.

The ENORMITY OF MAN'S SIN in both wrongly bringing forth embryonic (or cloned) human life, and in wrongly ending human life by abortion, can only be measured by THE IMMENSITY OF GOD'S MINUTE INVOLVEMENT IN IT ALL! Not one particle lies outside the realm of His rightful Sovereignty. Thus, the more men invade and trespass into these areas, the greater their sin. It is God's business WHY He tolerates it at all, but be assured that when He so decides, ALL OF THE TRESPASSING AND TRANSGRESSION OF WICKED MEN IN THESE REALMS SHALL CEASE!

In Genesis 11:6 we read of the upstart ambitions of the builders of the Tower of Babel: -- "And the Lord said.. this they begin to do: and NOW NOTHING WILL BE RESTRAINED FROM THEM, which they have imagined to do."

And today, as we approach the time when "Babylon the Great" shall be judged, this same attitude is prevalent around the world: -- No matter how profane, audacious, and daring the trespassing of wicked scientists and men is into these realms, they still encroach further! Nothing is considered too sacred to violate! -- and "nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do."

The upstart ambitions of wicked men today and their unrestrained violations of the sanctify of human life are coming in like a flood -- much more violent and impertinent than that which struck the shoreline-boundary of God's tolerance in the days of Genesis 11:16.

But, abortionists, cloners, and all others who are fiddling with that which "appertaineth not" (2 Chron. 26:18) unto their Divinely permitted precinct of participation had better sit up and take notice! The flood-tide and waves of their unrestrained infringements and unholy meddling will soon strike the impassible shoreline marking the end of God's tolerance! -- "When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him" (Isa. 59:19).

Nevertheless, until God forever ends this proud flood, look for more and greater waves to arise and shock the sea-walls pertaining to the sanctity of human life. Like the massive and unrestrained waves of Monster-Hurricanes roll over and shove aside every barrier, and defy the frantic sand-bagging of endangered coast-dwellers, even so, the flood-tides of fiddling with life's building blocks are likely to sweep aside even more sea-walls of sanctity and even more sand-bags of protest by those who see the spiritual and eternal damage that shall result.

However, right when Fallen Man's unbridled ambitions and notions have reached their apex and High-Tide in the deeds of the Man of Sin, GOD SHALL END THAT PROUD FLOOD FOREVER! -- saying, "HITHERTO SHALT THOU COME, BUT NO FURTHER: AND HERE SHALL THY PROUD WAVES BE STAYED" (Job 38:11)!

When the violent waves on the Sea of Galilee struck terror in the hearts of His endangered disciples, Jesus asked them, "Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then He arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and THERE WAS A GREAT CALM" (Matt. 8:26).

And, "When HE giveth quietness, who then can make trouble?" (Job 34:29). At Christ's Second Coming, "The Flood-Tides of Fiddling With Life's Building Blocks" shall be forever ended, and The "Great Calm" of Eternal Peace shall come to God's Dear Children as they touch the Shoreline of their Everlasting, Haven of Rest.

* * * * *

05 -- DOES GOD KNOW BOTH GOOD AND EVIL -- EXPERIENTIALLY?

Genesis 3:22 -- "And the Lord God said, Behold, THE MAN IS BECOME AS ONE OF US, TO KNOW GOOD AND EVIL: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever."

* * *

I shall reserve Adam Clarke's comments on the above verse to the close of this little treatise, but let me begin with the following:

After Adam and Eve fell, they knew, by experience, both Good and Evil -- they knew experientially how it felt, and was, to be good and holy, and, now fallen, they also knew experientially how it felt to be guilty, to be impure and unholy.

Along with Clarke, perhaps most Bible Commentators admit the difficulty involved in taking Genesis 3:22 to mean exactly what it says. For, taken in the way stated, it seems to suggest that GOD HIMSELF KNOWS HOW IT FEELS TO BE GUILTY, TO BE IMPURE AND UNHOLY -- i. e., GOD KNOWS EVIL BY EXPERIENCE, just as Adam and Eve had come to know it.

Again, at the close of this little article I shall append Adam Clarke's comments, but before I do let me set forth what, to me, could explain the meaning here while leaving the words as they are and while taking the statement to mean exactly what it says.

In recognizing that Jesus was God, Simon Peter said to Him in John 21:17-- "Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee."

Does God really KNOW ALL THINGS? Of course he does.

Even before Christ's incarnation, God knew exactly how it felt to be a human being -- a flesh and blood man. Further, BEFORE ADAM AND EVE FELL -- GOD KNEW EXACTLY WHAT THEY WOULD FEEL AND EXPERIENCE AS FALLEN CREATURES.

Because God knows all things, He knows the experience of evil, never having been or done evil Himself.

The only way Adam and Eve could know both Good and Evil was to do evil and become evil. The All-Knowing, Omniscient God-Head knew, and knows, both, never having been or done evil.

Thus it was, after the Fall of Man that the Triune God could truthfully say: "THE MAN IS BECOME AS ONE OF US, TO KNOW GOOD AND EVIL." Adam and Eve now had the knowledge of both Good and Evil as did God -- but the huge difference lay in HOW THEY HAD THAT DUAL-KNOWLEDGE. God had it, as only He can -- without once ever being or doing evil. Mankind can have that knowledge also, but only by being and doing both.

The Holy Pair in Eden knew Purity and Good, then did evil, became evil, and then knew them both. Now, a sinner who knows nothing but evil, can do good in repentance and know the good of salvation and later come to know the good of entire sanctification. His dual-knowledge of both good and evil will have come in the reverse-order to that of Adam and Eve, but in both cases it is clear that Man can only know both good and evil by being and doing both. God has always had that dual-knowledge of Good and Evil through His Omniscience.

But, if my little explanation of this difficult text does not satisfy you, perhaps the comments of the much more learned Adam Clarke will:

* * *

"Verse 22. Behold, the man is become as one of us] On all hands this text is allowed to be difficult, and the difficulty is increased by our translation, which is opposed to the original Hebrew and the most authentic versions. The Hebrew has *hyh hayah*, which is the third person preterite tense, and signifies was, not is. The Samaritan text, the Samaritan version, the Syriac, and the Septuagint, have the same tense. These lead us to a very different sense, and indicate that there is an ellipsis of some words which must be supplied in order to make the sense complete. A very learned man has ventured the following paraphrase, which should not be lightly regarded: "And the Lord God said, The man who WAS like one of us in purity and wisdom, is now fallen

and robbed of his excellence; he has added tedl ladaath, to the knowledge of the good, by his transgression the knowledge of the evil; and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat and live for ever in this miserable state, I will remove him, and guard the place lest he should re-enter. Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden," &c. This seems to be the most natural sense of the place. Some suppose that his removal from the tree of life was in mercy, to prevent a second temptation. He before imagined that he could gain an increase of wisdom by eating of the tree of knowledge, and Satan would be disposed to tempt him to endeavour to elude the sentence of death, by eating of the tree of life. Others imagine that the words are spoken ironically, and that the Most High intended by a cutting taunt, to upbraid the poor culprit for his offence, because he broke the Divine command in the expectation of being like God to know good from evil; and now that he had lost all the good that God had designed for him, and got nothing but evil in its place, therefore God taunts him for the total miscarriage of his project. But God is ever consistent with himself; and surely his infinite pity prohibited the use of either sarcasm or irony, in speaking of so dreadful a catastrophe, that was in the end to occasion the agony and bloody sweat, the cross and passion, the death and burial, of Him in whom dwelt all the fulness of the Godhead bodily, Col 2:9."

* * *

Any thoughts on this verse yourself? If so, feel free to send them to me. I do not propose to make the HDM emails a forum for debate. But, this subject is one in which I am open to hearing the views of others, whether they agree with me or not. What think ye?

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06 -- THE VICIOUS CYCLE OF VIOLENCE, VANITY, AND VEXATION

"Why do the heathen RAGE, and the people imagine a VAIN thing? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed, saying, 3 Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. 4 He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. 5 Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and VEX them in his sore displeasure" (Psalm 2:1-5).

* * *

Three of the most prominent things in today's world are Violence, Vanity, and Vexation. At the close of this article, I shall combine them cyclically as Vanity, Vexation, and Violence, but to begin with, let me state them in the order given in Psalm 2:1-5 and in my title:-- Violence, Vanity, and Vexation.

* * *

VIOLENCE

One translation of the first clause of Psalm 2:1 reads: "Why are the nations so violently moved..?" (BBE) WHY there is so much violence is explained by Proverbs 13:10 -- "Only by

pride cometh contention." It is pride that causes Muslim Millions to seek the annihilation of those who will not bow to their false god. It was pride that drove Hitler to seek the annihilation of the Jews. It was pride that turned Stalin into the monstrous mass-murderer he became. It was pride that caused Slobodan Milosevic to commit the atrocities of ethnic cleansing against the Muslim minority under his rule. It is pride that often causes a fired worker to return to the work place and slaughter those who wounded his ego before taking his own life. It is pride that causes some to become serial killers. It is pride that killed the thousands on September 11th. It is pride that is killing hundreds more in Afghanistan, Iraq, Haiti, Spain, and in places too numerous to mention around the world.

"Why do the heathen RAGE?" "Why are the nations so violently moved?" The answer can be voiced in one word: -- PRIDE. In a more lengthy explanation, Christ's brother wrote in James 4:1 -- "From whence come wars and fightings among you? Come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?" Indeed, violence and wars do come from the burning rage in Fallen Man's vicious heart -- but, more often than not, that rage, that eruption of viciousness and violence, is the manifestation of carnal pride -- a spirit that will either dominate or annihilate everything and everyone who will not bow to its inflated ego.

The cure for all of the violence today is not to be found in political persuasion, polite palavering, or even in powerful policing. The only answer is Calvary, and the cleansing blood of Christ. But Psalm 86:14 declares: "O God, the proud are risen against me, and the assemblies of violent men have sought after my soul; and have not set thee before them." When "the assemblies of violent men" cast Christ out and behind their backs, they will never find the solution, and world violence, will, as prophesied in the Bible, continue to increase. Violence on earth WILL end when Christ is SET BEFORE THE AWESTRUCK EYES OF THE UNIVERSE.

Then it is, that the remainder of Psalm 2 shall have its fulfillment: -- "6 Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. 7 I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. 8 Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. 9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. 10 Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. 11 Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. 12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him."

Fallen Man's most horrific manifestation of pride and violence shall come when the Man of Sin rears his ugly head in proud defiance of the Returning Christ and goes out to war against Him. Those who read their Bibles know the outcome of that encounter:

"The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With Peace On Earth,
Goodwill to men."

... Goodwill, that is, to the humbled, but then exalted saints -- but Malachi 4:1 tells of the impact of Christ's Return upon all others:-- "For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch."

* * *

VANITY

"Why do the people imagine a vain thing?" -- same answer: -- PRIDE -- coming from hearts that are totally emptied of all that is precious, valuable, and eternal, and hearts that are inflated beyond measure and filled to the bursting point with all that is vile, egotistical, and damnable.

Vanity is on parade today as never before. The wise will not follow nor join it. 2 Kings 17:15 says, "They rejected his statutes.. and they followed vanity, and became vain, and went after the heathen that were round about them, concerning whom the Lord had charged them, that they should not do like them."

We live in a "Monkey-See Monkey-do" world in 2004, and never have more there been more "Monkeys" on parade nor more imitators of their proud, but stupid antics! The "Herd Instinct" has a grip countless millions now. Whatever they see the rest of the world doing, wherever they see them going, they positively MUST ape that crowd and join the parade, no matter how outlandish their display, no matter how insane their deeds, and no matter how damning their destiny! FOLLOW VANITY, AND YOU WILL BECOME VAIN YOURSELF! and share in its final destruction.

Look out! It pays not to be overly impressed with most of today's "Big Mouths": -- "For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error" (2 Pet. 2:18).

Psalms 24:3-5 says, "Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place? 4 He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. 5 He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation."

Instead of the "Monkey-See Monkey-Do" mentality being followed by even many professed Christians today, there are three other symbolic "Monkeys" that would be better, and more wisely, imitated: -- "Hear no evil -- See No Evil -- Speak No Evil." But most of our generation is hell-bent on aping those "Monkeys" whose final leap shall not be into the Tree of Life, but rather, into the Lake of Fire.

* * *

VEXATION

Seven times in Ecclesiastes, King Solomon uses the phrase, "vanity and vexation" -- Eccles. 1:14, 2:11, 2:17, 2:26, 4:4, 4:16, and 6:9. It certainly looks like the two are close relatives, and even Siamese Twins. Where there is the former, the latter is sure to come also. Indeed, the three Vs of my title are very often Triplets. Where there is Vanity, there will come Vexation, and where there is Vexation there will come Violence -- in an increasingly Vicious Cycle! -- the more Vain people are, the more Vexation they experience, the more Violence they will indulge.

The vortex of such Vicious Cycle is swirling in many places like a gigantic tornado, threatening to flatten and fling into oblivion everything precious in its path! Morality, civility, decency, purity, sanity, and all earthly security are endangered by its wild, willy-nilly, and destructive movements.

So far, Mankind has been unable to harness such swirling monsters as tornadoes and hurricanes, and perhaps never shall be able to tame them. More certainly, fallen mankind, living in the perilous times of these last days, shall not be able to control the Vicious Cycles created in the revolutions of Vanity, Vexation, and Violence.

Is there no hope? Only One: -- "The LORD is.. great in power, and.. the LORD HATH HIS WAY IN THE WHIRLWIND and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet" (Nahum 1:3).

The Vicious Cycles of today's Vanity, Vexation, and Violence shall continue only until Christ Jesus speaks the words, "Peace, BE STILL." Just where one of those threatening and destructive tornadoes may next set down, and just who may be its next victims, no man on earth can predict. But, even before His final, Almighty Hushing of earth's storms, Christ's message to His own is:-- "Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth" (Psalm 46:10). Selah.

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07 -- THE POLITICAL BUILDING IS ON FIRE! -- WHAT TO DO

"The course of nature.. is set on fire of hell" (James 3:6).

The Political Structure of the world is "set on fire of hell"! -- the building is being gutted with the engulfing flames of wickedness!

QUICK! -- WHAT SHOULD BE DONE!?

"Call the Fire Department!" someone yells! And, there is only one "Fire Department" capable of doing anything about it, and that Fire-Brigade is made up of Jesus' Volunteers -- God's genuine saints on earth today.

But WHAT shall THEY attempt to do? -- Just one of two things:

- (1) PUT OUT THE FIRE, or
- (2) PULL ENDANGERED SOULS OUT OF THE FIRE.

It should be obvious to any Bible Believing Christian: -- THERE IS REALLY ONLY ONE CHOICE: "And others save with fear, PULLING THEM OUT OF THE FIRE; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh" (Jude 1:23). THE WORLD POLITICAL STRUCTURE IS ENGULFED IN FLAMES -- THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO POSSIBILITY OF PUTTING OUT THAT FIRE!

Therefore, Christians are wasting their time if they focus primarily on trying to save the World Political Structure. They must, instead, focus first, and foremost, upon pulling endangered souls out of the fire.

To devote all of one's time and energy in the effort to reform or save the world political structure is an exercise in futility: -- God's Word pronounces and prophesies doom on Babylon the Great; it is "set on fire of hell" and will not, cannot, be saved.

It is particularly sad when professed Christians are more politically active than they are spiritually active -- when they are more focused upon the Bush Re-election and victory in November for Conservatives than they are upon saving souls.

When called of God to answer the alarm, the Volunteers in Christ's Fire Brigade must go to the fire with one main purpose -- first and foremost: -- to pull endangered souls out of the fire. THE PEOPLE IN THE BURNING BUILDING ARE OF MUCH MORE VALUE THAN THE BUILDING THEY OCCUPY.

When the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center were set on fire, the real tragedy was NOT that two Skyscrapers were destroyed; it was the massive loss of life connected with their destruction. Nobody was primarily concerned that two buildings were on fire; the primary urgency was to save as many occupants of those buildings as was possible.

Even so, Christians should be interested in Politics, Politicians, and Political developments only as they relate to the eternal destiny of souls.

When firemen turn their hoses on a burning building, knowing that there are people in there to be rescued, they will first try to douse the flames which threaten human life; they will not primarily concern themselves about whether some beautiful part of the structure is burning elsewhere. PULLING PEOPLE OUT OF THE FIRE IS THEIR FIRST CONCERN, and their hoses and efforts will be primarily focused upon that rescue effort.

Should a Christian be concerned about whether a vile politician is placed in high office, rather than one who is more decent? Indeed! they should be.

Should Christians turn the fire-hoses of their opposition upon the conflagrations of indecency in public, immorality in the schools and over the air-waves, and numerous other issues

on the political scene that are "set on fire of hell"? YES -- but in so doing they must not shift their primary focus from pulling souls out of those fires to being primarily concerned with politics and most concerned about saving the world political structure from its impending destruction.

Jude 1:23 does NOT say: "And others save with fear, putting out the fire; loving even the garment spotted by the flesh" of a politician, or talk-show host, who backs George Bush while sometimes using filthy expressions"!

When conservative talk-show host Rush Limbaugh praises himself with bombastic language, while preaching conservative political doctrine, he often takes the name of God in vain by saying that his superior talent is "on loan from Godddduh!" -- an expression which, whether his vain soul realizes it or not, is very disrespectful of the Living God, sacrilegious, and something for which he shall give an account at the Judgment. Further, he boasts himself to be "the All-Seeing, All-Knowing, Mahah Rushi"! -- a claim upon the Omniscience possessed only by God. Let many dismiss these things as harmless banter if they will, Limbaugh's use of God's Name and his claims upon the attributes of God are a mockery that no Christian should take lightly. On top of all this, in his bombastic monologues Limbaugh often uses suggestive language and concocted terminology that is downright VULGAR! In bashing some Christian protest against his irreverence, Limbaugh once said, mockingly:

"Jesus loves me,
This I know,
And I think
He tunes my show!"

If professed Christians become primarily focused upon Conservative Politics, so as to "love even the garment spotted by the flesh" of such as Limbaugh, they have already gotten lost on their way to the fire! -- and, in fact, have themselves become entrapped in its flames.

No, not all Conservative Talk-Show Hosts are filthy-mouthed, but many, if not most, ARE! Shawn Hannity seems to use more chaste language than many of them, but on both the Liberal and Conservative sides of the political spectrum in our nation, VULGARITY AND VICIOUSNESS ARE THE NORM. Loud-mouthed adherents of both the left and the right often give off MORE HEAT THAN LIGHT -- and their expressions are frequently laced with filthiness, such as should make the devil blush!

This will not make me popular with many, but I have noticed than even the beloved Paul Harvey has begun to use some off-color stories from time to time, before he closes with his "Paul Harvey, Good Day!" I think that even he has probably been more affected by the demoralization of America than he realizes. I could cite an example right here of a story he related fairly recently -- one that in decades past I doubt he would have even thought of using. I will only say that it had to do with illicit sex, and it was told as if it was something humorous, but was certainly nothing that should have been set forth as something about which to joke! I don't put P. H. in the same category with Limbaugh, but I do say that the language of even some of the most revered Conservative Advocates today is often off-color, and unfit for Christian hearing.

Just the other morning, a local Conservative radio personality related a satanically clever, double-meaning, play on words over the radio that was utterly vile and disgusting -- so vulgar that his female co-host finally said, "OK, THAT'S ENOUGH"! It was a filthy play on words that decades ago might have been vocalized mostly in some bar-room or brothel, but this brazen, Conservative Talk-Show host had the temerity to tell it over the public air-waves, without fear of losing his job, without regard for its impact upon every innocent child who might be listening, without respect for the moral decency of any political conservative who might be tuned in, and even without fear of prosecution by the FCC -- at a time when they are (supposedly) beginning to crack down on such things.

This foul-mouthed Talk Show Host probably shares many of the same political views with millions of professed, and genuine, Christians, but his filthy tongue was "set on fire of hell" and was, in fact, adding fuel to the fire, instead of "putting out" the conflagration that is burning down our national house.

I shall bring this little article toward a conclusion with this old adage: -- "POLITICS MAKES STRANGE BEDFELLOWS." And, if Conservative Christians allow their focus to shift from "pulling lost souls out of the fire" into an effort to "put out the fire" with political action, then often they will find themselves in close company with Mormons, Filthy-Talking Radio Personalities, and some Politicians whose Christian profession is nothing more than an effort to get the vote of the Christian Right.

In the effort to train the Christian fire-hoses of opposition upon the present political conflagration, it does appear to me that George W. Bush is by far the better choice. However, if Conservative Christians are wise they will not allow their agreement on various political issues to become an endorsement of ALL that G. W. says or does -- and certainly not an endorsement of ALL that Rush Limbaugh and Paul Harvey, and their ilk, say or do.

The world has only ONE SAVIOR -- and at His Awesome Revelation, the entire universe, Rush Limbaugh included, are going to "TUNE HIS SHOW"! I'll guarantee you, Mr. Limbaugh will not then be boasting of his "talent, on loan from Godddduh"! He, and all others will instead, will be giving an account of their true "talent(s)" that were on loan from God -- and that account will be given in a hushed and fearful AWE -- not in a loud-mouthed mockery of Christ's Omnipotent, Omniscient Deity!

It is the much maligned and presently despised JESUS, WHO "in his times.. shall show, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords" (1 Tim. 6:15); and, when the sheep are parted upon His right hand and the goats upon His left, their impending eternal destiny won't depend one whit upon whether they were Republicans or Democrats, nor will it then depend one iota upon who won the U.S. election in November, 2004! Selah.

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08 -- FIVE REASONS WHY HEAVEN'S REWARD IS GREAT

"GREAT is your reward in heaven" (Matthew 5:12).

In the following, I shall endeavor to expound upon this scripture, using the five letters of the word G-R-E-A-T acrostically.

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Heaven's Reward Is Great Because:

(G)OD HIMSELF IS GREAT

My nephew, Ross Maxey, once observed: -- "There are no little sins, because there is no little God to sin against." Very true. But also, there shall be no little reward in heaven because there is no little God to give such. Deut. 10:17 says, "The Lord your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a GREAT GOD, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward." The Great God will not "take" the greatest reward that any man could give him in order to "influence" Him to show respect of persons. But, neither will the Great God "give" a little reward to his persevering and finally victorious saints. He is TOO BIG to do that.

"It is related that a servant, having done good service for Alexander the Great, in a fit of gratitude, the king desired him to go to the public treasury and claim any sum of money he thought fit. The man did so, but asked a sum so vast that the treasurer stood aghast. 'Why, you would empty the treasury!' he exclaimed. The man's sole reply was, 'Alexander promised.' This plea, he continued to urge, till at last the treasurer appealed to his sovereign. 'Give him what he asks,' was Alexander's command. 'He treats me as a king in taking me at my word.'" -- Topical Illustrations

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Heaven's Reward Is Great Because It Is:

(R)EALLY RESERVED IN HEAVEN

The apostle Peter declared that the Heavenly Reward is "an inheritance... reserved in heaven for you" (1 Peter 1:4).

"Dr. Guthrie, in his autobiography, describes an odd character among his Scotch country parishioners at Arbirlot 'who died as he lived, a curious mixture of benevolence and folly.' The lawyer who drew his will, after writing down several legacies of five hundred pounds to one person, a thousand to another, and so on, at last said, 'But, Mr.____, I don't believe you have all that money to leave.' 'Oh!' was the reply, 'I ken that as well as you; but I just wanted to show them my goodwill.'" -- Christian Age

There ARE those who think that Christ was a sincere, but deluded do-gooder -- one who went about doing good, but who could not deliver on any of his promises because he was not really God. In other words, he was one quite like the benevolent, but bankrupt Scotchman in the

above story who wanted to show is goodwill, but did not have sufficient funds in the bank to cover the gifts that he willed!

How WRONG they are! The lowly Jesus of Nazareth really was, and IS, the infinitely wealthy Son of God. Indeed, it is HE "in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Col. 2:3). He not only HAS the storehouse of God's riches, He IS that Measureless Storehouse!

* * *

Heaven's Reward Is Great Because It Is:

(E)TERNALLY INEXHAUSTIBLE!

When Joseph ascended to his lofty position in Egypt, he "opened all the storehouses, and sold unto the Egyptians" (Gen. 41:56). But, his typification of Christ in this was only that, a type -- and there was a limit to how long Joseph was able to sustain his people out of those storehouses. When Christ ascended into Heaven, He took into His hand the key to a Storehouse that shall never be exhausted. **THOSE RICHES ARE THERE -- AND THOUGH GIVEN OUT IMMENSELY AND CONTINUALLY, THEY SHALL NEVER BE DIMINISHED, NOR EXHAUSTED!**

One songwriter described the eternity of the saints' reward in these words:

"When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing our praise,
Than when we first begun!

* * *

Heaven's Reward Is Great Because It Shall Be:

(A)CCESSIBLE TO GOD'S RAPTURED CHILDREN FOREVER

A reward is only great if it is accessible. In expressing the frustrated hopes of gaining wealth by going to California, one songwriter put it thus:

"All the gold in California,
Is in a bank in the middle of
Beverly Hills,
In somebody else's name!"

What good would a great reward in heaven be if you could never get to heaven, or once there you could never partake of its wealth.

Paul wrote in Galatians 4:1 -- "Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all." The child of a king may be heir of all, but as long as access to that wealth is denied, he really is as poor as the king's servants.

But, the time shall come when God's children shall gain access to the wealth promised to them:-- Jesus declared to his followers in John 14:3 -- "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." At their Rapture, God's Children shall be brought as "a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ" (Eph. 4:13). Then it is, that they shall gain access to their Heavenly Inheritance.

Furthermore, the saints shall never cease cashing in on their reward, for they shall never die: John 10:28 -- "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish.."

So, the heirs of Christ's immeasurable wealth shall have access to those riches by reason of (a) Being brought as fully matured children to where those riches are; and by (b) Living forever, -- but -- will they ever lose access to the reward? NO, NEVER! In John 10:9 Jesus said, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out," and He placed no time-limit on that access -- it shall be everlasting!

Another songwriter put it thus:

"His Love has no limit,
His Grace has no measure,
His Power has no boundary
Known unto man,
For, out of His infinite
Riches in Jesus,
He giveth, and giveth,
And giveth again!"

Yes, the Heavenly Reward shall be Great because it will be endlessly accessible to those who shall forever "go in and out" taking from its inexhaustible resource, never forbidden, and never locked out from its Storehouse!

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Heaven's Reward Is Great Because It:

(T)RANSCENDS ALL THAT CAN BE ASKED OR THOUGHT!

In Ephesians 3:20, St. Paul said that Christ "is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think.." Flesh and blood human beings cannot even imagine the immensity of the Heavenly Reward. So GREAT shall be the Reward given to God's Children that it beggars all finite, earthly imagination and description: "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him" (1

Cor. 2:9) -- but, all should be assured that when Christ said that this reward would be "GREAT" He was not "stretching it" -- He was not exaggerating the fact.

If there be any failure concerning this promise, it is that millions of unbelievers have not taken it at face value, some even going so far as to poke fun about it as "Pie in the Sky by and by" or other such remarks. If there be any failure regarding this statement of Christ, it is also because thousands of professed Christians have lost sight of the immensity of Heaven's Reward in their grumbling about the many trials incumbent upon those taking the straight and narrow way. Finally, if there be any failure regarding this promise, it is that great numbers have failed to have "respect unto the recompence of the reward," and have esteemed "the reproach of Christ [as lesser] riches than the treasures in Egypt" (Heb. 11:26).

Let men pooh-pooh the reward as nothing more than "Pie in the Sky by and by" if they will; let them fail in every other way to have "respect unto the recompence of the reward" if they will -- Christ meant what he said, and those who believe and inherit that reward will probably discover that even they have immeasurably underestimated its greatness!

When the price of following Jesus began to seem like it might be greater than the reward for so doing, the unsanctified Peter said to Christ in Matt. 19:27, "Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?"

It was only after his Pentecostal Baptism that Peter saw how much he had underestimated the GREATNESS of the reward that Christ purposed to give him. During most of his discipleship when Christ was on earth, Peter was probably expecting an earthly reward -- a place, and things, in an earthly kingdom of the promised Messiah. But Pentecost opened his eyes, and he saw that His obedient following would bring him, and all other true followers of Christ, into "an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven.." (1 Pet 1:4).

"Look UP" -- dear saint of God:

"Heaven holds the answer to your prayer,
Joys eternal, shall be yours to share."

"GREAT is your reward in Heaven," and it is "reserved in heaven for you who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (1 Pet. 1:4-5).

In contemplating the Great Heavenly Reward, Hattie E. Buell put it thus:

"I once was an outcast, stranger on earth,
A sinner by choice, an alien by birth,
But I've been adopted; my name's written down;
I'm heir to a mansion, a robe, and a crown!

"A tent or a cottage, why should I care?"

They're building a palace for me over there!
Though exiled from home, yet still I may sing:
'All glory to God, I'm a child of the King!'

"I'm a child of the King! A child of the King!
With Jesus, my Saviour, I'm a child of the King!"

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09 -- THOSE WHO HAVE TURNED THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN ARE COME

"These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also" (Acts 17:6).

Those who have "turned the world upside down are come" -- come in Europe, come in Asia, come in Africa, come on every continent, and "come hither also" into the USA! Never before in the history of the world have so many turned so much truth 180 degrees south toward hell, totally upside down from its true compass toward heaven!

Of course the words in Acts 17:6 were the accusation against Paul and Silas by unbelieving Jews in Thessalonica centuries ago as these two zealous emissaries of God preached Christ in the city. Even then, millions in a sin-befuddled world had spiritual realities all upside down, and thus it was when Paul and Silas preached Christ, Who had begun to set things right-side-up, they were accused of turning the world upside down.

It was then, and still is, the unbelieving, God-denying, Bible-rejecting, Christ-hating masses of the world who turn the bottom side up, inverting and thus perverting vital truths into damning falsehoods. Today, however, the numbers who "turn the world (and God's Word) upside down" are vastly increased, and while their assertions are palpably absurd, more and more millions adopt their upside-down falsehoods as gospel-truth!

Yes, "those turning the world upside down are come hither" -- wherever you may be on earth -- and particularly, it seems, in the USA.

One could make a long list of those in today's world who are turning the world upside down. Among them are **THOSE WHO INSIST THAT THE ABNORMAL IS NORMAL.**

Jesus prophesied in Luke 17:26, 28 that "as it was in the days of Lot.. so shall it be also in the days of the Son of Man." In Lot's day, the multitudes of Sodom and Gomorrah "turned the world upside down" by making the abnormalcy of homosexual behavior the norm in those cities. Today, those who really are normal are being sickened by the sights, sounds, demands and decrees of those who declare that homosexuality is "normal" and must be accepted as such -- to the point of allowing same-sex couples to enter legally and sacredly into the bonds of Holy Matrimony!

As I have heard it said before, **IF GOD DOES NOT PUNISH AMERICA FOR SUCH SIN, HE WILL HAVE TO APOLOGIZE TO SODOM AND GOMORRAH AT THE**

JUDGMENT! You know that no such apology will be necessary -- for such abnormalcy, such totally perverted behavior, such inverting of the facts into falsehoods, such changing of "the truth of God into a lie" (Romans 1:25), shall call down the wrath of Divinity upon all who accept it, all who practice it, all who justify it, and all who seek to legitimize it! Indeed, God's judgments have already begun to fall upon those who do so.

AIDS, and an host of other virulent diseases have struck millions around the world -- and particularly those who declare that homosexuality and lesbianism are but another form of normal behavior. Let me become a prophet here: -- The more that the abnormalcy of homosexual and lesbian behavior is accepted and legalized as normal behavior, the more virulent and widespread shall be the God-Sent plagues that shall come upon this "upside down world"! And, in the end, the magnitude of Divine Judgment yet to fall upon this inverted and perverted world shall be infinitely and immeasurably greater than the fire and brimstone that rained down upon Sodom and Gomorrah.

Essentially, all who are turning the world upside down today are **THOSE WHO TAKE THE SERPENT BY HIS HEAD AND MOUTH.** -- Let me draw the picture from Exodus, Chapter 4. When Moses cast down his Rod (typical, if you please, of God's Word), it became a serpent -- typical of Satan. Then, in Exodus 4:4, "the Lord said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and **TAKE IT BY THE TAIL.** And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand."

God's Word "cast down" brings the devil onto the scene as a venomous serpent ready to strike his fangs into, and inject his spiritual poison into, the vitals of all virtue and verity, turn them upside-down and backwards into deadly lies, and bring spiritual and eternal death unto all who believe them.

Moses was instructed to **TAKE THE SERPENT "BY THE TAIL"** -- **NOT BY THE HEAD!** Take Satan "by the head" -- viz., be struck by his fangs of falsehood, believe his lies, and one is deceived and damned. Take Satan "by the tail" -- i. e., turn what he says 180 degrees around from south to north, and it becomes "a rod" -- the Word of God -- again! -- with power to save the soul, divide the Red Seas of impossibility, and usher its believers into the Canaan of Eternal Rest in Heaven.

But what we have today is countless millions who have cast down the Rod of God's Word, with increasing numbers who "take the serpent by the head" (or mouth) -- get their minds inverted and perverted 180 degrees upside down from their true spiritual bearings, and who believe themselves to be headed for an eternal, spiritual Nirvana when in fact they are plunging headlong toward hell. The only thing that can possibly turn the world right side up is to "take the Serpent **BY THE TAIL**"! -- for then it is that we have the Word of God -- the **TRUE GYROSCOPE** for reckoning which way is **UP** and which **DOWN**, so as to be able to set things vital to one's eternal destiny in their proper, upright position and direction.

I shall not list more specifics regarding who they are who are turning the world upside down in 2004 -- but, if you want to "get it right" today you will have to take most of what the

world is saying "by the tail" -- you will need to get it turned 180 degrees opposite from their declarations before you will get it upright and in accordance with the directions of God's Word.

Millions of "heady, highminded" advisors who are "mouthing off" today have taken the Serpent by the head, and have it all upside-down. Like airplane pilots whose confused vertigo has them in a steep dive toward the earth when they think they are in a steep climb toward the stratosphere, they fancy that they and the passengers in their contrary contraptions are ascending into the heights of bliss when in fact they are plummeting toward eternal death where they shall never cease to descend, ever lower and lower into the dark damnation of the bottomless pit -- upside-down "world without end"!

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10 -- WHY IT'S GETTING HARDER TO GO TO HEAVEN

"And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, HOW HARDLY SHALL THEY that have riches ENTER INTO THE KINGDOM of God!.. It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God." -- Mark 10:23, 25

(A) ABUNDANCE OF WEALTH

It should be clear from the above verses alone that the more money a man has, the harder it will be for him to get to heaven. We are living in a time when more people have more money than ever before. Yes, the dollar is worth less than it was when Rockefeller amassed his fortune, but even taking this into consideration, who can doubt that more people today have more actual wealth than in any previous generation?

Having much wealth wars against having much faith: -- Psalm 62:10 says: "Trust not in oppression, and become not vain in robbery: if riches increase, set not your heart upon them." The more money people have, the more trust they place in those riches. The boast of the Laodicean Church, seen in Revelation 3:17, reflects the prevalent attitude of our times: "Thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked."

Having much wealth brings upon those possessing it a sense of false security that is diametrically opposed to having faith in the living God. The rich man in Luke 12:19 boasted to himself: "Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry." His faith was tragically misplaced in his wealth. You know the result.

St. Paul wrote in 1 Timothy 6:17: "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy."

But, increasingly, that "charge" is never sounded forth by money-grubbing preachers who show undue respect to the wealthy in their congregations -- never warning their people of the

danger inherent in wealth, but instead regaling in the financial prosperity of their church. The Psalmist proclaimed in Psalm 73:12: "Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches." However, today it can also be said of thousands of professed Christians: "They [too are those] that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches" (Psalm 49:6).

One need not look outside the walls of the church now to be able to point to thousands of individuals and say: "Lo, this is the man that made not God his strength; but trusted in the abundance of his riches, and strengthened himself in his wickedness" (Psalm 52:7). In many churches, one can point out: "There is [so-and-so] that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing [in heaven]," while one can scarcely say, even in Conservative Holiness groups: "There is [so-and-so] that maketh himself poor [by sacrificial giving to God's cause], yet hath great riches [in heaven]" (Proverbs 13:7).

Ecclesiastes 5:13 declares: "There is a sore evil which I have seen under the sun, namely, riches kept for the owners thereof to their hurt." The "hurt" is false confidence instead of true faith; and the "hurt" is finally hell instead of heaven.

"The deceitfulness of riches... choke the word," (Mark 4:19), suffocate faith, endanger the soul, and make it much, much harder to enter the Kingdom. The Bible is replete with warnings about this which are being more and more ignored as people have more and more wealth.

At Christ's Return, "in one hour so great riches [shall] come to nought" (Rev. 18:17). The Rich Men of this world shall be seen as eternal paupers and the Lazaruses shall then receive "riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19), where "neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal" (Matt. 6:20).

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(B) ABOUNDING INIQUITY

Matthew 24:12 declares of our times: "And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." Never has Sin abounded more in our world -- Never has the Church grown more cold. I recall the story of a child who heard a sermon on Matthew 22:14 and who reported that the preacher said, "Many are cold, but a few are frozen," instead of "many are called, but few are chosen." While this may strike the reader as humorous, the low spiritual temperature in most churches today should evoke concern, tears, and prayers, because abounding iniquity in the world and decreasing fervor in the Church are making it harder for souls to make it into heaven.

Who can deny that today many in the professed Church are like "The sluggard [who] will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing" (Proverbs 20:4). They are too cold to do anything for Jesus but fill a pew in the church-house; they will never plow outside. You know, you can't plow in a house -- even God's House. Plowing must be done out in the field. Many who expect great dividends in heaven, will instead be begging

when the Eternal Harvest is reaped, and instead of having much in the Heavenly Kingdom, they shall "have nothing" by reason of their sluggish and unfruitful, spiritual coldness on earth.

With its abounding iniquity, the world is "on fire" -- red-hot, in its wicked passions and lusts! And John 18:18 tells us of that which led to Peter's denial of Christ: "And the servants and officers stood there, who had made a fire of coals; for it was cold: and they warmed themselves: and Peter stood with them, and warmed himself." When the Church is cold, folks will go where they feel some heat. Most often, that is among those who hate Christ, and the result will be like that to Peter:-- a denial of Christ. Less often, do such repent and recover themselves as quickly as did Peter.

In his book, "God's Treasure House Unlocked," Charles G. Schuh quotes the following lines from two verses of an old hymn by Joseph Grigg (words altered by Benjamin Francis):

"Jesus, and shall it ever be,
A mortal man ashamed of thee?
Ashamed of thee, whom angels praise,
Whose glories shine through endless days?"

"Ashamed of Jesus! that dear friend
On whom my hopes of heaven depend!
No; when I blush, be this my shame,
That I no more revere his name."

Never before has the world been more shameful, and never before has the Church been more cold and had more cause to confess: "THIS IS MY SHAME, THAT I NO MORE REVERE HIS NAME" -- so as to own it, honor it, defend it, and proclaim it -- all the time, and everywhere!

The sad fact is, that many, both in the world and in the Church "are blackish by reason of the ice" in Christian Services "wherein the snow is hid" (Job 6:16). You can't see the spiritual ice and snow -- they are "hid" from the human eye, but felt by the soul. The message to many in the pulpit should be the same as the note mistakenly sent to a preacher instead of to the church janitor one cold day as the auditorium chilled: "YOUR HEAT'S OFF, BUT YOUR BLOWER IS STILL RUNNING."

It's getting harder to go to heaven because of abounding iniquity bringing sub-zero spiritual temperatures in most churches around the globe.

* * *

(C) ABSENCE OF THE TRUE FAITH

Luke 18:8 in the KJV reads: "... Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"

Young's Literal Translation sets forth the point I would make here (caps mine): "... but the Son of Man having come, shall he find THE faith upon the earth?"

"Of what FAITH are you?" is a question that has often been asked of professed Christians -- as if there were many FAITHS by which one can be a Christian. Indeed, there ARE many so-called Christian faiths, and there are literally hundreds of faiths on earth besides those said to be Christian.

The real question about Christ finding "faith upon the earth" at His Return centers upon whether He shall find "THE FAITH" -- those who have true, saving, sanctifying faith -- at His Second Coming.

The inference in the question seems to be that "THE FAITH" -- the number possessing true faith in Christ -- shall have diminished so greatly at the time of Jesus' Return that few on earth will have it.

St. Paul was not general in his terminology as he faced Nero's ax. In 2 Timothy 4:7, he testified: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept THE faith."

Christ shall have no difficulty finding those having "THE FAITH" at his Second Coming. His Word declares in Revelation 14:12, "Here is the patience of the saints: HERE ARE THEY THAT KEEP the commandments of God, and THE FAITH of Jesus."

No, Jesus will easily find them, and rapture them into His presence. The problem is: -- because their number will be so small, relative to the world population, it will be very hard for seekers after the Truth to find those possessing "THE FAITH" just before His Second Coming.

Again, Jesus' question in Luke 18:8 is in complete harmony with the apostle Paul's prophecy in 2 Thess. 2:3 that "there [shall] come a falling away first" (an apostasy) from "THE FAITH" prior to His Return.

I believe that part of the Great Apostasy involves that which St. Paul mentioned in 1 Timothy 6:20 -- "O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called."

The falsehoods of the theory of Evolution are being taught and swallowed by millions, when in fact they are a part of the "oppositions of science falsely so called." Evolution is "called scientific" but it is a false designation. Evolution is not scientific; it is not true, but it is a teaching that has been warring against the teaching of "THE FAITH" for long decades now.

If the apostle were admonishing a young Christian Timothy today, could we not hear him saying, "O Timothy, keep THE FAITH! Avoid all of the profane and vain babblings going out over the broadcasting airwaves! Don't fall for the so-called, scientific, but false theories of Evolution! -- always "casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ!" (2 Cor. 10:5).

While the world is busy, "ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth" (2 Tim. 3:7), Christians should be admonished to shun everything that wars against their inward, spiritual "knowledge of God" and thereby "Keep THE FAITH" no matter how hard it is to bring "every thought to the obedience of Christ."

Yes, in some ways, it's getting harder to go to heaven because of "The Abundance of Wealth," because of "The Abounding Iniquity," and because of "The Absence of The True Faith" -- but, the attitude of every genuine Soldier of the Cross should be:

"Am I a soldier of the cross,
A follower of the Lamb;
And shall I fear to own His cause,
Or blush to speak His name?"

"Must I be carried to the skies
On flowery beds of ease,
While others fought to win the prize,
And sailed through bloody seas?"

"Are there no foes for me to face?
Must I not stem the flood?
Is this vile world a friend to grace,
To help me on to God?"

"Sure I must fight if I would reign,
Increase my courage Lord;
I'll bear the toil endure the pain,
Supported by Thy Word.

"Thy saints in all this glorious war
Shall conquer though they die;
They see the triumph from afar--
By faith they bring it nigh."

-- Isaac Watts

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11 -- EIGHT REASONS WHY PERILOUS TIMES ARE HERE

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort

are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was" (2 Timothy 3:1-9).

* * *

Using the eight acrostic selections below, I shall present eight of the reasons why "perilous times" have already come upon us in these "last days". Much more could be drawn from the passage concerning why we now live in times of peril, but I shall focus only upon these eight causes.

"(P)-ROUD"
"(E)-VER LEARNING, AND NEVER ABLE.."
"(R)-ESIST THE TRUTH"
"(I)-NCONTINENT"
"(L)-OVERS OF PLEASURES"
"(O)-WN SELVES, LOVERS OF"
"(U)-NTHANKFUL, UNHOLY"
"(S)-SILLY WOMEN LADEN WITH SINS"

* * *

(P)-ROUD

Perilous times have arrived because men are proud. Forty-seven times the word "proud" appears in our KJV Bible, and not once is any good or tranquillity attached to it! Forty-six times the word "pride" appears, and once again it is always associated with that which is evil, and never once connected with that which produces peace. Indeed, "Only by pride cometh contention," says Proverbs 13:10, "but with the well advised is wisdom." "The well advised" are those having the "wisdom" to listen to God's Word -- those humble enough to be taught, and those wise enough to "follow peace with all men..." But we now live in times when, increasingly, men are like the proud husband of Abigail, who was "such a son of Belial, that a man cannot speak to him" (1 Sam. 25:17). The proud-crowd will listen to nobody's ideas but their own and will brook no opposition to their own way. Therefore, when the "immovable object" of each proud one meets the "irresistible force" of another like himself, there is bound to be an "immeasurable explosion" of contention between the two. Compound and multiply that by the immense and growing number of individuals who now consider themselves to be "a law unto themselves" and it is easy to see one of the big reasons why we are now living in perilous times. Along with the Peacock Parade of Pride in today's world is the Perilous Polarity of that Pride which divides and pits every man (or ethnicity) against all others.

Divide and Destroy is the modus operandi of Satan. It is true that it was God Who said in Isaiah 19:2 -- "I will set the Egyptians against the Egyptians: and they shall fight every one against his brother, and every one against his neighbour; city against city, and kingdom against

kingdom." God has, and does, sometimes use such means to cause the wicked to self-destruct. But most of the time such blood-baths are entirely the work of the devil.

Malachi 2:10 asks the following: "Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us? why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother..?" The answer to that last question can be traced back to devil-implanted, and devil-motivated Pride -- Pride that will have its own way, even if it must kill all others to achieve that purpose. This, I declare again, is one of the greatest reasons why perilous times are now here.

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(E)-VER LEARNING, AND NEVER ABLE

Daniel's ancient prophecy (12:4) that "knowledge shall be increased" in the last days is being rapidly fulfilled, but to our dismay we are learning something else along with that increased knowledge:-- viz., that "he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow" (Eccles. 1:18).

Increased scientific knowledge today has let many an evil "genie out of the bottle":-- our "ever learning" has unleashed nuclear power but we are "never able" to eliminate its threat while employing its use.

The more men learn, the more peril we face, and the more sorrow we experience. We are "ever learning" but pitifully "never able" to make that increased knowledge bring us joy -- peril and sorrow instead are its bitter fruits.

No matter how much we learn and know, we are "never able" to grasp the elusive "Pot of Gold" -- the bottom of the rainbow always disappearing when we get there. Picture, if you will, a cruel rider in a horse-drawn carriage. While sitting on the driver's-seat he holds in his hand a fishing-pole with a line that dangles an enticing bunch of hay just in front of the nose of the horse pulling the carriage. The animal sees it, smells it, and moves forward to grasp it in his mouth, but the elusive morsel always stays about one foot in front of him. Thus, he is "never able" to obtain and enjoy the hay, though he is "ever lunging" toward it.

Even so, those who are "ever learning" today are "never able to come to the knowledge of THE truth" which would bring them true satisfaction. This, of course, brings increased frustration with increased knowledge. The more people know without ever knowing God, the source of true satisfaction, the more they become frustrated and dissatisfied with life -- and this increases the peril in our world. For example, a frustrated scientist, knowing much but enjoying little, may have been responsible for the Anthrax attacks that brought such peril to our nation in the recent past. In like manner, the increased knowledge of Ted Kazinski, the Uni-Bomber, brought peril to our land.

Beyond the fact that often "much study is a weariness of the flesh" (Eccles. 12:12), frequently it is also brings frustration to the soul. Festus said to the apostle: -- "Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad" (Acts 26:24). In that case, it was a false

accusation, but in some cases it has been true: -- much learning has made many a dissatisfied know-it-all "mad" with frustration, mad at himself, and mad at the world. The more people learn and know without obtaining real joy and satisfaction, the greater their frustration, and the more likely they are to "end it all" by taking their own life after going on a shooting spree that lands a number of others into eternity with them.

Never has the frustration of know-it-alls been greater, and never has the peril been greater from those who are willing to behave like the suicide-bombers in Israel by taking the lives of many others along with their own!

* * *

(R)-ESIST THE TRUTH

It was to those who were resisting the truth that Stephen said in Acts 7:51 -- "Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye." Crying out against those who resisted the truth cost him his life, making him the first Christian martyr.

Countless thousands more have followed in Stephen's footsteps, but "Foxes Book of Martyrs" in past days -- a thick volume -- would look tissue-thin in comparison with a listing of those who shall yet be martyred as our "perilous times" draw to a close.

Blithely, many professed Christians sing today: "Faith of our fathers, living still, in spite of fire, dungeon and sword," not really believing that the true "latter-day saints" will pass through a much greater blood-bath of martyrdom at the close of time -- but I assert that **THEY SHALL**. [Please do not seek to refute this assertion, for I shall not debate the subject. However, please **DO**, if you will, read my book on the subject: "His Appearing And His Kingdom" -- hdm0124.]

In Romans 1:18 St. Paul wrote of those who "HOLD the truth in unrighteousness." The Greek word for "hold" here is "katecho," which according to Strong's Concordance carries in it the meanings of : "to hold down (fast)... retain, [and] seize on..."

In the past, thousands of Christian martyrs have been "seized on" -- have been "retained" unjustly in prisons for confessing and preaching the truth -- have been "held" in dungeons where they suffered isolation, privation, and starvation -- have been "held down fast" in the stocks of torture -- and have been "held" to the stake and executioner's block where they were burned to ashes or beheaded.

Dear Laodicean Christian, this had best be your theme-song:

"Must I be carried to the skies
(Raptured away from it all)
On flowery beds of ease,
While others fought to win the prize,

And sailed through bloody seas?"

No, you "must not" and "shall not" be thus raptured. I assert that the Laodicean Church too, shall "sail through bloody seas," before it is "carried to the skies" in the Rapture. Listen one more time to Christ's counsel to the Last Church in Revelation 3:18:

"I counsel thee to buy of me gold TRIED IN THE FIRE!" The three Hebrew Children, who typify the Church, were saved THROUGH THE FIRE, NOT FROM IT!

NO! -- the namby-pamby, pleasure-loving, blithe, and shallow, professed Christians at the end of this age shall not be wafted off to heaven, untouched by the fiery blood-baths of martyrdom at the end of the age. God is going to put His Church THROUGH that fire, and only those who stand the test of being "tried in that fire" shall come through it to join the rapturous "carrying to the skies" at Christ's Revelation. Disagree with me if you do, and will. Again, I shall not debate the subject. I here merely issue the warning.

Those who "resist the truth" -- and those hostile to Christ who "hold," imprison, torture, and martyr His true saints are on the increase. Yea, such perilous times are already here -- but -- MARK GOD'S WORD -- "the end is not yet... all these are the beginning of sorrows. Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for [Jesus'] name's sake... But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved" (Matt. 24:6, 8-9, 13).

At the end, many of those who "resist, steadfast in the faith" (1 Peter 5:9) will be required to "resist unto blood, striving against sin" (Heb. 12:4). Interesting, isn't it? that many who profess and preach Hebrews 12:14 refuse to believe that Hebrews 12:4 shall never be forced upon the Laodicean Church. Nevertheless, it shall be, but God's Holy People, "in spite of fire, dungeon, and sword," will rise to meet Christ in the air, escaped (not from the "Tribulation" but) from the final "Indignation" when "the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness" (Romans 1:18)!

* * *

(I)-NCONTINENT

Now, I have preached too long. It is almost time to close. I shall only briefly touch upon the closing points here.

The word "incontinent" in 2 Timothy 3:3 is "akrates," meaning "powerless" or "without self-control" according to Strong's Concordance.

Perilous times have come, in part because the Church is now "powerless" and in part because we are living in a world that has cast off all "self-control." We are living at a time when folks are giving free-rein to their urges, and wild, uncontrolled passions are now endangering people like a "run-away" team of horses used to imperil both those in a wagon or buggy and those in their path!

"Let yourself go!" -- "Make hay while the sun shines!" -- "Don't wait!" -- "Enjoy yourself while you can!" and such like phrases paint an accurate picture of the unrestrained incontinence that is rampant around the globe now. "Look Out!" -- must be added to the painting, however, to make it complete -- for where there is social and moral "incontinence" there will always be peril!

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(L)-OVERS OF PLEASURES

Peril, in Pleasure? -- Yes, indeed, much, much peril is found in the indulgence of pleasure these days! And no doubt God has ordained much of that peril as a means of curbing some of the indulgence therein:-- indulge in immoral acts, and do so at the peril of contracting AIDS; indulge in adultery and free-love, and do so at the peril of having your head blown off by a cheated companion (or perhaps be struck down and repeatedly run over by a car driven by your enraged spouse, as happened in the recent past); take dope, and you may end up brain-dead or you may murder for your next fix; drink liquor, and you may fall overboard like actress Natalie Wood and drown, or perish in some flaming car-wreck that kills a number of others; indulge the pleasure of gambling, and you may become addicted to that and fulfill Proverbs 21:17 -- "He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man: he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich". More than one gambling addict has filled a suicide victim's grave.

Yes, God has ordained that indulging in worldly pleasure is both perilous and often fatal. To the "lovers of pleasure" he has said in James 5:5 -- "Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter." Many a day during these perilous times has been "a day of slaughter" for those who "enjoyed the pleasures of sin for a season" (Heb. 11:25), but who were suddenly snatched out into eternity on that fateful day! As one final example: -- In the recent past, two different night-clubs were suddenly caught up in flames that caused the incineration or trampling-to-death of many who were trapped in the inferno. Loud and vulgar music, coupled with the careless use of spin-wheel, pyro-technics suddenly spelled the doom (and no doubt damnation) of many of those just mentioned.

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(O)-WN SELVES, LOVERS OF

He who loves nobody but himself is a danger to society as a whole. Everyone should feel threatened by such an one -- by him -- or her. For example, one who has AIDS and loves nobody but himself, or herself, will think nothing of spreading the vile and virulent disease to any and all others. A person that loves self alone will never hesitate to damage, hurt, maim, or murder others -- being completely oblivious to the pain and suffering brought upon all others!

And the perils caused by self-lovers to others are not confined to acts of immorality and bodily harm, those perils also threaten others in every area of their existence:-- Financial, self-lovers will steal, rob, cheat, and lie in order to get money at the expense and suffering of others. Greedy, self-loving individuals now number into the countless millions, and the peril

they pose to others cannot be measured. Place-seeking self-lovers also endanger those who stand in their way. They will not hesitate to malign or murder both the good name and/or the very lives of those hindering their climb into power and prestige!

A long litany of the different types of self-lovers could be listed along with numerous perils that their innocent victims often suffer today, but here I forbear. Suffice to say, that perilous times are here now, in part because men are "lovers of their own selves."

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(U)-NTHANKFUL, UNHOLY

Never before, has there been so many ingrates in the world who are both unholy and unconcerned about the negative impact of their ingratitude upon others. They "couldn't care less" about what their selfish gratification is costing others. When we were living in Spokane, Washington, just several years ago, a young 15-16-year-old punk became angry at some parental discipline. It was just before Christmas. He grabbed a rifle, shot and killed his father, his mother, his sister, and his little brother -- and then he loaded their bodies into a vehicle, drove them up the road and dumped them into a ditch!

Was he thankful that he had a home, food to eat, clothes to wear, and many other comforts of life? NO! He didn't like it when his father "got on his case" about not chopping some wood, or doing some assigned chore. So, he blew his whole family away!

God's message to many ungrateful children in families today might well be worded as the following in Col. 3:15 -- "Ye are called in one body [your family]; and be ye thankful." But, the lives and limbs of those in many households today are imperiled by children who are totally unthankful for all that they have and all that they owe to their parents, to others in their family, and to many others everywhere else!

Yes, Luke 6:35 tells us that God "is kind unto the unthankful," but seldom are the unthankful kind to either God or Man. And, their number is rapidly increasing, along with the perils that their ingratitude pose to their potential victims.

* * *

(S)-ILLY WOMEN LADEN WITH SINS

This closing point is not meant to be an unfair shot at womanhood. It is meant to say that many "silly women laden with sins" are one of the greatest reasons for the peril in the world today -- and that is a fact!

There is a reason WHY the serpent first tempted and first caused Eve to fall. He knew that if HE got HER, SHE would drag ADAM down with her! Thus it WAS, thus it ever HAS BEEN, and thus IT EVER SHALL BE -- Satan's method of dragging Mankind down lower and lower into the debauchery and defilement of sin!

No, I don't agree with the deeds of those societies (including Muslim societies) that suppress the rights and freedoms of their women! No, I don't believe that women should be "laden with loads" that ought to be borne by men. No, I don't believe that women should be "laden with a baby on their back" like a papoose and made to do hard labor.

Women "laden" with such loads, and who fall down under them, should be the objects of pity, mercy, and liberation. Their cry for freedom from all such is completely justified, and in many cases the various repressions lifted from the backs of women in Afghanistan and elsewhere are to be applauded.

But, even more sad to behold than women laden with unfair and improper loads by the tyrannical men in a society is the sight of "silly women, laden with sins"!

When a woman is laden with unfair and improper social and physical loads, she may fall down bodily -- but, she drags no others down with her -- at least not in ways that must, of necessity, affect their eternal destiny. But, "silly women, laden with sins," like fallen Mother Eve, are dragging the whole world down morally, spiritually, and eternally!

Please bear with me, and consider the following, for it introduces that with which I would like to bring this article to a close:

In Genesis 37:9-10 we can see that "Sun and Moon" were used typically of "Father and Mother" in Joseph's dream, as interpreted by Jacob [caps mine]:

"And he [Joseph] dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the SUN and the MOON and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I [YOUR FATHER] and thy MOTHER and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?"

Using then, this typification of the SUN = FATHER, and the MOON = MOTHER, let me now present part of a prophecy of Christ given to John The Revelator as perhaps signifying something that shall take place just before Jesus' Return -- (again, caps mine):

Revelation 6:12 -- And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the SUN became BLACK as sackcloth of hair, and the MOON became as BLOOD."

You certainly need not agree with my interpretative inference drawn from the above verse, but let me make the application: -- Perhaps the greatest peril in these last days is that posed to the unborn. For some decades now, the butchery and blood-shed of the unborn has continued. Just how many millions of unborn babies have been thus slain, I know not. However, I believe this with all my heart:-- via abortion, to a very great extent these days "MOTHER"-HOOD has been replaced with the "BLOOD"-SHED of the unborn.

"Silly women, laden with sins" are not only dragging the spiritual and moral condition of the world down, down, down! -- such women are also dragging down the value of human life by deciding to, and consenting to, shed the blood of their unborn children via abortion. In effect, if you will, we have a moral fulfillment of the prophecy that the MOON shall be turned into BLOOD. Never before in the history of the world have so many MOTHERS been guilty of shedding the innocent BLOOD of their children!

Of course, we must not overlook that the BLACKENING of the SUN -- the moral debauchery and spiritual filthiness of FATHERS -- is directly connected with the Moon's becoming "as blood". And, the former is contributing to the latter.

Nevertheless, when the blood of the unborn is shed with impunity, and even under the protection of the law, it is bound to, AND HAS, lowered (in the minds of millions) the value of human life across the board and around the globe! -- and THIS, DEAR READER, is one of the greatest reasons WHY PERILOUS TIMES ARE HERE.

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THE END