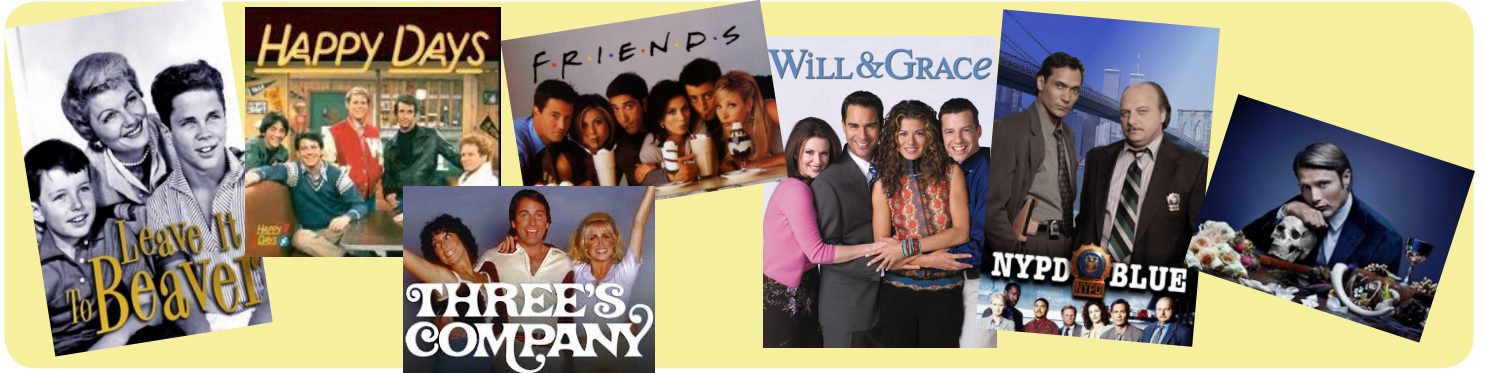


Beyond little by little ...

By Bill Johnson



I have often said throughout my time in this ministry, “what you place before your eyes DOES IMPACT”. Little did I know that truth would take an advanced and ever-accelerating meaning in these days of degradation and reprobation in our once great America.

Over the years we have seen our country degraded by the always evolving tide of dirty, filthy, godless television programs. At first, it was little by little, ever so slowly; then after a time, not so slowly. Instead the flow became a fast moving stream with great swaths of trash pouring over our airwaves, with not only dirty words and dirty pictures but with crooked, perverse, and destructive ideas and themes that were beyond our desensitized capabilities to understand its deadening, destructive spiritual and moral impact. As household after household carelessly tuned into NBC, CBS, ABC, as well as cable news channels, millions were being lulled asleep by the enemy of our soul. We were being had, and we didn't even know it.

You may have heard the statistics from pollsters like Nielsen: the average household watches over 5 hours of television every day. The average American household is viewing massive amounts of propagandizing, life changing “entertainment.”

Look with me for a moment at a short list of American television programs which have been very popular throughout the years.

Glee: Drew millions of teen and pre-teen

viewers each week to watch this edgy, and often erotic, show about a modern-day glee club. Mixed with the catchy vocal productions were sexualized themes and secular humanist propaganda indoctrinating viewers.

Will and Grace: Will & Grace was launched on NBC-TV as the first program to have an openly gay male character as the lead on primetime television. Running from 1998 through 2006, it was the highest-rated sitcom in America among viewers aged 18 to 49 from 2001 to 2005. The show desensitized America to homosexuality, paving the way for future shows.

Two and a Half Men: From prostitutes to group sex, Two and a Half Men glorified all forms of perversity. Charlie's regular use of prostitutes was an on-going storyline. The misogynistic themes portrayed women as nothing more than objects to be used for sex and then discarded for the next one. Seemingly no crude or depraved sexual act was off limits for this show.

Hannibal: Known for one of its subthemes - cannibalism. One of the central thoughts that NBC and NBC's “Hannibal” presses upon its unsuspecting and largely undiscerning viewers is this blasphemous theology – putting in God's mouth words that are as far away from representing Him as the east is from the west.

“Killing must feel good to God too. He does it all the time. And are we not created in His image?”

NYPD Blue, Friends, How I Met Your Mother, The Simpsons, Nip/Tuck, American Dad, Family Guy, Wife Swap, Grey's Anatomy, Sister Wives, The O.C. , South Park, Modern Family.

Look at this list above. Do these shows foster discernment or do they desensitize? Should you or do you trust the producers and writers behind such programming?

And what about the nightly news on same said networks and channels?

Political commentators, such as Mark Levin, make a strong case suggesting that anyone thinking that mainstream media is “fair and balanced” in their news coverage (even as Fox News has claimed to be) is the height of absurdity, if not naiveté.

Some pundits opine that mainstream media is able to assist in the picking of winners and losers by the amount of free media time or the manner in which they cast their favored candidate and by the pictures they negatively paint of those candidates they oppose. And for the most part people are clueless as to what is being done to them.

Ever wonder how America voted in Bill Clinton not just once but twice - even after Bill Clinton's “I didn't have sex with that woman” (Monica Lewinsky)?

Ever wonder how America voted President Obama to a second term and how his approval rating is currently running at 50%?

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From the desk of Bill Johnson

“Beyond little by little ...”

[Continued from Page 1]

We have gotten to this point of societal degradation as we have little by little, ever so slowly, regularly and unknowingly allowed lies to be substituted for truth.

If you have watched Curtis Bowers’ award winning movie, “Agenda: Grinding America Down,” what I am about to say will not be new to you.

Bowers’ movie documents a long term commitment by a dedicated group of subversives to “grind America down” - led by satanic forces, I believe it would be fair to say.

Agenda makes a compelling case for an orchestrated strategy to undermine America’s political, moral, religious, educational, and Constitutional systems. I commend the movie to you.

We have been ripe for the undermining, ripe for the taking, ripe for destruction. Abraham Lincoln in his second inaugural address projected that if America ever lost its sovereignty or its freedoms, it would not lose it from foreign invaders but from within.

I believe that I have seemingly had a front row seat in watching the undermining of our country right before my eyes during my nearly 70 years of life. My account is similar to many of yours: we have seen our country depart from God.

In the 1950s, television was black and white and *clean*. When I would turn on the TV in the morning as a child, I would get a test pattern. Programming hadn’t yet started for the day. It wasn’t 24 hour entertainment, just several hours per day.

In the early 1960s, a parent could turn on the television set and pretty much not have to worry about scenes of sex, violence, or profanity. Good was portrayed as good and bad was portrayed as bad. The good seemingly always won and the evil lost.

Later in the ‘60s, television and movies began to slowly but surely coarsen.

In 1965, I graduated from a small town public school. There was a strong general agreement on what was right and what was wrong. The families, the school administration, and the community as a whole shared strong common values, as if it was just in our blood stream. We were offspring of families that had defeated Hitler and Nazi Germany. It wasn’t talked about, but there was an over-all sense that we lived in a “good” country.

The late ‘60s were known as the sexual revolution. During my years at Michigan State University I saw and experienced no Christian spiritual outreach or influence. It was purely secular humanism. Man was the measure of all things. In spite of having been raised in a non-Christian household, I was raised by very good parents with high morals. My years at Michigan State were my first encounter with the nihilism and amorality that now runs rampant in our culture.

In the early ‘70s, television writers and movie producers began challenging old standards, and change was very much on its way. Protests and cynicism regarding the Vietnam War and the detestation of the Nixon administration and of the military was amped up.

I became a teacher *and* a Christian in 1970, and for the next 18 years, I watched the children in my classroom fall prey to the godless, amoral, humanistic propaganda spread by the entertainment industry, and emanating from the colleges and universities where my fellow teachers were trained.

In my early years of being a Christian, I was saved out of pornography. Those few years of addiction showed me how powerful images are and how they can trap otherwise “good” men and women and degrade them from the inside out,

degrading their values to conform with their godlessness rather than with God’s Word.

All across America, generations raised by education devoid of vital lessons teaching the difference between the holy and the profane, along with godless entertainment, have captivated millions - deadening them to God, His Holy Spirit, and His life-changing Truth.

Hear and receive this word:

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. [I Peter 5:8] .

This is not just old time religion. This **is** Bible Truth for us! It is Bible Truth that has been ignored for generations by “*church going folks.*” Which is not what we should want to be - just “church goin’ folk.” Rather may we be thorough-going Christians. **“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.”** [Romans 8:14]

There is a remnant out there - a beautiful, remnant. You have them in your midst. I know I do. They are in some ways a simple people, in that they have a narrow focus. They are the real deal. They are very imperfect (as they so readily admit) sinners in need of a Savior, but they are a people that show the fruit of the spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness ...) in their lives!

These people (the real deal) are few and far between. Why are they rare? Because most American “Christians” have been fooled, fallen to the wiles of the devil who is “devouring” them in the ways we discussed above. They are bought off by the evil one; accommodated to the things of this world: *the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, the pride of life.* [I John 2:16]

Is there hope for America? Not by human hands. Don’t allow yourself to be fooled into thinking there ever was. God has blessed and sustained this nation, and only He can save it. God will bless repentant hearts and the works of humble hands dedicated to Him.

Summer Conference Wrap-up “From the Bottom Up”

by Steve Huston



Bill Johnson and the staff of the American Decency Association (ADA) would like to thank our Lord Jesus Christ, the Curtis Bowers family, Dr. Joel Beeke, the approximately 250 attendees, and the Harvest OPC for making this summer conference “one of the best we’ve ever had.” If you missed out on this wonderful time of blessing, I’d encourage you to order the CD set by contacting Kimberly at 231-924-4050. Even if you were one of the attendees, you may want to order a set for personal refreshment or to share these powerful, Spirit-led messages with friends and family.

We’d also like to take this time to thank all who had been praying for the event. The Bowers family started this conference off with singing, but it was the preceding and prevailing prayers coming before God, and His answers to them, that was the real start of this event and made it what it was.



The Bower’s family opened the evening, setting a worshipful tone, with a couple of songs. This eleven person family choir harmonizes so beautifully together; but beyond that, their love for Jesus shines through their smiles and the glow on their faces. It was clear that it’s not about them, but about the One who created and called them. Their music was a wonderful beginning, preparing our hearts and souls to receive from the Holy Spirit a fresh word on repentance.

Our first speaker of the evening was Curtis Bowers. Curtis is the creator and producer of the acclaimed documentaries, “Agenda: Grinding America Down” and “Agenda 2: Masters of Deceit.” He began his presentation speaking of his dad being faithful in the small things; even if he was tired, he was faithful to obey the direction and call of the Lord. Curtis also told how his mother was an activist and even though she was only one person, she impacted the world around her in a significant way. He gave an example of how we may not change the world directly, but if we are obedient, we may do so indirectly by being the catalyst of change to someone else, who does go out and change the world in ways we could never imagine.

This godly man spoke about the importance of fasting and praying and how it played a major role in their first “Agenda” movie, winning the \$101,000 Jubilee Grand Prize at the San Antonio Independent Christian Film Festival. He tied the grace of fasting to this question: “When’s the last time you’ve asked God for something big?”

Mr. Bowers shared the Biblical account of the little boy who had a few loaves and fishes, giving them to Jesus and how the Master did something big with them—feeding the 5,000. He encouraged us to take what we have—regardless of how small it may seem to be—and be willing to let Jesus use it. We are called to be obedient; it’s God’s job to work the change. We are to be faithful in the little things and watch God take that obedience and do something big with it. The change must begin within us; it starts from the bottom up.



Our second speaker of the evening was Dr. Joel Beeke. Dr. Beeke is the

President of the Puritan Theological Reformed Seminary in Grand Rapids. This man of God preached the whole counsel of God with strength and conviction. Not being content to let “truth lay in the street” (Isaiah 59:14), Dr. Beeke boldly proclaimed the sin of America and her desperate need for repentance. The title of this spectacular exposition of Ezra chapter 9 was, “The Need for National Repentance and Action – From the Bottom Up”

As this Spirit-led preacher carefully unpacked Ezra 9, we heard how Ezra took the sin of his nation upon his own head; he owned these national transgressions as his own. The burden was then shifted to those in the audience; we too must see these national sins as the result of our own shortcomings, our own refusal to speak the truth into our nation as strongly as we ought. **“None of us has prayed for America as we should.”** These transgressions against the most holy God are in part ours. If we dare point a finger, we must recognize there are three more fingers pointing back at us.

Looking at homosexuality, we were reminded that we dare not call acceptable what God calls an abomination. It’s not a marriage regardless of what the courts say because we can’t unite what God says isn’t to be. The great and bloody sin of abortion was talked about at length—over 58 million children murdered in the mother’s womb. Take a moment and let this sink in—that’s more than the combined total population of these seven states: Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa.

After listing off our national sin and helping us see the importance of owning these transgressions, Dr. Beeke lovingly pointed to the “evening sacrifice” with gratitude. It’s a place and time where we can roll our transgressions over onto the sacrifice of Christ. A time of mourning and repentance, it’s where the remnant comes before an Almighty God and desires to live and walk a life of holiness. It’s where we come to God in repentance and plead for Him to “lighten our eyes and give us a little reviving” (Ezra 9:8).

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Summer Conference Wrap-up



[Continued from Page 3]

The battle for our nation starts with each individual Christian and expands from each heart, working from the bottom up.

We were so blessed to have these two humble and godly men share with us from the word and from their experiences. I offer a sincere apology to our speakers in that I'm unable to do justice in retelling their messages. It was just that good!

Those who were in attendance were blessed to be there. As one attendee described it, he was *"Blessed beyond words."* Another wrote, *"So worthwhile and God edifying. Hallelujah for Godly people who are brave for Him."*

Numbers of attendees have already requested a CD copy to share with others and re-listen themselves. Whether or not you were able to join us for the conference, don't miss this opportunity to hear these powerful messages delivered by these men of God, calling us to obedience and repentance.

To order the CD set for \$5.00, call Kimberly at 231-924-4050 or see the enclosed response card.



God's Not Dead 2 - September 16, 2016



From college classrooms to the public square, the name of Jesus is welcomed less and less with each passing day. If Christians don't take a stand today, will we even have a choice tomorrow?

The acclaimed movie, *GOD'S NOT DEAD 2*, showcases the attacks upon religious liberty that are all too real in our nation today. In fact, even the promotion of this film was banned in Cleveland when the film's producers sought to rent a billboard to advertise the *GOD'S NOT DEAD 2* during the Republican Convention. The billboard company rejected the ad, claiming it was "too incendiary." The billboard read: *"I'd rather stand with God and be judged by the world than stand with the world and be judged by God."*

We at ADA want to encourage you to "stand with God" and will be showing this inspiring, "ripped from the headlines" movie, *GOD'S NOT DEAD 2*, on Friday, September 16 at our headquarters in Fremont. See below for further information.

God's Not Dead 2 centers on beloved high school teacher Grace Wesley. Her love of teaching, her love for her students, and her love of life all come from the same place: her love of Christ. So when Brooke, a hurting student grieving the loss of her brother, reaches out to Grace, their coffee-shop conversation naturally leads to Grace sharing the hope she finds in Christ. When Brooke later asks an honest question about Jesus in the classroom, Grace's reasoned response lands her in big trouble—almost before she even finishes giving her answer. With the principal and superintendent joining forces with a zealous civil liberties group, Grace faces an epic court case that could cost her the career she loves and expel God from the classroom—and the public square—once and for all!

This movie is based on true accounts of religious liberty under attack in America. In fact, the closing credits of the film list numerous such cases.

Join us for *GOD'S NOT DEAD 2* and be inspired to stand for what they believe. Will you stand?

GOD'S NOT DEAD 2

Friday, September 16, 2016
1:00 PM & 7:00 PM

Location: American Decency
203 E Main Street ~ Fremont, MI

Cost: Free will offering



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Ahem...Mr. Thiel? Someone cares!

by Steve Huston



We've all seen a comic strip depicting the growth of a snowball moving down a long-sloped hill. The snowball starts small at the top; as it begins its journey downward, it changes little by little, moving slowly. Before long it's moving faster, gaining momentum, and changing at an alarming rate. What was once a child's winter fun become's a great danger to any who would be in its path.

So also the Republican Party. It's changed from its political moorings little by little but now beyond that. **A party's platform is only as good as those who stand on it and to the extent they uphold it.** Today's Republican Party has drafted "the most conservative platform in modern history." What good does that do if those who stand on it and those belonging to the Party won't affirm it?

Within our nation we've seen great shifts: Staunchly protecting life, to placing limitations on its protection. Boycotting and influencing businesses, to businesses not caring and now, at times, boycotting the people. Protecting traditional marriage, to attacking those who stand for God's standard of matrimony. **In short, as a nation, and as a Party, we've moved far from the fear of God and His laws to fearing man and his ungodly pleasures.**

To illustrate the change, one might say that we've opened the Republican Party tent flaps to be more inclusive and grow the base. We've morphed little by little from a tent of camp meeting conservatism to a three-ring, big top circus. We've gone beyond little by little, trading in a sense of sacredness for lawlessness and compromise at an alarming rate over the past several decades. The GOP and its adherents have lost discernment as they've

become desensitized to the degradation that surrounds us. Sadly, the same has happened to the church as well, fearing men rather than fearing God.

We could talk about how this party has chosen an unprincipled candidate over one who stands on conviction. We could look at the moderate choices this party has given us over the past several election cycles, making it hard to support them. We could discuss the impotence of having a strong platform when the only person willing to truly stand on it was the one who was booted off from it. **Fixing a platform doesn't do any good if no one will truly adhere to it.**

Case in point, co-founder of PayPal and proud, gay billionaire, Peter Thiel, was a featured speaker at the RNC. He was warmly accepted and enthusiastically applauded by the Republican Party crowd as he loudly proclaimed, **"I am proud to be gay! I am proud to be a Republican!! Most of all, I am proud to be an American!!!"**

Mr. Thiel desecrated the "most conservative platform in modern history," in regard to its stance on traditional marriage, by his very life which flies in the face of God—proclaiming his pride in being gay. How can this platform and Party mean anything when such a man and his words are met with thunderous applause?

It's not just about his life though; this man openly mocked the very platform he was invited to speak upon. He referred to the LGBTQ issues as "*fake culture wars*" and claimed that "*we are told the great debate is about who gets to use which bathroom. This is a distraction from our problems; who cares!*"

"Who cares," Mr. Thiel?—Really?—"Who cares?"

Obviously those who drafted "the most conservative platform in modern history" care. The leaders of the Party may not, since they invited you to speak; but those who painstakingly wrote out this platform care.

Conservatives throughout this country care. That's why they show up in droves at Board of Education meetings. They voice their concern, speaking out against their daughters having their privacy invaded and their persons endangered by being forced to use restrooms, locker rooms, and showers with confused males. That's why almost 1.4 million people have signed the boycott Target petition—in hopes of bringing sensibility and safety to a major American retail store.

The company Mr. Thiel co-founded, PayPal, cares about pushing transgender bathrooms on the rest of us while punishing those who would oppose the agenda which they support. If they didn't care, this company wouldn't have cancelled its \$3.6 million plan for a global operations center in Charlotte, North Carolina in response to the "Bathroom Bill." This State bill was written for the safety and security of its citizens, maintaining gender specific bathrooms and locker rooms. PayPal cared enough to take away 400 jobs from the citizens of North Carolina. However, I imagine this company is still hypocritically taking money from the good citizens of Charlotte and the rest of the state. As a side note: the NBA cared enough to change its plans of holding their All Star game there for the same reason.

It's obvious that people care since there has been so much division over this "fake culture war."

Mr. Thiel, you disingenuously ask, "Who cares?" because clearly, YOU CARE! At the end of your speech you boldly proclaimed, "I'm proud to be gay!" I didn't notice anyone else shouting, "I'm proud to be straight!" If no one, including you, cared, why even bring it out? Why make a proclamation that directly goes against the Party you agreed to come and speak to?

Perhaps the better question is: Since the RNC knew all these things, why would they have Mr. Thiel come and speak on their "*most conservative platform in modern history?*"

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What Can WE Do?

by Lisa Van Houten



This is the first installment in a series of articles we'll feature in our newsletter. As persecution is impending upon our horizon, it's vital that we see, as Christians, what our response ought to be. We know that there are no "cookie cutter" answers and that it must be as the Holy Spirit leads each person; that being the case, we invite you to chew on these topics with us. Become people who will work "from the bottom up" to the glory of God alone!

A local pastor stopped by our office recently, heavy-hearted about the collapse occurring all around us. As he sat down to talk and commiserate, he asked the question that many are asking: "So, what can we do?"

It's becoming increasingly clear that, at least for this period of American history, we Christians are on the losing end of a sexual revolution that is radically transforming the moral framework and virtually every institution of our culture.

Sure, the battle continues, but with each day and each headline there is every indication of what the outcome will be. Defeat.

Here are just a few recent examples:

* A bill making its way through the California legislature will prohibit Christian universities from operating according to their beliefs.

* A judge orders the Christian dating website, Christian Mingle, to include homosexual dating matches.

* The Iowa Civil Rights Commission states that churches which hold services "open to the public" must follow anti-discrimination laws regarding gender and sexual orientation.

Many Christians in America are experiencing shell-shock – how did this happen? How have we gone from a country that once lauded Christian virtues, to one where Christians are now seen as villains?

As theologian Al Mohler writes: "... *The Christian church has always enjoyed the moral high ground; it has always been understood to be the guardian of what is right and righteous, at least in Western societies. But what we are seeing now is a fundamental change. ... For the first time in the history of Western civilization, Christianity appears to be on the underside of morality, and those who hold to biblical teachings concerning human sexuality are now "ousted" from the position of high moral ground.*

"...And so what was previously understood to be immoral is now celebrated as a moral good. As a result, the Christian church's historic teachings on homosexuality—shared by the vast majority of the citizens of the West until very recently—is now understood to be a relic of the past and a repressive force that must be eradicated."

Eradicated. That sums up very well what we are facing. The sexual revolutionaries are advancing and the Christian faith is the only thing standing in the way of their complete victory. Virtually every cultural institution - the courts, schools and universities, corporate America, the entertainment industry of course, even the military – is turning on Christianity ... which is actually to turn on Jesus.

In spite of what the First Amendment says, sexual liberty now supersedes religious liberty. It's becoming increasingly evident that any criticism of the new sexual liberty (i.e. homosexuality, transgenderism, etc.) will not be tolerated – in fact it will be punished.

As Rod Dreher writing for American Conservative warns, this won't stop at pharmacists or florists: "*Sooner or later, you are going to have to take a stand — and if you stand on Christian orthodoxy, you are going to be knocked flat. Can you*

take that? You had better be able to."

American Christians are beginning to wake from their stupor only to find themselves captives in Babylon.

So how do we sing the Lord's song in a land that has become foreign right under our very noses? We look to God's Word, of course – our only rule for faith and practice.

Jeremiah 29:4-7 tells us to seek the good of the "city" where we now find ourselves as exiles and pray on its behalf. (more on that later) We don't withdraw; we "bloom where we are planted." We continue what we should have been doing all along: teach our families God's ways; be doers of good; influence and minister to those around us; be voices for Godliness and Truth in an ungodly nation that hates truth.

Yet, it's also important to remember that as we do so, a lion's den or fiery furnace will likely be our reward.

Looking at others who found themselves captives in Babylon—Daniel and his three Hebrew companions—we see fine examples of how to respond to a pagan culture while being vastly outnumbered.

Being in the minority does not give us license to retreat and lick our wounds. We don't keep our heads down and just go along to get along, while those around us are being led down a path of destruction. We can't obey the command to love our neighbor and not warn of the consequences of unrepentant rebellion against God. What is needed is for Christians to boldly and courageously share the hope and the truth of the Gospel in spite of persecution.

Which leads us to the promise of persecution. This should not come as a shock. After all, Jesus told us we would be hated for His name's sake and as my 8-year-old Sunday School students can tell you: "God always keeps his promises."

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What Can WE Do?



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In the Beatitudes right after the Lord speaks of us being persecuted, reviled, and having all kinds of evil uttered against us falsely (Matt. 5:10-12), He follows that immediately with: *"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."*

Being hated, lied about, and persecuted does not exempt us from our call to be gritty, flavorful salt and blazing, dark-dispersing light.

When those who hate us don't see our good works as "good," but consider us and what we do evil, what should we do?

I Peter 2:12 basically tells us to do good anyway. We don't resort to the same tactics. We don't hate or revile. When we're called evildoers, as is already taking place, we strive to *"Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation."*

Notice that last phrase. Isn't that amazing? Every judge or justice who issues unlawful rulings against Christians for following their faith or seeking to protect life, every governmental leader who uses their position to persecute those striving to do good, everyone who now maligns those demonstrating God's love and truth, will one day be unable to withhold giving glory to God!

Until that day, don't expect all of our doing good and speaking truth to necessarily change our culture. Do good and speak truth anyway. We're commanded to do so, but God's Word doesn't guarantee the outcome we hope for.

However, there is something we are also called to do, that does come with a promise. It's a verse that is so familiar that it can almost seem trite. But God's Word is never trite, and – as I said above – "God always keeps His promises."

"If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14)

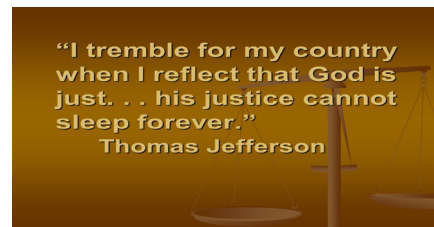
God promises to heal our land **not** when homosexuals or abortionists or atheists turn from their wicked ways, **but when His people do.** WE are in need of humbling. We too often don't truly seek God's face – or only as a last resort when our own methods have failed. The sin which we justify is a stench in God's nostrils. But if we truly humble ourselves and pray and seek God and turn from our sin - there is a promise: then God will hear our prayers and will forgive our sin and THEN God will heal our land.

That is the ultimate answer to the question: "What can we do?" True repentance. Humble hearts prostrated before God. Fervent prayer. Striving to rid our lives of spiritual lethargy and those "little" sins that so easily beset us.

Perhaps what we see taking place in our country is not so much a judgment on the lost, but a call to repentance of the saved. We may very well be driven to our knees - which is the best place to be.

May tears of repentance flow in you and me and all His people and may our broken-hearted prayers rise to our promise-keeping God.

Ahem...Mr. Thiel? Someone cares!



[Continued from Page 5]

And finally, even if no one else in this Party, this nation, or the world cared... GOD CARES! He expressly calls this "fake culture war" an abomination.

I fear for my children's future as I agree with Thomas Jefferson's sentiments: "I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that his justice cannot sleep forever."

Our nation, the political parties, and we each individually must humble ourselves and return to a fear of God instead of fearing men. We must vote from prayerful conviction, not from fear. Think deeply upon the exhortation of C.H. Spurgeon: *"He will never do much good in the world who is afraid of men. The fear of God brings blessings, but the fear of men brings a snare, and such a snare that many feet have been tripped! No man shall be faithful to God if he is fearful of man."*

***Woe unto them
that call evil good,
and good evil; that
put darkness for
light, and light for
darkness; that put
bitter for sweet, and
sweet for bitter!***
Isaiah 5:20

Fox News - Seller of Truth or ...?

by Lisa Van Houten



Caveat lector – a Latin phrase meaning let the reader beware. It also applies to the hearer. We live in a culture where we are bombarded by information. Yet in this information age, in large part we have become a nation incapable of discerning what is true and false, what is good and evil.

Author and cultural critic Neil Postman wrote of the dumbing-down of the American people by mass media and entertainment in his acclaimed book, “Amusing Ourselves to Death”, written in 1985. What was true then is even truer now. In this book Postman contrasts the future world as imagined in George Orwell’s book, “1984,” in which the government controls citizens through constant surveillance, and Aldous Huxley’s “Brave New World,” in which people are controlled by being kept entertained and oblivious.

As Postman wrote: *“Orwell warns that we will be overcome by an externally imposed oppression. But in Huxley’s vision, no Big Brother is required to deprive people of their autonomy, maturity and history. As he saw it, people will come to love their oppression, to adore the technologies that undo their capacities to think. ... Orwell feared that the truth would be concealed from us. Huxley feared the truth would be drowned in a sea of irrelevance. ...”*

What a picture of the American people today and the entertainment we devour – including the news media. To those capable of discernment, it’s not difficult to see the liberal bias of much of the mainstream news which ‘drowns the truth in a sea of irrelevance.’ Yet equally troubling are sources claiming to be “fair and balanced” yet are anything but that.

For viewers of Fox News you’ll recognize that slogan. It’s important to remember that Fox News is not a bastion of truth, but a money-making media giant. The company that gives us Fox News also gives us the FOX-TV network which is filled with crass, sexualized shows. Fox News supposedly espouses family values while FOX-TV trashes them on its vulgar sitcoms. Fox News does nothing more than fill a niche, drawing viewers - and money – from a certain demographic.

When Fox News debuted in 1996 under the leadership of Roger Ailes, it was seemingly a breath of fresh air for millions of conservatives who for the first time had a news source that seemed to give voice to their values. Yet while the water may flow in a different direction, much of the truth filtered through Fox News is still being drowned. The opinions espoused often do little to portray true conservative thought, but rather parrot the moderate Republican, politically-correct party line – especially over what are considered to be “values” issues – opposition to abortion, the LGBT agenda, gay marriage. And when it comes to elections, Fox News uses its clout to help pick winners and losers. That was abundantly clear with the past Republican primary season. Ted Cruz, who most typified true conservative thought, got little air time while the network fed its viewers Donald Trump - hook, line, and sinker. And like guppies, many of them swallowed the worm.

As Steve Deace writes for Conservative Review: *“Fox News, the most powerful platform in conservative media, has been skewing more liberal in recent years under the watchful eye of long-time Svengali Roger Ailes. Leaving many conservatives to wonder why.”*

Deace offers his opinion for Fox’s slide away from true conservatism: *“Whenever a once principled man suddenly seems to have lost his way and starts compromising his public virtue, it’s always because he is morally compromised in his private life. Every. Single. Time.”*

So when news broke that popular Fox News

anchor Gretchen Carlson was suddenly fired and was suing Fox News CEO Roger Ailes for sexual harassment, people began to recognize that the wizard behind the curtain was not who many thought he was. Since then the floodgates have opened with dozens of women who had worked for Ailes coming forward with charges of sexual harassment. And when Megan Kelly, the star of Fox News, purportedly added her own testimony of harassment – Ailes was booted.

In retrospect, it should come as no surprise. Any viewer of Fox News will quickly see a pattern of sexualized, cleavage-baring women as reporters and hosts. An incriminating article from Forbes magazine, states: *“The producer would say, [Ailes] says you need to change her hair or her blouse, have her hike up her skirt or put on more makeup,” says a former contributor and guest host at Fox News and Fox Business News who spoke to Forbes under the condition of anonymity. “Roger watched everything... and during the day he would say, ‘T*** up, hair back.’ That was his M.O.”*

Fox News is selling something, but it’s not unadulterated truth.

So what is the take away for us? As Christians, we need to be buyers of truth, not pabulum or propaganda. As it says in Proverbs 23:23, *“Buy truth, and do not sell it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding.”* Don’t let yourself be buried in a sea of irrelevance. Don’t buy the party line, but seek out sources of information and instruction to enable you to speak truth to those in your sphere of influence. Don’t assume that a source labeled “conservative” is automatically trustworthy.

In my devotions I recently read this quote from R.C. Sproul: *“Many Christians neglect the study of the law of the Lord, but if we do not seek to understand His commandments, we will lack the wisdom needed to discern between right and wrong in our decisions.”*

To know what’s true, study the Truth.