

What Does All This Mean?

By Bill Johnson



Jan and I were in Washington, DC for Donald Trump's Inauguration on January 20.

When the opportunity arose from an unexpected invitation from a longtime ministry friend, we couldn't say no, trusting that the invitation was a gift from the Lord.

Nonetheless, questions filled our minds as we considered the invitation to go to Washington, to participate in a Gala Dinner, and to be on Pennsylvania Avenue for the festivities surrounding the Inauguration and for the Inauguration itself.

Although I was not an early Trump supporter, I knew when the choices came down to Clinton or Trump whom I would vote for. I would never have cast a vote for Hillary Clinton.

For the months leading up to the election (particularly through the primary battles), I wish you could have been a part of our discussions around the ADA table as we sought to understand what God was doing. Many questions and concerns arose!

What is the Providence of God in such matters? Does man have any role to play at all? Does our vote matter if God is sovereign? If it matters, why does it matter? If it doesn't matter, why doesn't it matter?

The following words from the writings of Puritan pastor of old Richard Baxter encapsulates conclusions that we have drawn.

Though your ploughing and sowing will not

give a harvest without the sun, and rain, and the blessing of God, yet the sun and rain will not bring a crop unless you plough and plant."

On the streets of Washington, DC on the day of Trump's Inauguration, there was a strong sense of relief by the vast majority of attendees, but there was also the burning of garbage cans and of a limousine and the protests with upwards of 200 protestors being arrested and facing criminal charges for their actions.

By now, you likely have heard that Donald Trump will be strongly opposed as signified by the significant core of marchers and protestors who gathered in various cities throughout the United States and in other cities around the world.

Indeed, as we prepared to leave the city the day after the Inauguration (January 21), we were aware that the Women's March was coming into town. As Jan and I exited the hotel at 9:30 AM, we saw first hand that the Women's March was going to be energetic and strongly attended!

What does all this mean? What is God doing? That, we believe, is a vital question! Did God raise up Donald Trump? If so why? In so doing, He did not raise up Hillary Clinton. Similarly, why not?

Indeed, what is God doing? Just a few months ago, it seemed that America's declension/dysfunction as orchestrated by

President Obama and his cadre would alter the world stage as America's growing moral, economic, and military ineptitude would stimulate and excite the advancement of dangerous and hostile nations.

How could it be otherwise with the clear cut agenda that Clinton would propagate the continuation of President Barack Obama's leftist agenda, i.e. abortion-on-demand, the selling of baby body parts, the rapid advancement of transgenderism, and the eradication of the freedom of speech and religion, the demoralization and feminization of the military etc.

Shockingly, mercifully, the tables were turned on Hillary Clinton, the Democratic Party, Planned Parenthood, Black Lives Matter, the Muslim Brotherhood, transgender advocates, Hollywood liberals, etc, while traditional Americans once again found their voice, and God showed us mercy.

What is God doing?

Far be it from me to even begin to suggest that I can answer this question.

But, I can provide Scripture:

He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding. - Daniel 2:21

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From the desk of Bill Johnson

What does all this mean?

Did God really raise up Donald Trump to be the 45th President of the United States?

How can we think otherwise? God is the sovereign God. Nothing happens by chance. God removes kings and sets up kings.

So, why did God raise up Barack Obama or Donald Trump, so opposite in the positions they espouse?

Back in the 1990s Dr. John MacArthur, the pastor-teacher of Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, California and the radio broadcaster of the national program “Grace to You” stated before a gathering in Colorado Springs, “God has taken His hand of protection off from America”.

And, in a multitude of ways, it seemed to many like-minded that, indeed, God had removed His hand of protection as America spiraled downward morally and spiritually, generation after generation. Indeed, it has seemed that John MacArthur was tragically correct.

America has aborted 60 million babies since 1973 when the U.S. Supreme Court decided Roe V. Wade, legalizing abortion.

Under President Barack Obama Planned Parenthood received more than \$500 million a year from the federal government. About 75 percent of that came from Medicaid, which was, of course, established to provide medical care to patients with low incomes. Obama has been a close ally to the abortion industry throughout his two terms, even defending Planned Parenthood after it was caught selling aborted babies’ body parts, giving it more taxpayer funding, and

welcoming its CEO, Cecile Richards, to the White House on numerous occasions.

Obama once said, “God bless Planned Parenthood” at a speech for the abortion group in 2013. Then in 2014, he told abortion activists that they are “doing God’s work.” Obama became known as the most pro-abortion president in U.S. history and the abortion industry continued to boom.

Consider the savagery and barbarism of killing unborn children, wantonly buying and selling their body parts, our government’s failure to not only halt the barbarism being executed in abortion clinics, but its funding of it.

Wouldn’t God be justified in taking His hand off from America?

What is God doing?

I began asking that question on the day following the election of Donald Trump. Though I felt relief that the Obama agenda through Hillary Clinton was finally shut down, I wondered. I still wonder.

Is this a further evidence of the wrath of God; that due to America’s turning its back upon God, He is allowing for what appeared to be a reprieve, but ultimately will lead to His judgment? Will America’s infantile, lukewarm Christians once again be too easily satisfied? Will our short season of humbling and asking for God’s mercy against the ideology which supports Planned Parenthood, “women’s rights” and abortion be forgotten as we return to our shallow lives filled with video games, cell phones and tablets, our stupefying addiction to idiocy and cheap entertainment over the airwaves, a godless infatuation with sports teams and “stars” that themselves promote and endorse the LGBT agenda and boycott those who stand for righteousness?

Is God giving us a reprieve to further display even in His all knowing character (omniscience) that we go awhoring just like the children of Israel despite His great love shown once again through His amazing grace and mercy.

This morning (the day of the Right to Life March in Washington, DC - January 27) I read this account in the Los Angeles Times:

Tucked against a fence in an East Los Angeles cemetery, a long, flat headstone reads: “In memory of the 16,500 precious unborn, buried here, Oct. 6, 1985.”

The aborted fetuses had been found in a metal storage container repossessed from the Woodland Hills home of a former medical laboratory owner who had kept them after testing.

Abortion defenders argued that they should be incinerated as medical waste. But abortion foes wanted to give them a funeral. ...

That’s a sample of the abortion related atrocities committed since 1973.

Then God raised up Donald J. Trump out of his casino operation, womanizing background to oppose the godless ripping and tearing apart of pre-born babies, the harvesting of their body parts - including their heads.

God’s word repeatedly makes it clear: His ways are not our ways and our ways are not His!

“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements—surely you know!” “Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place, that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth, and the wicked be shaken out of it? It is changed like clay under the seal, and its features stand out like a garment. From the wicked their light is withheld, and their uplifted arm is broken.” Job 38: 5, 12-15

Weep and repent. God is still on the throne.

And, we are not!

Silencing the First Amendment

by Chris Johnson



If you read last month's newsletter, you may remember a story by Lisa Van Houten regarding free speech on the campus of Grand Valley State University.

It's worth taking a moment to refresh our memories:

"[L]ast October at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan, university officials and campus police told GVSU students, part of a student group called Turning Point USA, that they couldn't talk about the First Amendment to other students and ask them to write messages on a beach ball they called a 'free speech ball' because the Turning Point students weren't standing in one of the two designated 'free speech zones.' The two free speech zones at GVSU make up 0.03% of the campus, leaving over 99% of GVSU as a restricted speech zone. The students, who were on a sidewalk, were told they would be arrested for trespassing if they didn't stop exercising their freedom of speech."

Our home state is in the headlines again for a similar concerning account.

Two Kellogg Community College students were recently arrested in Battle Creek, Michigan.

Their crime?

Handing out the document that secures their right to free speech.

The college claims that the members of the Young Americans for Liberty club were violating the school's Solicitation Policy, which requires that students ask permission before engaging in "soliciting activity," by handing out copies of the United States Constitution.

The students responded by asking the Alliance Defending Freedom to file a law suit against the school, rightly claiming that such a policy is in blatant violation of the First Amendment.

The lawsuit also calls out the community college for selective enforcement of their policy, citing a similar instance where an LGBT group passed out literature and collected signatures for a petition, without asking permission. School administration did not enforce their solicitation policy in this case.

Both the Grand Valley University case and the Kellogg Community College case are built on the egregious concept that an institution has the right to draw a boundary line around the inherent human right, protected in the Constitution, of a person's right to "unabridged" free speech.

ADF Senior Counsel Casy Mattox got to the heart of the matter, "Today's college students will be tomorrow's legislators, judges, commissioners, and voters. That's why it's so important that public universities model the First Amendment values they are supposed to be teaching to students, and why it should disturb everyone that KCC and many other colleges are communicating to a generation that the Constitution doesn't matter."

Not being taught the basics of what the Constitution protects may just be how these colleges got in this mess in the first place.

Let's hope the lawsuit gives them that education.

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They Have Every Right

Pop stars have refused to perform at the presidential inauguration of Donald Trump. Fashion designers have declined to dress Melania Trump. And they have every right to do so. It's called freedom - freedom of conscience.

Now imagine if those singers and designers were forced against their will to take part in the inauguration or be sued, fined, and bankrupted. The Left would be outraged at being forced to support such an event that goes against their ideological convictions.

Yet that is exactly what is happening to Christian florists and bakers who have declined to participate in gay weddings. Where is their freedom of conscience? If a liberal singer has the right to bow out of events they disagree with, why don't Christian bakers have the same right? Freedom is for all Americans - at least it's supposed to be.

Can We Neuter God?

The very first chapter of Genesis says this: "So God created man in HIS own image, in the image of God HE created him; male and female HE created them." God calls Himself, "He."

But how do well-known divinity schools like Duke and Vanderbilt University refer to God? They recommend avoiding gender specific pronouns, and using something like, "Godself," rather than Himself.

Katherine Timpf writing for the National Review Online makes an excellent point: "If you are talking about the God of the [Christian] religion, then it's just plain inaccurate to refer to Him as anything but 'Him' ... There is a point where an obsession over political correctness can blind people from basic facts."

God is who HE says He is, it's not up to professors to decide. Liberal universities' discomfort with the truth doesn't make it any less true.

A Call For Repentance

by Dr. Norman De Jong, guest contributor



The Lord is in his holy temple; the Lord's throne is in heaven; his eyes see, his eyelids test the children of man. The Lord tests the righteous, but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence.

Psalm 11:4-5

I recently asked two of my Bible study groups: "Does God love everyone?" The response was a universal "Yes." I was stunned. Is that what God's Word teaches? God is a Holy, Just, and Righteous Being. He cannot tolerate sin. God calls all of His creations to repentance. When Jesus began His ministry, He came with one simple message: "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." (Matt. 4:17). When rebels refuse, He punishes them with death. If one believes that God loves everyone, then there is no acknowledgement of His wrath against sin, and *there is no need to fear Him*. Then everyone will do what "is right in his own eyes." We see that on our expressways. Almost no one obeys the posted speed limits. We see it when young people choose to co-habit without the benefit of marriage. We see it in the crime sprees in cities like Chicago. We see it in states granting rights for "recreational marijuana," even when federal laws prohibit it. We see it in our "sanctuary cities," defying federal authority. We see it in the "Black lives matter" movement. We see it in the Women's Marches for abortion rights. We see it in our schools where children no longer respect and obey their teachers. We see it in the wholesale desecration of the Sabbath. We hear it in the vulgar language in our movies. We see it in our cities when violent protesters

destroy property and assault policemen. We are rapidly approaching wholesale anarchy! We are becoming more and more violent and more and more demanding of our "rights." We want to be law-makers, and refuse to be law-abiders.

One reason why the wrath of God is being ignored in Western society is because the United States, Canada, and most European countries have become secular nations. In the United States Supreme Court the Everson Case (1947) officially established a "wall of separation" between church and state." This is an incredibly flawed decision, but it has become the law of the land. The net effect of trying to create a barrier or wall between the church and the state is to exclude the Law of God from all judicial decisions and from all public policy. In rapid succession, the courts banned prayer, Bible reading, sacred songs, and religious exercises from our nation's public schools.

In 1973 the Supreme Court ruled that women have the right to murder the infants growing in their wombs, claiming, somehow, that the United States Constitution granted them this right under the *guise of privacy*. In spite of challenges from numerous quarters, the "right" to abortion has become the law of the land. Euphemistically, its defenders dub that "pro-choice." The Bible calls it murder. God condemns murder. More recently, the United States Supreme Court has ruled that every state in the union has to license and approve same-sex marriages. That decision made no reference to the Law of God, which clearly and repeatedly condemns homosexual behavior. When one eliminates the Law of God from all public discourse, a huge vacuum is created. Lawlessness fills that Vacuum. Where there is no law, there is no sin. Where there is no sin, there is no need to focus on the wrath of God. When the Law of God is excluded, the people make up their own laws and pretend to take the place of God. Where there is no sin, there is no need for a Savior.

Jesus began His public ministry with a call for repentance. He shows tremendous love and compassion for people, but He also confronts the scribes, Pharisees and

Sadducees with stinging criticisms, leveling accusations at them that make them plan an early death for Him. True to His double-sided mission, Jesus Christ proclaims liberty to the captives, eternal life to those who believe in Him, but also death to those who refuse Him. That classic passage from John 3:16 proclaims salvation to all those who believe in Him, but it goes on to add, "Whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God." Jesus Christ, as prophet, priest, and king has multiple assignments and multiple messages. As prophet, He is expressing the very mind and words of God Himself. He speaks God's mind. As priest, He comes to offer the ultimate sacrifice for sin, His own body. He willingly, voluntarily, goes to Jerusalem at the appointed time, to offer Himself as the Lamb to be slain. He offers to pay the price necessary to satisfy the wrath of God. As king, He is given all authority to rule and to govern the world. He has the power of the sword, the power to punish those who break God's laws. He will not condone sin! We would be wise if we learned to fear Him!

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A Cheap Imitation

by Lisa Van Houten



In the 1950s a Nobel Prize-winning Dutch scientist, Nikolaas Tinbergen, performed a study on the mating habits of butterflies. He discovered that male butterflies were attracted to certain colors and patterns on the wings of female butterflies when choosing a mate. Tinbergen then created cardboard replicas of female butterflies with larger, more brightly colored wings than real female butterflies. What he discovered was astounding. The male butterflies repeatedly and futilely tried to mate with the phony cardboard butterflies while completely ignoring the real females.

This study is one of countless examples of God's truth revealed in His creation and is a striking analogy of the impact of pornography. Men (and women) caught in the snare of pornography become obsessed with the "cardboard butterfly" – the phony, fake, illusion - not of love, but of lust. There's no love, no friendship, no intimacy. There's no sacrifice required, no emotional investment, no consideration of another. The focus is only on personal pleasure. Men who use pornography become no longer satisfied with "real butterflies." Women, like cardboard cutouts, are portrayed as objects to be used and discarded.

Women then strive to compete with the phony version of femininity. The female butterflies in Tinbergen's study couldn't replicate the gaudy cardboard versions, but many women try to do so. They believe the lie that sex equals love, that imitating pornography will attract men. As pornography use has sky-rocketed, so has plastic surgery and promiscuity in women.

And so we see not only the growing use of pornography, but the growing acceptance of it as well. Two years ago we opposed the pornographic "Fifty Shades of Grey" book series, which is rightly referred to

as "mommy porn." The book, centered on graphic sexual themes of BDSM (Bondage, Discipline/Dominance, Sadism and Masochism), has somehow convinced women that nothing says love and romance like sexual violence.

Who is reading "Fifty Shades of Grey," making it one of the best-selling books of all time? Women. And not just secular women. A Barna Group study revealed that **"there is no difference between the percentage of Christians who have read *Fifty Shades of Grey* and the percentage of all Americans who have read the book."**

In 2015 the first book in the series was turned into a movie which hit theaters just in time for Valentine's Day. Now the second installment will be released February 10 – timed to again coincide with Valentine's Day.

The sequel is entitled "Fifty Shades Darker." An apt title, not only regarding the content, but also unwittingly describing the escalation of pornography. Those caught in the snare of pornography are drawn deeper and deeper into darker, more explicit perversions.

As we focus on the need for repentance in America, the epidemic of pornography and the popularity of "Fifty Shades of Grey" indicate the depravity of our nation – including within the church. A 2014 study by the Barna Group revealed that 64% of Christian men and 15% of Christian women admitted to viewing pornography at least once a month.

Expect to hear a lot of buzz in the coming days as "Fifty Shades Darker" hits the theaters. As we do, what will be the reaction of churches, pastors, individual Christians? We should be outraged. We should use it as an opportunity to oppose such garbage and point to God's design for love and sexuality. Yet if the Church's inaction two years ago to "Fifty Shades of Grey" is any indication, the response will be pathetically weak. And our silence only leads to further acceptance.

We, as followers of Christ, have the

responsibility to model to the world what true love is. The self-centered, self-pleasuring view of love and sex portrayed in pornography in general, and "Fifty Shades Darker" specifically, is the antithesis of love.

"Love is patient, love is kind... it is not self-seeking... Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." – I Corinthians 13:4-7

Recently we received one of those rare letters that lift our spirits, encouraging us in what can often be rather discouraging work here at ADA. The gentleman wrote in part:

"It is with JOY that I compose this letter to you. ... I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your intercession on my behalf as I have struggled with sexual addiction for most of my adult life. My wife spoke with one of your staff members and was so encouraged as they shared together. ... [I]t was about that time that I felt the touch of God-Almighty upon my life ... I now assuredly believe that my darkness is past and I have been taken from that period of defeat and dishonor. I'm trusting my Lord DAY by DAY to lead me in the paths of righteousness so I might not return to unbelief and disobedience. We've received counseling ... and it has been most helpful and blessed ... In my small way, may I encourage you all there at ADA to take up the weapons of our warfare and FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH!"

The good news of the Gospel is that in Christ there is freedom from the bondage of sin.

Millions who hopelessly seek the allure of the imitation "butterfly," miss the beauty found only in authentic love – the love of Christ and the joy which comes in following His design.

As "Fifty Shades Darker" is promoted in the days ahead, take the opportunity to tell those around you of the lie this movie represents and point them to the true source of love.

Pro-life President Trump

by Steve Huston



Fighting for life is a bipartisan concern. According to The Daily Signal, *“When polled, 61 percent of Americans opposed using tax dollars to fund abortions within the United States, while 83 percent of respondents opposed subsidizing abortions outside of the United States.”* Also according to this poll, *“When it came to the partisan breakdown of individuals polled, 41 percent of Democrats and 87 percent of Republicans opposed using taxpayers’ money to fund abortions.”*

Had Hillary Clinton won the White House, we would have had the most pro-abortion administration in history. Let’s give thanks to God for His merciful hand of turning the tide.

President Trump campaigned as a pro-life candidate on a pro-life platform and he has already begun tightening the reins on this culture of death in which we live. He has reinstated President Reagan’s ban on U.S. funding for abortion overseas through the Mexico City policy. This policy states that federal funds for family planning go only to foreign nongovernmental organizations that agree not to perform or promote abortions as a method of family planning in other countries. This, in effect, defunds International Planned Parenthood. President Trump also, by Presidential Memorandum, signed the Hyde and the Helms Amendments, keeping them active.

Since the 1970s, the Hyde Amendment has prohibited the use of federal funds for abortions. This amendment has been signed by every president for the past 40 years, according to National Review. It’s assumed that this would not have been the case had Hillary Clinton won the presidency. To protect the pro-life taxpayer, the Trump/Pence administration will be signing this into permanent law through H.R. 7—“No

Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act.” H.R. 7 is applied government-wide to ensure that regardless of which political party is in power, taxpayers will not be made to pay for other people’s abortions. This bill has passed in the House and will make its way on to the Senate.

LIFE SITE NEWS reported last September that, in a signed letter, the would-be president promised to nominate pro-life justices to the Supreme Court, sign into law the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which would end painful late-term abortions nationwide, defund Planned Parenthood, and make the Hyde Amendment permanent. He’s on track to do these things and it sounds like Paul Ryan is committed to helping President Trump accomplish the defunding of Planned Parenthood.

LifeNews.com quotes Paul Ryan on defunding Planned Parenthood: “Well there’s a longstanding principle that we’ve all believed in — and by the way, this is for pro-choice/pro-life people — that we don’t want to commit taxpayer funding for abortion and Planned Parenthood is the largest abortion provider.”

“Legalized” murder of our young has affected the United States in a great number of ways. What was presented as compassion for mothers has turned us into a people who embrace this culture of death, searing our consciences to at least some degree.

60 million abortions! That’s the barrier we’re likely to surpass this year. That’s more than 60 million precious souls disposed of like garbage, since the Supreme Court legalized abortion-on-demand with Roe v. Wade in 1973. Since that time we’ve come to embrace a culture of death more and more. It’s deepened in its availability and widened, not only in its acceptance, but in other venues as well. Think of partial-birth abortion, stem-cell research, organ harvesting/selling, euthanasia, and the list goes on.

Since embracing a culture of death in 1973, America has risen to the top 4% of countries whose citizens can easily murder their own children. Most third

world countries have stricter regulations on abortion than the “leader of the free world.” Actually, we are more in line with tyrannical regimes, like China and North Korea, than protecting our most vulnerable citizens, like a liberty-loving nation should. [To hear a recent Decency Minute on this topic go here: http://americandecency.org/decency_minute/AFR/decencyminute1.1.5.17.mp4] Since Roe v Wade, have we become more civilized or more brutalized?

Since 1973, many doctors who took the Hippocratic Oath to “do no harm,” would more fittingly be called “hired assassins.” These paid killers do harm to both the patient and the intended victim.

Since 1973, we’ve embraced worshipping the creature and its convenience rather than worshipping the Creator and His commandment ... “Thou shalt not kill.” How can God bless America when we have murdered our young and oppressed our poor? Rather than glorifying self and our own will, we must glorify the God of all creation and say, “nevertheless, Thy will be done.”

Since 1973, we’ve gone from judicial murder to the American Holocaust. God’s Word is final; what He allows and what He declares wrong is the final word on any given topic. Man may declare something to be “legal,” but if it goes against what God has said, then it is still wrong. Hitler declared the extinction of the Jews to be legal and our Supreme Court has declared the murder of 60 million innocent lives to be legal. God has said, “NO!” How can anyone rightfully declare otherwise?

Since 1973 we have become used to the idea of murdering our young. Who today is shocked at murder mills? Who regularly sheds tears or sits in horror at the idea of abortion? My two youngest still can’t comprehend why someone would do these things, but many accept it as the new American way of “life” - a culture of death.

Let us fight this culture of death until every innocent, vulnerable life in America is safe from these murderous endeavors.

When is an Immigrant not an Immigrant?

by Chris Johnson



I've got a riddle for you.

When is an immigrant not an immigrant?

When is a woman not a woman?

When is a black man not a black man?

Stumped?

Here's the answer: when the political left doesn't want them to be.

That's the message television talk show host Chelsea Handler, who was apparently a Democrat at the time (she recently announced she's leaving the party, but is undeniably still a beyond-the-pale liberal), gave when she responded to the question of whether she'd ever have Melania Trump on her television show.

"To talk about what? She can barely speak English," she replied, referring to the First Lady's Slovene accent.

Interesting coming from someone whose party platform (at least at the time of the election) stood firmly against using "derogatory" language against immigrants.

"Democrats will not stand for the divisive and derogatory language of Donald Trump. His offensive comments about immigrants and other communities have no place in our society. This kind of rhetoric must be rejected."

The First Lady must be an exception to this rule seeing as how, unfortunately for the left, she's an immigrant married to the man they're denouncing for being anti-immigrant.

The organizers of the "March for Women" the day after Trump's inauguration delivered

the same message when it was brought to their attention that a pro-life feminist group was listed as a sponsor of the event.

The New Wave Feminist group was removed from the list of sponsors when feminists around the country complained about the group's stance on abortion.

The Women's March organizers released the following statement, in part: "We look forward to marching on behalf of individuals who share the view that women deserve the right to make their own reproductive decisions..."

This comes from the same group which declares as a guiding principle: "*Women's rights are human rights, regardless of a woman's race, ethnicity, religion, immigration status, sexual identity, gender expression, economic status, age or disability. We practice empathy with the intent to learn about the intersecting identities of each other. We will suspend our first judgement and do our best to lead without ego...*"

A shrewd mind will notice that differing opinions are not found in that list of celebrated diversity. Similarly, the group promises to learn about "intersecting identities," not "intersecting ideas."

Women who celebrate life were not welcome in the Women's March. Dare I say, they did not recognize their value as women?

A CNN contributor shared the message once more in the days leading up to the election when he called several well-known black men who had visited Donald Trump at Trump Tower, "mediocre Negroes."

Marc Lamont Hill dared to make this characterization after making these comments, "They keep bringing up comedians and actors and athletes to represent black interests. It's demeaning, it's disrespectful, and it's condescending."

The list of black men characterized as mediocre by Hill include small-business owner and former county GOP chairman,

Bruce LeVell; comedian, author, and talk show host, Steve Harvey; and one of the most recognizable names in show business, rapper and entrepreneur Kanye West.

Liberals claim to champion the value of these minorities: immigrants, women, racial minorities – but it's not the people they value, it's people's support of their own liberal values. It's the fact that they can weaponize these people's victimhood and bash opposing ideas over the head with it.

The cases I've mentioned above are proof of this.

If liberals valued immigrants simply because of the hardships they face in coming to America, they would be elated to have an immigrant as First Lady of the United States.

If liberals valued women because they've been underrepresented and overlooked in society, they'd welcome a woman who holds an opposing viewpoint with open arms and defend her right to express her beliefs.

If liberals, who had been concerned that then president-elect Trump had ties with white supremacy groups, really valued black Americans because of the atrocities their ancestors endured at the hands of the U.S. government, they would have been encouraged when he met with influential black Americans.

Instead they turned on these men and women the minute they gave any credence to an ideology opposed to their own.

Contrast this idea of valuing people according to their political capital with the Christian teaching of valuing men and women as "image bearers" of a Holy God. **Every man and woman, no matter what they believe, or how they look, or where they're from, or what sins they struggle with are made in the Image of God, and thus deserve respect.**

May God give us the grace to recognize it.

United in Prayer on Inauguration Day

by Steve Huston



“I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.” (I Timothy 2:1-4)

The time for division is over! Although Donald J. Trump may not have been YOUR pick, he is now **OUR** president. Now we, as Americans and as Christians, have a **duty** to do.

The time for division is over! There are many from the Left who would disagree with this statement as they continue to protest and cause havoc, leaving in their wake discontent, destruction, and a growing distrust. They are causing further and more solidified division. This might be expected from Hollywood or certain private sectors. But when those in our government continue to promote harmful division instead of healing unification and support, they should be held accountable for their actions and replaced at election time. **Let us strive to put our differences behind us.**

The time for division is over. This has been a hotly contested election, even among conservatives and evangelical Christians. Both sides used the Bible to maintain their view, either in support of or in defense against the election of Donald J. Trump; godly men took opposing sides. **Now, let us be unified by this same Bible; let us be unified in Jesus—in prayer.**

Ronald Reagan declared at his presidential inauguration, *“It would be fitting ... I think, if on each Inauguration Day in future years*

it should be declared a day of prayer.” Let us be daily unified in fervent prayer for our president and our nation.

Let us be united in prayer for all men (I Tim. 2:1). As we recognize the great division and hatred which seems to define our nation at this time, let us pray fervently. We can neither afford to ignore this spirit of discontent and malice, grow accustomed to it, nor be apathetic in our prayers about it. We must appeal to the God of heaven—that He in His sovereignty—would move on the hearts and minds of all across this nation, to His praise and glory.

Let us be united in prayer for President Donald Trump (I Tim. 2:2). Men in power need prayer. Men in leadership need prayer. A man who is called upon to bring unification to such a divided nation as ours, while many surrounding him are pushing for and manipulating further division, is in desperate need of our fervent prayers. This president will be scrutinized by both sides, vilified by the media no matter what he does, and will find himself and his administration under spiritual attacks. He needs our united and fervent prayers.

Let us be united in prayer, echoing, in part, the prayer of our 34th president, Dwight D. Eisenhower: *“Almighty God, as we stand here ... beseeching that Thou will make full and complete our dedication ... Give us, we pray, the power to discern clearly right from wrong and allow all our words and actions to be governed thereby ... Especially we pray that our concern shall be for all the people regardless of station, race, or calling.”* President Trump needs us to pray these sentiments over him and his administration as they strive to “relight” this “city on a hill.” May God grant to us His wisdom and strength, coming upon this incoming administration.

Let us be united in prayer. This president, this administration, and our nation need our prayers each and every day. As President Trump performs the duties of his office, he needs the help and the prayers of every one of us. As his cabinet and those close to him give their influence, they need us to be

daily in prayer on their behalf. If this nation does not become unified and continues on its course to destruction, we will be no more. We must fervently be praying for “all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.” This is the will of God; this is why we pray for our president and our country.

With this in mind, we wholly acknowledge that only through genuine prayer and repentance will we find the healing unification of this nation that we so desperately need and the blessings which we desire. We realize that these are gifts of God and are obtained by His gracious response to our desperate prayer and humbly seeking Him.

Pray for our nation.

“Enemies Within” with Trevor Loudon

Join us Saturday, March 18 at 7:00 PM as we welcome Trevor Loudon, producer of the acclaimed documentary, “Enemies Within.”

ENEMIES WITHIN zooms in on the best-kept secret of modern politics. Almost no one is aware of the fact that there are enemies within our government seeking to dismantle the Constitution through communism and socialism, undermining freedom and weakening our military. Trevor Loudon exposes this concern and asks, “If America loses its strength, what will happen to our peace?”

We will show Loudon’s powerful film, “Enemies Within,” and Mr. Loudon will speak on the forces still at work to undermine freedom within our government as he takes questions from the audience.

Don’t miss this rare opportunity! Join us Saturday, March 18 at 7:00 PM at American Decency headquarters, 203 E. Main Street, Fremont MI 49412. For more information call 231-924-4050.