

A Recipe for Revolution

By Chris Johnson



New beginnings require firm foundations. That's why we treat the beginning of a new year like a big deal – it's a chance to make important, foundational changes that we can build the rest of our year atop.

This month opens a year which is bound to be momentous, if only because it ends with a presidential election. It is also the start of a new decade, which prompts us to look at how far we've come technologically, socially, and religiously in the past ten years. This in turn makes us wonder what we'll have to look back on in January, 2030.

Goodness knows, **our culture is crumbling for want of a firm foundation**. The signs are evident in our entertainment, the failures of our churches, our government education system, our rampant mental health issues and addictions, the mass shootings, the replacement of conscience with legislation, etc. The next time we close out a decade might not be so pretty.

The following pages will expound on the threats faced by those who hold a Biblical worldview. **We have a vantage point above the madness**. Those who stand on God's Word know how we got to this point, and we know how it will end. We need only stand on the Truth and offer it to others.

At the top of this page, you will find the logo of the American Decency Association - a fish, swimming at the center of a cross

which represents the intersection of culture and politics. You will notice that the fish is swimming upstream.

We know that we are the enemy of the world; more and more we see that animosity put into practice and policy – not only around the world, but even in our own nation.

I realize I'm mixing metaphors, but swimming against the stream - going against the flow of faith and politics – requires a firm foundation. If we are not standing on the Truth of God's Word, we might think we're standing firm, but when we look down we will realize that cultural or political trends have moved us, little by little, to say and do things we once would have recognized as wicked.

Once again, we see examples of that all around.

As always in our newsletter, in the following pages you'll find reports of some of the threats facing our families, our loved ones, and our nation. And we'll have more to write about next month and the month after, etc. if the Lord sustains our work here.

It is easy to feel dread and despair, to feel hopeless, when we realize that our efforts may not bring about the changes that we know need to happen.

But again, **the Bible anchors us in the**

faithfulness of our God. When we feel alone, we can read about Elijah, and the faithful prophets that God had hidden away. We are no more alone than he, and God used him greatly.

When we feel we are treated or spoken of unfairly, we can read the Psalms and remember that God is just and that He knows the truth about us, which is what matters in the end.

When we feel like we are trying so hard and no one ever listens and we wonder why we even bother, we can look to Ecclesiastes for perspective. Ultimately our efforts are vanity – chasing the wind. Yet, sometimes God speaks through the wind.

We need to know the Bible so that we can know our responsibilities as agents of the Creator, and yet keep in mind that He will use our actions as He sees fit.

Reader, if you make no other New Year's resolution, **resolve to dig deeper into God's Word this year**. It will bless you and it will empower you to bless others. That's God's recipe for revolution. That's how we change our nation and our world. What else do we need to know?



From the desk of Bill Johnson

As I read through this newsletter, I once again see heavy topics that are addressing matters of spiritual warfare that are upon us on so many levels. There are a lot of words, few pictures and nothing much fun about our newsletter. Yet, you, our readers, tell us you look forward to receiving it – that we are truth tellers, that you rely upon us for understanding.

As we closed out 2019, you blessed us so graciously and generously through your gifts, Christmas cards, and with notes of love and affirmation thanking us for our ministry. We are rejuvenated by your stand with us, dear friends!

We do recognize the great privilege that we yet have of living in a nation that still upholds the freedom of religion, the freedom of speech, the right to bear arms, etc. As a ministry that God has lifted up, we don't take for granted these rights, these great freedoms that so few around the world live under. So when we write, we also pray and thank God for the privilege and we recognize the responsibility that goes along with it. We also know that these rights are increasingly fragile as they are under immense attack from without, but even more so from within our country.

Truly, these are sobering times. **One concerning matter is the issue of refugee resettlement.** As Christians, we should have compassion for the physical and spiritual well-being of every individual, recognizing them as image bearers of God. Yet our leaders also have a duty to protect the citizens of our nation. I would be much more open to refugee resettlement if I knew there was a careful vetting of refugees and community planning (and more) behind resettlement. But there is not.

Who amongst us wants to be considered uncompassionate? Certainly not me and, I would think, certainly not you. We don't want people to think of us as not having a concern about those who are looking for a safe haven. Our hearts do go out to those who have a legitimate and honorable desire to come to really one of the only free nations in all the world.

But sadly there are those who do not mean us well and desire to destroy this great nation from within and without. They know that **immigration is an Achilles heel in this nation.** So the evil one strikes at one of our strengths, which is compassion, and makes it our weakness.

On September 25, 2019 the Trump administration gave state governors and local county commissioners the opportunity to either opt in or opt out of taking on a recommended number of refugees into their local states/communities. As of this writing, there have been no governors who have opted out, leaving the door open to minimal or maybe even massive refugee resettlement. This morning I read that there has only been one county in all of America where the local leadership opted out of taking in refugees. One county.

If only we could count on our federal and local governments and so-called religious nonprofits who place these refugees in our local community of doing their due diligence to carefully vet those looking for a safe haven. Yet their constituents who express legitimate concerns about the influx of unvetted refugees are labeled as heartless and racist.

Recently, I was asked to speak at a local County Commissioners meeting on the matter of refugee resettlement. Below are my words to them.

No compassion for refugees? Nothing could be further from the truth. During the aftermath of the Vietnam war, many churches carefully prepared the way to bring in "boat people" who had escaped death and suffering in internment camps to come to America.

I know because the church where I was a member sponsored such a family. The beauty of the opportunity was that the Kim

Vu family was not forced into a community, but rather vetted, and then a compassionate home with their help was prepared for them; work was found, language training and constitutional training was brought. The family wanted America to be their home and they desired to contribute back to the community over time - which they did. It was a beautiful experience and repeated countless times across this great nation.

The agenda was straight forward - to get behind an embattled family, to befriend them and help them make their way so as not to be a burden upon their new country.

This was compassionate toward the embattled boat people, but it was compassionate for the American citizen as well because it took into consideration the safety and security of the local citizens as well. Who were these people? Did they have criminal records? Did they come carrying communicable diseases? Did they have a history of discord and hostility?

In other words were they caringly and properly vetted? Did they have alignments that indicated a hostility to the Constitution of the United States that ultimately one day might lead to hostility and criminality in their new community? They were vetted and they were cared for and the years went by showing that the carefulness and thoroughness was worth it all.

As a father and grandfather, it behooves me to be compassionate first toward my family and my neighbors, my community and nation. Two of my children were adopted from a Korean orphanage. There are many like me doing similar things, yet are still concerned about the impact of unvetted refugees in our nation. That doesn't make me uncompassionate when I ask decision makers to exercise compassion first for the communities that they represent.

As individuals and as a nation, we desperately need God's help. **Dear God, we are a wayward people and yet you have preserved and protected us again and again and again. Would you help us once again? Guard us from ourselves. Rule and overrule for Your glory and honor, we pray. Amen.**

Transgender Latina Shepherds Threaten the Sheep

by Chris Johnson



The issues brought up by the LGBT agenda lead us to ask some foundational questions.

What does it mean to be a man? What does it mean to be a woman? Are they interchangeable with the right set of chemicals and surgical tools?

If only there were someone sent by God to tell us His answers to these questions. Perhaps the most foundational question presented by these issues is, **“what does it mean to be a pastor?”**

That question is being answered a billion times every day with every interaction between a pastor and a layman. NBC News on December 12 introduced one possibility. Check out this headline: “Transgender Latina makes history as Evangelical Lutheran pastor.” Of course, that means it’s a Latin man who calls himself a woman, and is accepted as such by his denomination and, presumably, the congregation he’s been placed in charge of.

As we’d expect, NBC writes this report without a hint of the disgust it deserves. He’s portrayed as a hero of the faith, referred to throughout as ‘she,’ and never ‘deadnamed’ (referred to as the name given to him at birth). The truth, which ought to be the concern of the Church, including his denomination, is that this is a man with psychological issues which are not being addressed, but are instead being used as a figurehead for the LGBT movement.

The tragedy is that there are pastors who wouldn’t deal with this delusion in one of their congregants much differently. The president of the Southern Baptist Convention, J.D. Greear, for example, recommends using a transgender person’s “preferred pronouns” out of “respect.” This is

not to imply that the SBC would also allow a “transgender pastor” within its ranks. I’m sure that it would not, at least at this moment in time.

But there is no doubt that the traditional foundations of some denominations with a reputation of being conservative are being eroded.

In 2018, it was the Revoice conference, hosted at a Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), which is a conservative denomination, and headed by a former instructor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. The conference argued for a view of sexual orientation that would condemn homosexual urges and actions, but would define ‘orientation’ in a way which would include other intimate relationships between men.

His name is Nate Collins; here’s his explanation of what that looks like from an interview with Christianity Today, “...when gay people experience a desire for intimate relationships, they do it in the context of their orientation. Which, again, I want to say is not intrinsically sexual... what I personally think [is] that at the center of orientation is the perception and admiration of personal beauty. God created us to recognize beauty in other image bearers. When we notice that beauty and when there’s a pattern for that beauty then I think that raises the level of orientation.”

“For example, when I see beauty in another man and want to have a relationship with that person, it all depends on the context whether or not that is something appropriate that I should follow through on.” Nate Collins wanted Revoice to be a hub of conversation on what it meant to be and **identifiy, unashamedly**, as a “gay Christian.”

Astoundingly, Collins’ pastor, Greg Johnson, stood behind him the whole time, until, less astoundingly, he came out as gay himself. Pay attention to how I worded that. He didn’t admit to struggling with homosexuality. He said, “I’m gay.” No struggle, no shame. It should be noted, that he does claim to fight fiercely against acting on his temptations – he says he’s a virgin and has avoided the internet for 15 years so as to

avoid crossing the line he drew for himself and told himself not to cross.

One of the hosts of the podcast Crosspolitic, which interviewed Pastor Greg Johnson before he came out of the closet and asked him explicitly if he himself was gay, wrote a blog post when Johnson wrote his coming out article for Christianity Today:

*“Those who think this is just men acknowledging their struggles and temptations are lying to themselves. **This is really about getting people to accept the sin...**”*

*“How we talk about our fallen condition matters. It matters because either our sins are healed lightly through worldly efforts, which means no healing at all, or every stinking one of our sins is nailed to the cross and washed away by the blood of Jesus. **We must not hang on to one ounce of our sin. Original sin means that the very core of who we are, our desires, and what it means to be a man or woman in this world needs redemption.** To say that we can be oriented in a direction other than what God has directed is sin and needs to be repented of.”*

So back to the foundational question at hand: what is a pastor? Doubtless, if you’ve been in the church long, you know that it means ‘shepherd,’ and a shepherd’s job is caring for his sheep, the congregation. The shepherd’s responsibility is to feed his flock with the Truth of God’s word, to defend the sheep from wolves who would deceive them and steal their foundation for hope in the Gospel.

We can look for an example of this to Dr. Albert Mohler, also of the SBC, who wrote at his website referring to Revoice: *“Several issues press for immediate attention. One is the identification of people as ‘LGBT Christians’ or ‘gay Christians.’ This language implies that Christians can be identified in an ongoing manner with a sexual identity that is contrary to Scripture. Behind the language is the modern conception of identity theory that is, in the end, fundamentally unbiblical. The use of the language of ‘sexual minorities’ is a further extension of identity theory and modern*

“Overcomer”

January 31, 2020



Who are you? How do you identify yourself? Most people identify themselves by their jobs, family relationships, or even by their sin. Christians need to find their identity in Jesus, their Savior. Until we do, we won't be overcomers; we'll be distracted, side-tracked, and deceived.

The Kendrick brothers have recently come out with a new film that did extremely well at the theater and we are pleased to present it to you at the **American Decency headquarters (203 E. Main St, Fremont, MI) on Friday, January 31**; it's our first event this year! Don't miss out on this family friendly movie that **presents the Gospel message, the healing power of forgiveness, and the importance of realizing our identity in Christ.**

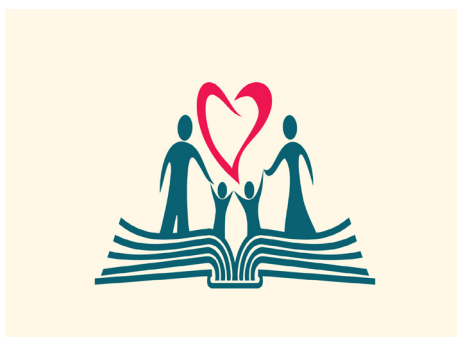
Here is an online movie summary of the movie OVERCOMER:

Life changes overnight for Coach John Harrison when his high school basketball team and state championship dreams are crushed under the weight of unexpected news. When the largest manufacturing plant shuts down and hundreds of families leave their town, John questions how he and his family will face an uncertain future. After reluctantly agreeing to coach cross-country, John and his wife, Amy, meet an aspiring athlete who's pushing her limits on a journey toward discovery. Inspired by the words and prayers of a new-found friend, John becomes the least likely coach helping the least likely runner attempt the impossible in the biggest race of the year.

Bring some friends and join us on January 31, 2020 at either the 1:00 PM or 7:00 PM showing. Please call 231-924-4050 to reserve your seat.

Family Worship

By Steve Huston



On the front page, Chris encouraged you to “*know the Bible so that we can know our responsibilities as agents of the Creator.*” He also urged you to “*resolve to dig deeper into God's Word this year.*” I strongly reiterate these thoughts. Going deeper with Christ and knowing Him is vital, especially if we hope to stand in these evil days of deception. We must train our children in godliness, in an all but godless culture.

The *Family Worship Bible Guide* (see our response card) is an edifying help to this end. It doesn't replace Bible reading; it enhances it by giving sober-minded thoughts, questions, and points to meditate on. These gems are offered on **EVERY chapter of God's Word** and are helpful for personal study and family worship.

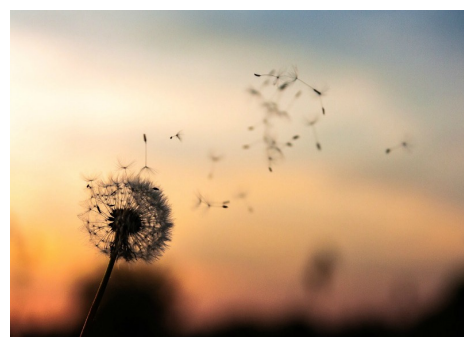
Grab your Bible and read the corresponding chapters; then read these rich examples:

Genesis 25; first thought: “*We must prepare our estates and prepare our children for the time when we will die. Most of all, we must prepare ourselves for the day when our spirits will be gathered to another place. Will that place be heaven or hell?*”

Genesis 26; second thought: “*Christians must be wise in their relationships with the world. We must not flee to worldly powers when trials come but trust God's promises and obey His moral law. Do not be surprised when the world is hostile, but do not let the fear of man lead you into lies and sin. Beware of relationships that entangle you with unbelievers.*”

This book has sparked deep discussions with my own family and helped me personally to better understand how to apply some of the Bible's more challenging chapters.

Transgender Latina Shepherds Threaten the Sheep [Continued from Page 3]



critical theory and analysis. In this context, 'sexual minority' simultaneously implies permanent identity and a demand for recognition as a minority.”

We need our pastors to speak strongly into issues like gender confusion. And when they do not, we end up with “shepherds” like Greg Johnson and the “transgender Latina,” sharing the opinions the world has fed to them and not the truth of God's word.

Encourage your pastors to speak God's Word boldly against the lies of our perverse culture.

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Great Delusion

By Steve Huston



The phone rings. Caller ID identifies the number as a local one, sometimes, even, a trusted business. We pick up. Then the pause and the voice of a telemarketer. Seriously - again? Only a small and annoying deception, but it's a deception nonetheless.

We live in a day of deceit; deceptions of all sizes abound on every side! **Deception can quickly move to delusion; and delusion unfettered will eventually come to destruction.** This deception to destruction continuum can be seen throughout God's Word - clearly in passages like Romans 1 and 2 Thessalonians 2.

There are many facets and institutions of American life to be found upon this continuum at various stages and to varying degrees. There are some who think it would be nice to just roll things back to a better day; that isn't possible. **Repentance and renewal are radical actions and the only way back; but it's not back—it's forward in a new direction and way.** If it weren't for the Holy Spirit and His restraining work, we would already have the judgment we so readily deserve poured upon us as people, as institutions, and as a nation.

The purpose of this article is to point out a few of the many deceptions we face, help us to recognize God's grace in the Restrainer's work, and to move us to praise and a desire to be used, in an active, restraining way.

Whenever truth is attacked head on, covered up, or rewritten, there are the beginnings of deception, delusion, and destruction. Paul calls it holding "the truth in unrighteousness."

Business: There was a day when many businesses could be moved to stand for right. Today, many are deceived, buying the LGBT deception; they allow 3-7% of

the population to direct their advertising. Such has been the case most recently with Sprite, Hallmark, and Chick-fil-A (CFA).

CFA not only bought into the deception that supporting an aberrant lifestyle would be good for business, but deceived their customer base as well. CFA led us to believe they were above reproach; continuing to expand their businesses in unfriendly areas despite having their name maligned, merely for doing business as a Christian based organization; holding to one man - one woman marriage - Biblical truth. Then, seemingly suddenly, they changed course; though within days multiple sources uncovered deep deception - Chick-fil-A had been supporting the Southern Poverty Law Center and other organizations that funded anti-Christian causes for years.

Government: Deception in government is nothing new and can be traced back further than any of us would like to admit. American Decency has exposed recent deceptions through various truth-tellers like Stephen Coughlin, Frank Gaffney, Phil Haney, Curtis Bowers (Agenda 1 & 2), and many others. Diana West, in *American Betrayal* and *The Red Thread*, works to unravel the cloak of government deception. These mostly deal with the deception perpetrated upon the American public that Islam, the Muslim Brotherhood, and socialism are friends rather than enemies - and harmless rather than dangerous.

More recently we have been exposing the vast danger that China poses both globally and against the USA. Deception puts its best face forward through the convenience of 5G, fiscal prosperity of kowtowing to and supporting or doing business with them, and tip-toeing around the Hong Kong issue (and other human rights issues that abound). China, and others, deceptively deals with us; may our government wake up and deal rightly.

Other governmental deceptive assaults are many as well. In brief: global warming; green deals; sanctuary/welcoming cities; praising socialism, Islam, and globalism while attacking the Constitution, our Republic, Christianity, and national

sovereignty. While President Trump is far from perfect, he has aimed at putting America first and uncovering these deceptions.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention that the ongoing impeachment of our president is another deceptive assault upon this country.

From here out, my brevity in no way indicates that the problems are minimal. I urge the reader to learn for themselves the width and depth of these issues.

The Church - an assault on holiness and the very personhood of God: The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC)/Revoice - a movement to normalize and promote the acceptance of "LGBT Christianity" into mainstream Christian denominations; evolution; acceptance of unbiblical marriage and many other sins; blurring the exclusiveness of Jesus through "interfaith dialogue;" ignoring the Truth of holiness and despising the call to it. If the church is not careful to heed the warning of her Saviour, she is truly in trouble: *"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."* (Matt 5:13; ESV)

Education: There's a major assault on history. Both the atrocities and glories of historical events and persons are being denied while lifting up sundry and seditious agendas, with the purpose of stealing both our children and the beautiful heritage our forefathers left with us.

Society: Explosive divisiveness abounds from those with political interests, the LGBT community, pushers of immorality, communism/socialism, etc. These forces are attacking liberty, life, love, and the law.

God's Word: Recently on NBC's "Meet the Press" with Chuck Todd, he denied Noah's global flood, calling it a fairy tale, stating that those who believe such "fairy tales" also support Trump. The assault on God's Word and on

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Great Delusion

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our children's faith is real and comes from all corners. The basis of ALL truth has been attacked from the beginning of time. "Hath God really said?" The answer is a resounding, "YES, HE HAS!"

God's Word is not just Truth to be lived by, but it is also an encouragement to the believer. Particularly relevant to this article, God restrains for His own purposes and glory, keeping us from immediate (although not imminent) destruction that a sinful nation and people deserve. We are called to warn and reprove, to encourage and lift up; but, it is not without personal cost. As Amos warns, "They hate him who reproves in the gate, and they abhor him who speaks the truth." (5:10; ESV) **To those in darkness, light hurts their eyes. To those who are broken and bleeding; salt stings the wound. But to those who have "ears to hear," wisdom, healing, and life are theirs.**

We live with great deception; most become acclimated to it and eventually ignorant of it. We must become aware and discerning, recognizing that, at its base, this is spiritual warfare. Like Daniel of old, we must plead for discernment, God's restraint upon the evil of our hearts and nation, repentance, and His mercy. (Daniel 9)

In reference to restraining evil, 2 Thessalonians chapter two reveals that the Holy Spirit is The Restrainer. He manifests restraint through Himself, of course, but also, through the government, preaching the truth (the Church), and through the personal proclamation of God's people.

God has ordained government to this purpose: promoting good and restraining evil. Often governments go rogue, leaving their divine purpose and becoming

oppressive to their own self-serving ends. Nevertheless, we are called to pray for those in authority and to submit to them until their command runs contrary to God. When a choice must be made between the world and the Word, we must always choose God. Daniel is an excellent example of how a Christian should respond to government.

Even as light dispels darkness so **the Church is to be a manifestation of the Holy Spirit's restraining power** through the preaching of the Word. This is one reason why the believer must know their Bible, so they can discern whether the messaging they hear from the pulpit is truth or false teaching, if it's holy or profane. We exhort you to make sure that you're sitting under Holy Spirit filled preaching of the whole counsel of God. This acts as a restraint against evil not only in the world but in the individual life of the believer as well. Although the Word should warm, excite, or prick the heart, it's much more than feeling; the Church is called to guard the precious truth of the Word. Beware and discern; if it's not a manifestation of the Spirit it will be a machination of the world.

In restraining darkness, God's people are called to stand on the truth, being separated out from the world, and shine forth the glory of God into an ever darkening and deceptive world, a world which is largely deluded and headed toward destruction. The believer is to proclaim the glory and goodness of God, the danger and eternal end of sin and deception, and God's grace of salvation given through the atoning work of Jesus upon the cross—His resurrection, ascension, intercession, and sure return to judge the living and the dead. Such proclamation needs to be done at home, work, the marketplace, and play. He is one, and one with Christ, not a compartmentalized individual who can leave Christ in the closet on occasion.

Another means of restraint manifested through the Church and the individual believer is through the training of young men and women to sound doctrine and holy living (Titus 2). We need to be better involved in this.

Having barely touched on the above things, one is left to ask, "What does such restraining look like?" and "Am I making myself available to the Spirit's restraining power within me?"

We at ADA see such a desperate need to recognize the restraining work of the Holy Spirit and His plan to manifest restraint in and through His own, that we are moved to have an event **with** God's people and **for** God's people on this topic.

We are overwhelmed with distractions and delusions that come from social media, Youtube, financial appeals via emails and telephone calls, mail, and fake news. In all this we are in desperate need of discernment to know the difference between the truth and a lie.

God often reminds His people to stand; for example, "*So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter.*" II Thessalonians 2:15

We urge you to join us as we bring pastors/speakers to speak on this important topic.

Conference: Stand Firm Against Deception

Why: So that we can be strengthened by God's Word for spiritual warfare

When: February 21 & 22 (Friday and Saturday)

Speakers: To be announced

Friday: 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Saturday: 9:00 - 11:30 AM

Where: ADA office, 203 E. Main St, Fremont, MI

Friday night:

1st message: *Let No One Deceive You In Any Way.* II Thessalonians 2:3-5

2nd message: *The Mystery Of Lawlessness Is Already At Work.*

II Thessalonians 2:7-12

Saturday Morning:

3rd message: *So Then, Stand Firm.* II Thessalonians 2:13-15

4th message: Panel discussion

The “People’s Leader” Plots in Vain

By Lisa Van Houten



On January 15, Chinese officials are scheduled to meet with President Trump at the White House to sign Phase One of a trade deal which was agreed upon last month. At the news of the deal, Wall Street rejoiced, farmers affected by the trade war breathed a sigh of relief, and consumers happily continued to fill their shopping carts with the influx of cheap Chinese products.

But what’s in the trade deal; and even more importantly, **what isn’t?** The Wall Street Journal reported that the U.S. agreed to cancel an additional \$156 billion in tariffs on Chinese products such as smart phones and toys that were to take effect on December 15. In addition, we’ll cut in half the \$120 billion in tariffs on Chinese imports that were imposed last fall. However, the U.S. will keep in place the current 25% tariff on an additional \$250 billion in Chinese goods as an incentive for China to engage in the proposed phase two of trade talks.

But what is China giving in return? China **reportedly** has agreed to increase its purchase of U.S. agricultural products and other American goods. U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer has stated China agreed to increase its imports of American agricultural products to \$40-\$50 billion over two years. Yet, Chinese officials stated: “China will not sacrifice the interests of its other trade partners to fulfill the demands of the U.S.,” and, “Any agricultural products purchase made by China will be based on our own demands.” Such statements don’t give much confidence that China will actually keep their end of the deal.

In addition, little has been said about what should be a vital aspect of any trade deal – China’s blatant theft of U.S. intellectual property and cyber espionage. Unless a strong stand is taken to stop these aggres-

sive attacks on the U.S., this trade deal will be worthless. Our leaders should take heed of God’s warning in Proverbs 23:1, *“When you sit down to eat with a ruler, observe carefully what is before you”.*

The Chinese have their own proverb that we should be aware of: *“The greatest conqueror is he who overcomes the enemy without a blow.”* As we’re lulled into complacency, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has spent the last few decades seeking to conquer the U.S. without firing a single shot.

We’ve warned of many of these threats in this newsletter, including: their theft of intellectual property from U.S. companies, China’s massive cyber espionage within our government institutions, their potential stranglehold on 5G technology; and China’s global expansion through their “One Belt, One Road” initiative, exerting power in vulnerable nations and giving China control of foreign ports.

In one of the CCP’s latest efforts to steal intellectual property, on January 1 China instituted a new law to regulate cryptography, under which foreign companies operating in China won’t be able to keep their data secret from the CCP. According to China expert Gordon Chang, Beijing’s goal is to control all communications, data, and other information stored in electronic form that belong to foreign companies. Sen. Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) has introduced a bill entitled the National Security and Data Protection Act to counter this threat. If this bill is passed, it would, in part, prohibit U.S. companies from storing data in China.

Yet China’s ploys don’t end there. In addition to seeking to dominate the U.S. both economically and militarily, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is also seeking to spread their propaganda throughout the American culture.

Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin once said, *“If I could control Hollywood, I would control the world.”* What Stalin only dreamed of, China is systematically doing. For years the CCP has been infiltrating the American film industry. In 2018 Vice President Mike

Pence warned, *“Beijing routinely demands that Hollywood portray China in a strictly positive light, and it punishes studios and producers that don’t. Beijing’s censors are quick to edit or outlaw movies that criticize China, even in minor ways.”*

And Hollywood has submissively capitulated to the censorship demands of the CCP in order to tap into the massive Chinese market. But the Chinese Communist Party isn’t just interested in censoring American movies – they want to control the industry. Since 2012, Chinese investors affiliated with the CCP have acquired numerous American film companies including the quintessential American entertainment company, Dick Clark Productions, as well as AMC, the second-largest theater chain in the United States.

And it’s not just through the movie industry that the CCP is seeking to influence the American people. In November, Sen. Hawley warned about the personal data harvested by the Chinese-owned popular music video app, TikTok, used by millions of Americans, stating: *“A company compromised by the Chinese communist party knows where your children are, knows what they look like, what their voices sound like, what they’re watching and what they share with each other.”*

Of further concern, TikTok censors content that Beijing doesn’t want its users to be aware of, such as information about Christianity and pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong. Criticism of China is also banned in the app’s guidelines. The Washington Post warns that TikTok *“could also prove to be one of China’s most effective weapons in the global information war, bringing Chinese-style censorship to mainstream U.S. audiences and shaping how they understand real-world events.”*

The grave cyber security threat of TikTok has recently led both the U.S. Army and Navy to ban soldiers and sailors from using the TikTok app on all military-owned phones and other devices. Knowing that there is no such thing as a “private” company in China, there was real concern that

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The “People’s Leader” Plots in Vain

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the CCP could compel TikTok to forward soldiers’ sensitive info to the Chinese government or to recruit soldiers as spies. As of two months ago, Army recruiters had been using TikTok as a tool for reaching possible recruits.

All of this evidence should make clear that any trade deal with China probably won’t be worth the paper it’s printed on. If we need further proof of the nature of the Chinese regime, we only have to look at the way they treat their own citizens.

Recently, Chinese communist dictator Xi Jinping received an honorary new title – the “people’s leader” – reminiscent of the title of former Chinese communist dictator Mao Zedong – the most heinous mass murderer in history.

So how does Chairman Xi – this “people’s leader” – treat his own people? The CCP has swept up millions of Uighurs, a Chinese minority group made up mostly of Muslims from the regions of Xinjiang and Tibet, imprisoning them in internment camps with the goal of forcing them to abandon their religious beliefs and make them conform to the Communist Party’s ideology. Uighur children are separated from parents and sent to their own “re-education camps.” The Chinese Communist Party secretary has stated: “These camps were designed to teach like a school, be managed like the military, and defended like a prison, with a specific purpose to break the Uighur lineage, break their roots, break their connection, and break their origin.”

China has also received international condemnation for harvesting organs from political prisoners. NBCNews reported that “more than 1.5 million detainees in Chinese prison camps are being killed for their organs to

serve a booming transplant trade that is worth some **\$1 billion a year.**”

Last month Secretary of State Mike Pompeo released the State Department’s list of nine nations who have the most egregious record regarding religious freedom. It’s no surprise that China is on that list. In addition to targeting the Uighurs, the CCP is notorious for their persecution of Christians, which has intensified in recent years.

Each week my church’s prayer list reminds us to pray for the persecuted church. Among others, we have been specifically praying for Pastor Wang Yi of Early Rain Covenant Church in Chengdu, China. In December 2018, Communist officials raided this church arresting Pastor Wang, his wife, and over 100 of his congregants – charging them with “inciting subversion of state power.” While most were eventually released, last month Pastor Wang was secretly tried and sentenced to nine years in prison. In 2005, when he converted to Christianity, Wang was a human-rights lawyer, law professor, and one of the most influential public intellectuals in China.

Months before his arrest, knowing he would likely be targeted by the Chinese regime, Pastor Wang wrote a letter entitled “**My Declaration of Faithful Disobedience**” and instructed his church to publish it should he ever be detained for more than 48 hours.

Pastor Wang wrote in part: *I accept and respect the fact that this Communist regime has been allowed by God to rule temporarily. ... At the same time, I believe that this Communist regime’s persecution against the church is a greatly wicked, unlawful action. ... The calling that I have received requires me to use non-violent methods to disobey those human laws that disobey the Bible and God. My Savior Christ also requires me to joyfully bear all costs for disobeying wicked laws. ...*

As a pastor, my disobedience is one part of the gospel commission. Christ’s great commission requires of us great disobedience. The goal of disobedience is not to change the world but to testify about

another world.

... The Bible teaches us that, in all matters relating to the gospel and human conscience, we must obey God and not men. For this reason, spiritual disobedience and bodily suffering are both ways we testify to another eternal world and to another glorious King.

... If God decides to use the persecution of this Communist regime against the church to help more Chinese people to despair of their futures, to lead them through a wilderness of spiritual disillusionment and through this to make them know Jesus, if through this he continues disciplining and building up his church, then I am joyfully willing to submit to God’s plans, for his plans are always benevolent and good. ...

I hope God uses me, by means of first losing my personal freedom, to tell those who have deprived me of my personal freedom that there is an authority higher than their authority, and that there is a freedom that they cannot restrain, a freedom that fills the church of the crucified and risen Jesus Christ. ...

Those who lock me up will one day be locked up by angels. Those who interrogate me will finally be questioned and judged by Christ. When I think of this, the Lord fills me with a natural compassion and grief toward those who are attempting to and actively imprisoning me. Pray that the Lord would use me, that he would grant me patience and wisdom, that I might take the gospel to them.

Separate me from my wife and children, ruin my reputation, destroy my life and my family—the authorities are capable of doing all of these things. However, no one in this world can force me to renounce my faith ...

As American citizens we are rightfully dismayed at the Chinese government’s treacherous attempts to undermine our nation, yet as citizens of another world, like Pastor Wang, we can rest in the fact that there is a Higher Authority that the Chinese Communist Party can **never** restrain.