

Cultural Marxism's Growing Shadow

By Lisa Van Houten



In J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*, the creature, Smeagol, is consumed with possessing the Ring of Power – the one ring to rule them all. Today, Democrats have the same compulsion as they seek to seize total and complete control of our nation.

For decades the groundwork has been laid for a socialist revolution. Radical leftists have infiltrated every cultural and political institution – our universities, public schools, mainstream media, entertainment, corporate America, the military, the government, the judiciary, and even mainline Christian denominations. **Insidiously, the seeds of Marxism have been planted, fed, and watered – and have now infested our beloved America.**

As Ben Domenech of The Federalist states: *“Understand, it is the totalitarian left ... that wants racial strife that burns down your cities. They want envy and segregation and division that pays for their million dollars homes in Topanga Canyon. They want to demolish Mount Rushmore and make you pay for abortions and make your daughters compete in sports against men. They want to teach your children to hate cops, the anthem, the flag, and everything you were raised to love and respect. They want to destroy our great American experiment. A thriving, capitalist, multiethnic republic of God-fearing people for all time.”*

President Biden and those who are actually pulling the strings know their time is short before the midterm elections in 2022 when they could possibly lose their razor-thin Congressional majority. And so, they are going full bore to steamroll their agenda, ensuring they never lose power again.

For the Marxist revolution to be complete, Leftists need that Ring of Power which will give them absolute control – and that ring is within their grasp. The first step will be to eliminate the filibuster in the U.S. Senate so that they can push through sweeping changes with just 51 votes instead of 60. That will enable them to launch a massive power grab to prevent them from being overthrown by American voters. That's where H.R. 1 comes in – the bill Democrats are pushing which would take over our electoral system and strip away the Constitutional authority of the states to set their own election policies. H.R. 1 would remove all safeguards, such as Voter ID laws, which help ensure fair elections, and instead would open wide the door to massive and perpetual voter fraud, making what we saw in the 2020 election child's play. As has been said before, “it's not who votes that counts, but who counts the votes.” Eliminating election integrity protections, along with adding millions of illegal immigrants to the voter rolls as Democrats long to do, would nearly guarantee that the Democrats' grip on power could

never be loosened.

One of the only obstacles in their way is the judicial branch of government which is, at least in theory, non-partisan. Thanks to President Trump, our judiciary has hundreds more constitutional, originalist jurists in place. Our founding fathers providentially designed the judiciary to be a check to the power of the executive and legislative branches. If Democrats have control of our electoral system, the Supreme Court would be the only earthly authority which could stop their totalitarian transformation of our country. Short of a violent overthrow, which is how Marxist revolutionaries typically come to power, eliminating those checks and balances will be necessary for their quest to completely eradicate constitutional America. And so of course we now see leftist Democrats striving to takeover the Supreme Court through court packing.

In one of his plethora of executive orders, Biden recently created a commission filled with leftists tasked with “studying” ideas to “reform” the Supreme Court. Democrats in Congress aren't waiting for this Commission and are now proposing legislation to expand the Supreme Court to 13 seats – adding four leftwing justices. Conservatives rightly see that the role of the courts is to interpret the law based on the Constitution. Democrats, however, see the

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Personal Note from the President



Do you remember Diet Eman, American hero (1920-2019)? As a Dutch teenager living in the Netherlands, Diet risked her life hiding Jews from Nazi troops. Against great odds, as a young believer in Christ, Diet had fire in her soul protecting many Jewish lives. Diet was found out, investigated, sentenced and hauled off to Vught concentration camp where she, with Corrie Ten Boom and Corrie's sister Betsie, witnessed the death and dying of Jews during the holocaust. You can read about her life in her book "*Things We Couldn't Say*."

[Diet combatted Nazism and in later years expressed concern about signs of advancing socialism in America.](#)

Several years ago we had the privilege and the honor of having Diet speak in our auditorium to a packed crowd of admirers as we also celebrated her 93rd birthday with a birthday cake. She spoke of the threats of that day commenting in passing upon the presidency of President Obama. I asked "Do you see warning signs in America?" She answered affirmatively. You can view her full presentation at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CZA18xY0N_8

A few years after she spoke with us she continued to engage in short-term mission trips in third world countries. One year she fell and broke her leg and yet, true to form, the next year in her 90s she was back ministering again in a third world country.

In our times with Diet she lamented the rapid decline of what had become her beloved America. She continued to speak and minister whenever and wherever she could warn, while also urging her listeners to find rest in the Lord. She could not be deterred. She did so much to help people see.

I was noticing in my Bible that my notes said that Diet died on September 3, 2019. The note stated that Psalm 27 was her life verse. *The Lord is the stronghold of my life, of whom shall I be afraid. ... One thing have I asked of the Lord that I will seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple. For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.*

Another cultural warrior warning and fighting against Marxism and godlessness was Dr Judith A. Reisman. Reisman died on April 9th, 2021 just a few days short of her 86th birthday. It's reported that she was found dead at her desk. How else would it be?

I became aware of Judith in 1986. She had been given a federal grant to do a study on the impact of *Playboy*, *Penthouse*, and *Hustler* from their early inception; i.e. *Playboy* since 1956. Her extensive study found that images of children in a sexual context were found in a large number of so-called soft core pornographic magazines. The study was published in a booklet that included a documentation of the pictures taken from these magazines. Quoting Robert Knight from a **Washington Times** article: "[Reisman] had to be stopped. So, the smut Kings hired Gray & Company, a Premier Washington PR firm, to discredit ... Mrs. Reisman. ... For \$50,000 to \$75,000 a month, the firm planted stories in the press, formed a pro-porn First Amendment Coalition, and hammered the Justice Department for assigning Judith a grant at American University to analyze the magazines' kiddie porn imagery.

Despite opposition within the university itself, she produced a damning report under the auspices of the DOJ's office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Programs. Cowed by the PR onslaught, the media ignored it. The lack of Interest wasn't surprising, given that the media were already corrupt.

Interview requests and teaching opportunities for Mrs. Reisman dropped nearly to

nothing, and she was cast as a careless, right-wing fanatic instead of the persistent, fearless academic that she was.

But, Judith fought on with uncommon courage, intelligence, amazing intuition and diligence. Perhaps even more significant (if that's possible) was her study and expose of Kinsey's books on male and female sexuality. One of her books was entitled *Kinsey, Sex and Fraud*. She discovered through diligent research that Kinsey's work at Indiana University in the '50s was thoroughly fraudulent as Dr. Alfred C. Kinsey studied sex on little children and their response to stimulation, claiming that even young children were capable of sexual response. It was a devastating entree into American academia and the textbooks authored long ago by Kinsey have been adopted as the authority on human sexuality not only at institutions of higher learning, but into middle school classrooms nationwide.

Dr. Reisman told me more than once that if we as Christians (nationwide) were unable to effectively expose Kinsey's fraud leading to the dismantlement of Kinsey's claims perpetrated by his text books on male and female sexuality, that the laws of our land would continue to be weakened and would be replaced with godless laws assaulting the "imago deo" - the image of God - and opening the door to a reprobate America; exchanging the truth for a lie - homosexuality, same-sex marriage, opening bathrooms to males in female bathrooms, trans ideology, gender confusion.

We know, don't we, that there have been enemies within undermining and degrading us wherever and however they can. These areas of pornography and the assault on the "imago deo" are two of those vital and vulnerable areas where we have been taking a terrible beating for a long time.

We here at ADA are so thankful for God drawing us to Himself, that we walk with Him, that He calls us His own, and defends and feeds us by His Word and Spirit. We seek by His empowerment to serve on as our dear beloved friends Diet and Judith – God help us!

Will the Real Crisis Please Stand Up!

By Steve Huston



There is a real crisis at the border; and although it needs dealing with, the administration which is responsible for it (Biden/Harris) wants to worsen it. Also, there's a Constitutional crisis regarding our Second Amendment rights. The same administration mentioned above plans to make the "gun problem" worse by disarming law-abiding citizens, leaving criminals (and potentially government) free to shoot unarmed citizens. It is a shame that in both crises the Constitution is ignored, the American people are put at risk, and a Marxist/Mao agenda is being pushed through for the propagation of global communism, while little to nothing is being done to slow it down on the federal level in any of the branches of government.

Let's start with the border crisis. Epoch Times reports: *"In a fresh twist on the Biden administration's decision to house illegal immigrants at hotel facilities, crunching the numbers on the \$86.9 million that is set to be spent on 1,239 beds shows that the cost to U.S. taxpayers will be nearly \$72,000 per border-crosser housed."* Andrew Arthur, with the Center for Immigration Studies, wrote that the taxpayer is "now a co-conspirator to one of the largest smuggling schemes in history."

Epoch Times continues, *"Customs and Border Protection has noted a more than 100 percent month-over-month increase in February in two categories of illegal aliens—family units and unaccompanied minors."*

Our Republic is in financial straits and we are housing illegal "border-crossers" to the tune of \$72,000 each while there are thousands of veterans who are homeless, cold, and hungry. Over 10% of America's homeless are veterans; about 90% of them were honorably discharged. This goes beyond our veterans; this has a financial and physical effect on Americans as a whole.

"Senator Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) claimed that 'undocumented immigrants do not have Social Security numbers, and they do not qualify for stimulus relief checks, period.' He was wrong on both counts," the National Review reports. *"All together, an estimated 2.65 million illegal aliens have an SSN that allows them to get COVID relief checks. Based on the incomes and numbers of dependents found in this population, close to 80 percent will likely receive checks, at a total cost of \$4.4 billion."*

Americans recognize the crisis. The Washington Times reports, *"A majority of voters now say they want the government to finish construction of former President Donald Trump's border wall, according to polling from the Senate Opportunity Fund, which also found Americans itching for a tougher approach to illegal immigration than President Biden is taking."*

Ask yourself: What sense did it make to have Americans locked down, out of work, socially distanced and masked for over a year only to open the borders to numerous unemployed, untested (or COVID positive), illegals? Many companies are talking about "vaccine passports" to travel within the United States; but illegals with COVID are getting into America without any passport. Can you see an agenda being carried out?

That same Washington Times article says, *"By a large margin — 71% to 19% — voters said they want the administration to get tougher on illegal immigration by, among other things, enforcing laws and ending incentives."* And yet, this administration has denied, until just recently, any crisis at the border; instead, they would rather create a fake crisis and push through unconstitutional gun reforms.

Now to the "gun crisis." Every shooting that attacks the peace and threatens the lives of innocent people is terrible; however, the Leftist/Marxist answer to disarm law-abiding citizens is the wrong one, even though it propels their agenda. The opposite is true; the solution is more law-abiding citizens encouraged to carry guns. That way when shootings happen, they can be better and more immediately stopped. I'm not talking

about vigilantism or revenge; it's about sensible citizens using their constitutionally-protected inalienable rights to self-preservation and caring for their neighbor as themselves. We've seen such action save the lives of many in similar incidents. **A good person with a gun is more readily able to stop a bad person with a gun than a good unarmed person.**

Senator Cruz (R-TX) rightly countered as Democrats proposed dismantling our Second Amendment. *"Not only does it not reduce crime, it makes it worse. The jurisdictions in this country, with the strictest gun control, have among the highest rates of crime and murder. When you disarm law-abiding citizens, you make them more likely to be victims. If you want to stop these murders, go after the murderers."* **It's a matter of constitutionality.**

It's not about guns; it's about the intent of the heart. Cain used a rock; trucks are driven into a crowd; knives are used; and people use their hands and feet to harm others. The Left knows that if they disarm the American people, they can more easily take over this country. As former President Obama said, *"Our Founders designed a system that makes it more difficult to bring about change than I would like sometimes."* **Thank you, Lord, for their wisdom.**

The Left's call for stricter gun control has NOTHING to do with caring about life; look at all they do. **They say, "It's about life;" but in all they do, "It's about death and pushing an agenda."** It's about the implementation of their Leftist/Marxist agenda to destroy the America that our founders created by design. They know that when America is removed, there will be nothing to stop their global reset.

So, which is the real crisis? **The real crisis engulfs both of these troubles, and many more. We face a crisis of governmental proportions; it's a crisis of constitutionality, integrity, truth, patriotism, and a memory of who we are and why God established us here. Long ago we handled such crises with days of humiliation (fasting) and prayer. Let's handle today's crises like we once did.**

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Constitution as a hindrance to their goals and desire to politicize the courts, using activist judges to implement their agenda. Franklin Roosevelt tried to pack the Supreme Court in the 1930s, but his own Democratic party stopped him, stating it would be terrible for the rule of law. However, as Sen. Ted Cruz states: *"Today's Democrat Party doesn't care about undermining the rule of law. ... We are one vote away [on the Supreme Court] from losing our liberties. ... And if they put four new radical leftists on the Supreme Court, our free speech rights go out the window, our religious liberty goes out the window, and the Second Amendment is effectively repealed from the Bill of Rights."*

If that happens, America as we've known it is over. However, as Ben Domenech reminds us, *"The crisis we face today goes to the heart of what kind of nation we will be. As in 1776, it is a question of who rules. Is it the globalist tech oligarchs? Hollywood executives beholden to China? The race radicals who dominate our universities? A fundamentally anti-American media? The frail, feeble politicians and the Marxist children of the left? Or is it us, the American people, a great people, a free people, who above all care not for money or for power but for the nation we love."*

As the Democrats seek that ring of power, perhaps they will succeed in their machinations and our nation will be transformed into a socialist regime; or perhaps God will thwart their evil schemes and they will become ensnared in their own nets. Yet no matter how much power they grasp now, just as with Smeagol's fate in the fires of Mount Doom, without the saving work of Christ, their end is sure.

Yet, for those of us in Christ, our refuge and hope are in the Lord - the One who does rule them all.

National Day of Prayer

May 6, 2021 at Noon



American Decency will again host a National Day of Prayer event as we have done for approximately the last 33 years (except for last year when we held an online National Day of Prayer event due to the early days of the covid scare). In the early years operating as the American Family Association of Michigan, we, in conjunction with AFA founder Donald E. Wildmon, encouraged what was called "Meet at City Hall" on the National Day of Prayer. Statewide we promoted city and county "Meet at City Hall" events throughout the state publishing a list of the cities, counties, locations, and times.

This year our local National Day of Prayer gathering will take place in ADA's auditorium at 203 E. Main Street, Fremont MI on Thursday, May 6 at noon. We have invited friends of this ministry who are bold and loving for the Lord and America to share a few brief words of testimony on particular battleground topics and then to lead in prayer – praying with God's help.

In such perilous and wicked times, it is our duty and privilege as Christians to recognize our desperate need for God and to cry out to Him in prayer. We invite you to join us as we listen to a somber call for repentance and as we cry out to God on behalf of our nation. Join us at the American Decency headquarters as we come together in prayer. If you are unable to join us in person, we will also be live-streaming the event online. Call us at 231-924-4050 for more information.

What: National Day of Prayer

**When: Thursday, May 6, 2021
12:00 – 1:15 PM**

**Where: American Decency
203 E. Main Street,
Fremont, MI 49412**

ADA's Bill Johnson and Steve Huston: A lamentation and a call for societal repentance and revival.

Kamal Saleem (joining us virtually): Declaring God's warning signs of spiritual decline and a prayer for a return of families to remember their God in devotion and obedience to God's Word and Spirit.

Deborah VanDyk: Sharing a few words on the importance of being a godly voice in standing up.

Michael Perkins (joining us virtually): As producer of AFA's powerful movie "In His Image," Michael will share his thoughts and observations regarding the satanic assault upon the image of God in His children through LGBT identity and pray as God leads him in this massive concern.

Pastor Gene Walter (pastor for 33 years of Fruitland Baptist Church, Whitehall): Pastor Gene will close us out with a few timely thoughts from scripture and pray for God's grace and mercy, yet "not my will, but Thy will be done."

Bob Azkoul: As a soon to be 90-year-old, Bob will share his testimony of amazing grace and faithfulness, closing us with the congregational singing of: *"Come Holy Spirit, dark is the hour. We need Your filling, Your love and Your mighty power. Move now among us, stir us we pray. Come Holy Spirit. Revive the church today."*

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Letting Down or Posting Guards

By Steve Huston



I realize that there are many Americans who still love our country and would go out of their way to help their fellowman, friend or stranger. I recognize the fact that mainstream media (MSM) has rejected the truth and paints a bleak picture which is nothing more than propaganda to help corral the masses into a boxcar of government-driven agenda meant to destroy the foundations, play a role in the ongoing Marxist revolution, and force America into submission to a globalist cabal. Although these pictures and the current administration do not reflect the majority of “We the People,” we cannot deny that there are many who have been deceived and are pushing for an “Amerikka” that is diametrically opposed to the America for which our founders were willing to give their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor. We must admit, sadly, that this has also infected the church.

Why do we who have been given so many blessings and advantages, among which are our Constitution, easy access to the Word of God, and a heritage focused upon virtue and the liberty of self-governance; find ourselves now to be a byword among nations?

With all these advantages, why are we in such a position that China’s Xi Jinping, speaking to a closed-door gathering of Communist Party leaders, rightly states, “**The biggest source of chaos in the present-day world is the United States. It is also the biggest threat to our country’s development and security. The East is rising and the West is declining.**” He knows they have strategically, over many decades, planted seeds of rebellion, actively played a role in America’s dissention, and interfered with America’s politics.

A word of recognition and warning, often attributed to Alexis de Toqueville, helps to set the stage for our understanding. “*I sought for the key to the greatness and ge-*

*nius of America ... I sought for it in her democratic Congress and in her matchless Constitution. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power: America is great because America is good, and **if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great.**”*

Toqueville had much to say about Christianity and the positive and uniting role it played in America. What happened? Why are we, who call ourselves Christians, who have been given new life in Christ, have had our sins atoned for, and are blessed to be part of the Body of Christ—called the Church; why are we so weak and feeble in influence today? Why do the lives (entertainment, attitude, work, and life in general) of many who are in the church so closely resemble those outside the church? Why are there so few pulpits that “flame with righteousness” and so many that are willing to close their doors at tyrannical mandates?

Isn’t it because too many could be described as James Buchanan, 15th president of the United States, described himself in a letter to his brother? “*I am a believer; **but not with that degree of firmness of faith calculated to exercise a controlling influence on my conduct.** I ought constantly to pray, ‘Help Thou my unbelief.’”*

Whether nationally, ecclesiastically, or personally, the greatest threat to our existence is not diligently guarding our heart and not setting a guard at all the rivulets that flow into our being, streams that will either purify or pollute our heart. Listen to the words of Solomon: “*Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee. Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.*” (Proverbs 4:23-27)

The word “keep” connotes more than a legalistic obedience; it means to protect or to guard.

We are in trouble nationally because we, and those who represent us, have neglected to “keep” - protect - the Constitution, even though they take an oath to defend it from enemies both foreign and domestic. We have allowed streams of Marxism, socialism, Islam, and other rivulets that run contrary to the Law of the Land to pollute our nation and government. Anything that does not pass the “Preamble Test” we should not have allowed. Those whose hearts do not long for freedom and self-governance, which do not believe in our founding principles, should not be elected nor trusted to influence our institutions. I encourage you to learn the Preamble to the Law of OUR land. Study the Constitution so you know your rights and responsibilities as a citizen of the land which God has entrusted you to be a part of. Do your part in protecting it.

The church has faltered and its people are confused because we have failed to “keep”-protect and hold in highest regard- the Law of God, His commandments. Instead of compromising the Word in order to be seen as intelligent or acceptable to the world, we should have stood steadfast and taught our children the difference between the holy and the profane. As a member of the Body of Christ and a citizen of that glorious Kingdom, we need to have daily devotions, seasons of fasting and prayer, attending a local church that treasures the Word of God with a pulpit aflame in promoting holiness of heart and life. If we are rooted and built up in Christ and “have ears to hear what the Spirit says,” our faith will strengthen so that we may stand in the evil day.

Had we taken heed to diligently protect our heart, setting guards at what comes into our ears and eyes while taking care what comes out of our mouths, we would be in much better condition today than we are. I urge you to repent where repentance is needed; set a watch at the gates of your eyes, ears, lips, and feet. With God’s help, cleanse your hands and purify your hearts. In the words of Nineveh’s king, “Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?” **Will salvation come to America or is it too late? Only God knows; but He still draws men to Himself that they might be saved.**

Grand Rapids Public Library Welcomes Drag Queen

By: Chris Johnson



Last month, the Grand Rapids Public Library announced a fundraising event called the GRPL Read-A-Thon, which featured several guests reading books to kids. One of those guests was Nate Bentley, a Drag Performer with the stage name Ginger Ambrosia. Nate read the book, "Red: A Crayon's Story" which has been featured in other library drag queen appearances and opens the door to gender confusion as it tells the story of a crayon born in the 'wrong wrapper.'

And what was the Public Library's explanation for why they thought such topics suitable for West Michigan kids? "The library is a safe and welcoming place for everyone, so we wanted to include someone that illustrated that acceptance. And it's really important to us to make sure that people of all walks of life feel like they're welcome in our doors," Director John McNaughton explained.

In response to this statement, a friend of this ministry, Deborah, shared with us the letter she sent to Director McNaughton after she spoke with him on the phone:

"Hi John,

"Thank you for the phone conversation today and your explanation about Nate and his presentation at the library. Based on your stated purpose and intent of making sure all viewpoints are allowed to be heard, my offer was to come to the library and read passages from the Bible with the children. Passages of scripture could be from Genesis, which talks about creation, how we were made, original design and intent etc. There could be readings from Song of Solomon addressing the love that people have for one another. And offering some words from the gospels and Jesus in regards to marriage, relationships, how to treat one another.

"Probably to be equitable, the time involved would be the same amount as what Nate put into his. With young kids, I would be surprised if it lasted longer than 30 minutes, but very open to filling whatever amount of time/space is given. If you are able to send me a copy of his presentation then I will gear mine in a like manner but on Biblical Truths.

"Since the Bible is a work of literary excellence, I would assume that is not too difficult to identify that it would pass the test of time and criticism. Factually speaking, it is more accurate and documented than Shakespeare, which of course is also still used today.

"One interesting comment you made is that kids can get the Bible everywhere, as if it was a fact that kids are saturated in scripture reading. The surveys on culture done by professionals would not support such a statement. Sadly, the majority of the churches are no longer teaching from the Bible, too many church attenders don't bring their own Bible to church, but hope there is one in the sanctuary. Many church leaders are giving topical sermons from their own perspective versus teaching what scripture says. Unfortunately that is more in line with culture and what man thinks instead of what God thinks. Surveys for decades have been pretty accurate in identifying that many households have multiple Bibles in the home, but they are never opened, used nor read. Despite even our own community once being referred to as the 'Little Jerusalem' based on how many churches are in town, the new tag line of 'beer city USA' seems like a more representative description of where we have really wandered as a community. My point is simply to state that past stigmas or perceived cultural norms are really not as they once used to be and reading scripture is closer to dropping a little water in the desert as opposed to believing we are saturated in an oasis of abundance.

"John I appreciate you and the programming staff giving my requests full consideration. I am very serious about wanting to participate. PLEASE know that it really disturbed me that you felt 'threatened' for a

moment or two when we were talking. I always try to represent Christ in a good light. Sometimes I do get a little emotional but more than likely it was a louder voice than you are use hearing by this little mom and grandma. My dad was very hard of hearing my whole life and my hubby is hard of hearing as well and so I do speak louder than most. LOL! Know that I value every human created in God's image because HE does as well. We may not agree on all the issues but we can be kind, courteous and respectful of one another just the same.

"Please let me know that you received my request and when I should have a decision. I will need a little time to prepare.

"Thanks John and have a great week."

As of yet, our friend has not heard back from the Grand Rapids Public Library, and we don't anticipate that their director will fulfill his vision for "acceptance" by allowing this woman time in front of the library's young audience. Perhaps, however, she made him think. Maybe for a moment he realized the hypocrisy of his position and noticed his own vitriol for God's Word.

Either way, Deborah's courage and grace in pushing back against the dark influences of our culture should be an inspiration and encouragement to us. May God bless her efforts and use them to spur us on to finding our own ways to be an influence for Christ!

Think of all the pictures we have seen of children sitting on the floor at a local library Drag Queen Story Hour with little to no objections. Where are the voices of Christians? Your voice is needed to let the library know that any event or fundraiser which uses a drag queen story hour degrades children and is therefore unacceptable to you and your family!

We urge you to voice your concern to the Grand Rapids Public Library at: 616-988-5400 or email the GR Public Library Director John McNaughton at: jmcnaughton@grpl.org

Capitalism: Woke, Confused, & Communist

By Lisa Van Houten



We are fast becoming a nation that is no longer governed “of the people, by the people, and for the people,” but rather ruled by the oligarchs of corporate America. In recent years we’ve seen big business and sports leagues wield their coercive power to bring pressure against the will of the people and their elected representatives to quash everything from bathroom bills that would’ve protected women and girls, to fetal heartbeat bills that would limit abortion. Using mafia-like tactics, left-leaning corporations and entities such as the NBA, NCAA, and now the MLB have threatened to bring economic harm to states which pass legislation that these leftists don’t like. **“Nice state economy you got here; it’d be a shame if something happened to it.”**

The latest to join the growing list of woke tyrants is Major League Baseball (MLB), which pulled the All Star Game from Georgia because of the state’s new election law, which seeks to establish election integrity. The Triumvirate alliance of Democrats, woke corporations, and the mainstream news media have coordinated a blatantly false narrative labeling Georgia’s new election law as “racist” because it requires Voter ID when voting absentee. However, a recent poll shows that 77 percent of Americans support Voter IDs, including a majority of black voters.

If the MLB was truly concerned about “racism,” why move the All Star game out of Atlanta where the black population is 51%, to Denver where only 9% of the population is black - taking away an estimated \$100 million in lost venue from Atlanta’s black business owners and workers. “This had nothing to do with substance or racial politics, this had everything to do with corporations enlisting in the Democrat vision to transform America,” Sen. Ted Cruz asserts. **In actuality, Leftists don’t oppose election reform laws because they think they’re discriminatory, but because they**

know they will ensure fair elections. The Georgia law doesn’t suppress voting, but it does suppress cheating – and that’s why Democrats are aligning with woke, leftist corporations to try to squelch such laws.

The rampant corporate hypocrisy we see in this activism, proves that these corporations aren’t concerned with true racism or human rights. If they were, they wouldn’t continue to be so heavily invested in Communist China, where there are no free elections, and where the Chinese government is enslaving millions of Uyghurs, engaging in organ harvesting, and committing genocide against this minority group.

Yet most of these corporations threatening Georgia over a commonsense election law, have no qualms about profiting from slave labor. For example, the CEO of the clothing company Patagonia Inc., Ryan Gellert, lambasted the Georgia election law, stating: *“I call on fellow CEOs to join in denouncing these attacks on our democracy and to do more than make a corporate statement.”* Yet in 2013, Patagonia released this statement about its factories in China: **“We’ve made the choice not to disengage from countries on the basis of their policies.”**

Coca-Cola Inc., which has forcefully denounced Georgia’s voting law, actively worked with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and corporations such as Nike and Apple to lobby against a bill that would have banned imported goods made by forced labor in China. As the Daily Signal remarked: “Coke, Nike, Apple and other companies are so woke that they paid millions of dollars to ensure they can continue to reap the benefits of products made by literal cotton-picking slaves.”

“Woke” is the new secular religion of the Left. Wokeism is a Marxist movement that seeks to silence all of those who disagree with their ideology through social alienation (cancel culture), intimidation (as with Georgia), and even violence (Antifa and BLM). Its ultimate goal is to dismantle Western culture and the freedom it’s built upon.

“These corporations are part of a move-

ment that has been going on in the West and in this country in particular for the last roughly 100 years to move the culture very consistently and very aggressively to the left in order to more or less make ready the path for the revolution,” says Stephen Soukup, author of *“The Dictatorship of Woke Capital: How Political Correctness Captured Big Business.”*

In April, 100 of America’s top corporate executives held a summit to strategize ways to bully states which pursue election reform. As reported by Axios, the CEOs **“are threatening to withhold campaign contributions — and to punish states by yanking investments in factories, stadiums and other lucrative projects.”**

Dan McLaughlin, of National Review, asks: *“At what point does free speech become anti-democratic bullying? At what point is the waging of cultural crusades a dereliction of the duty of corporate managers to the best economic interests of their shareholders? Wherever you draw that line, it should be particularly worrisome when it is done at the behest of the ruling party to attack the integrity of our election system itself to the intended disadvantage of the opposition.”*

“The president, and his party’s lawyer, are urging multiple major corporations to combine to restrain trade for the purpose of making it harder for its political opposition to win elections, and using lies to restrict the president’s democratically elected critics from passing laws. If we saw this in another country, we would recognize it as a menacing step. This is happening now, in the United States ...”

Corporations, which used to be focused on their financial interests and that of their shareholders, are now focused on pushing an aggressive leftist agenda. Woke companies, aligned with leftist politicians and the media, seek to control and dictate our laws and our values. It is an existential threat to American liberty and our representatives and the 74+ million Americans who voted for President Trump need to start pushing back against these corporate bullies.

Canadian Pastors vs. Caesar

By Chris Johnson



To our shame, it is only on occasion that world news brings the persecuted church into the field of vision of Americans, including the American church.

Every day, Christians are suffering on account of their faith – in prison, like Pastor Wang Yi in China, or like Pastor Andrew Brunson did in Turkey – or even suffering death, like the Egyptian martyrs whom ISIS famously beheaded on the beach of the Mediterranean Sea. These stories broke through the usual news cycle, but many Christians live under these threats every day.

We are used to hearing, if only on occasion, of the hardships of foreign Christians in strange-to-us, far-off places, but it is a sharp reminder of their struggles when Christians are being arrested and imprisoned right next door in Canada.

Grace Life Church, in Alberta Canada, had been meeting in person for 37 weeks without a Covid outbreak before Alberta Health Services had their pastor, James Coates, arrested and imprisoned for 5 weeks, before being released.

Pastor Coates immediately returned to the pulpit, preaching for several weeks before Alberta Health Services again interfered, this time sending police to put a double wall around the church building itself, effectively banning the church from meeting together there.

Here's an excerpt from a statement by the Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms, which is representing Coates:

“The congregants of Grace Life refuse to accept the Alberta Government’s dystopian ‘new normal’. Their first loyalty is to obey their God, not government. They are com-

mitted to gathering, as they always have, for in-person worship services. They will challenge this excessive and unlawful government oppression rather than turn their back on their beliefs. They also believe they are lawfully exercising their Charter-protected freedoms and that the Government’s restrictions are not justifiable,’ states Justice Centre Lawyer James Kitchen.

“‘Governments never destroy civil liberties without pointing to some reason that sounds good, such as ‘safety’ or ‘equality’. The very reason certain rights and freedoms are protected by the Charter is so that government cannot simply ignore those rights by merely asserting its actions are for a good cause. By continuing to exercise their Charter rights, despite the potentially dramatic consequences, Grace Life and Pastor Coates are bringing democratic accountability to bear on a government that appears indifferent to the societal harms of lockdowns and the dismantling of civil liberties,’ concludes Kitchen.”

The temptation, which many Christians have fallen into, is to accuse brothers like Pastor Coates rather than stand in solidarity with them. After all, it's for “public health,” right? They could have followed orders. Why not operate your church at 15% capacity with masks and social distancing like the Albertan government demands? Why not go virtual like so many other churches have done?

In an interview with Allie Beth Stuckey on the Blaze Network, Pastor Coates answers this question: “It’s the Lord’s church; it’s not even my church. So for me to decide unilaterally, or for us as leadership to decide unilaterally, that we’re going to fundamentally alter the conditions of worship because the government has told us to or because we think this virus is severe enough to warrant that – we’re actually usurping the authority of Christ over His church.”

Hebrews 10 says this, *“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encour-*

aging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

So, can this rightly be called persecution when the arrests and harassment are not for preaching the gospel, per se, but for violating public health orders?

I think to answer that we ought to go back in Church history, to the most famous period of persecution – under the Roman emperors, when Christ followers were being thrown to wild beasts.

The early church historians report that, technically, they were not persecuted for their belief in Christ either. They were free to worship God. Rome was a massive empire encompassing all sorts of different cultures, each worshipping their own little deities, but it was only Christians who would not also worship Caesar along with those gods.

We often joke that many treat government like a religion, but the early church was literally persecuted because they would not worship their government. Christians were blamed for hard times, because they were angering the Roman gods by their insistence that they would bow only to “Christ.”

Of course, praying to Caesar to save us from a virus would be ridiculous, but putting your hope in your president’s or governor’s mandates or in a vaccine to stop it in its tracks? That’s a no-brainer to many. Follow the science, even if the “science” tells you to *“[neglect] to meet together, as is the habit of some.”*

In a sense, many Christians today are facing the same question that Christians in Rome were facing, albeit with lesser consequences, thank the Lord. Will we bow to Caesar or to Christ?

May we follow their example and Scripture’s command to, *“hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering.”*