

Protecting the Precious Treasure

By Bill Johnson



Our events in Fremont (October 21) and Grand Rapids at the Prince Conference Center at Calvin College (October 22) were packed full, culminating with 300 in Grand Rapids.

Our events featured Frank Gaffney, President of Center for Security Policy in Washington DC and Sandy Rios radio talk show host of Sandy Rios in the Morning (also out of Washington DC) heard on nearly 200 radio stations through the American Family Radio network.

I think that it is fair to say that those in attendance were electrified by our speakers. Standing at the door as people were leaving, the word “WOW” seemed to epitomize the audience response!

Several attendees, including young adults, were stunned at the new information they received, stating, for example, “I never even heard of Shariah before! I had no idea.”

Being so immersed in such issues, I must admit I find it shocking at the lack of knowledge on this issue among the general population.

However, I also think there is a great deal of dullness on another issue - when it comes to the following phrase: *“By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.”* (2 Tim.1:14)

The good deposit IS the Gospel: the precious treasure.

I would not admit to being too naive in recent years regarding Shariah, the Muslim Brotherhood, CAIR (the Council on Islamic Relations), HAMAS and others to deceive, undermine, and destroy us from within.

What I think I am naive about is what has become increasingly apparent to me: the near utter failure of the church to guard the precious treasure, the good deposit - to stand up for the Bible and to oppose the massive, insidious assault upon God’s Holy Word!

Wouldn’t you think that Christian colleges and seminaries with their highly educated, trained professors and theologians would take a lead in fending off the assault upon the Bible; that they would have their antennas up; that they would sniff out anything that they saw was a frontal attack upon our Christian moorings, the faith of our fathers, the Bible?

I can assure you if Christian institutions, pastors, and the church were GUARDING THE GOOD DEPOSIT ENTRUSTED TO THEM/US, individuals like Frank Gaffney would not have to be warning of the enemy within. And, make no mistake, there is an enemy within and that enemy within is working in our midst.

PLEASE TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY, MY FRIEND.

Calvin College was once thought of as a citadel of Christian colleges—named after John Calvin (1509-1564) noted preacher,

theologian, Christian thinker. Many would say that Calvin College is not, and has not been, a distinctively Christian college for quite some time. Here are two evidences that help to make this case.

First: December 3, 2015, Calvin College held a teach-in entitled, “ISIS, Terrorism and Refugees.” This event was primarily moderated by Dr. Frans van Liere, professor of history and medieval studies. His topic was “Is Islam a violent religion?” Four other professors also participated. Dr. van Liere made the case that different religions can go through their times of violence as Christianity did during the crusades. Incredibly, the teach-in occurred the day after the San Bernadino massacre, where 14 people were killed and 22 were seriously injured. There was no mention of this terrorist attack.

During the question and answer periods, I raised one question several times, “Why is just one point of view being elevated?” With these huge issues, where is the counter view on this vitally important subject? In a 150 minute time frame, there was no mention of border control, vetting of refugees, illegal immigration, Civilization Jihad, Sharia, the caliphate, honor killing, the persecution of Christians, etc.

Second: one month later, as a part of their annual “January Series”, Calvin College had a Muslim man, named Eboo Patel, speak to the college and the public. Again, there was no opposing viewpoint as he spoke on *“Interfaith Leadership: Engaging*



From the desk of Bill Johnson

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Religious and Philosophical Diversity in the 21st Century,” attacking the precious treasure of the Gospel and the Word.

Let me interject here, that when we talk about “Interfaith Dialogue,” we are not simply speaking of dialogue between people of different faiths. We are referring to many, if not most, in the “interfaith movement,” who – particularly on the Christian side – assign more importance to building bridges between faiths than they do to upholding and defending the doctrines intrinsic to Christianity. We are referring to the line of logic which excavates the Narrow Way of Jesus Christ and lays pavement for the false gospel of “Chrislam” - a blending of Christianity and Islam.

With Islam specifically, it’s a bridge that is built by Muslims that can only be traveled one way—to Allah. The Christian knows that there is truly only one way to the Father, and that way is through Jesus Christ. He alone bridges the gap between us and God, also bridging the gap between us and others.

We are NOT opposed to Christians speaking with people of other faith traditions. We strongly encourage it in the name of evangelism. We must show respect to and love all people; we are to carry the name of Jesus into a dark world of darkened minds.

Now back to Eboo Patel and Calvin College. A quick search would show that Patel is hailed as a member of President Barack Obama’s inaugural Advisory Council on Faith-Based Neighborhood Partnerships. He is part of a movement that aims to promote interfaith cooperation. A slightly deeper search would show the devastating fact that he is connected to the Muslim Brotherhood and is very dangerous as he greases the skids

for acceptance of radical Islam in the White House. Philip Haney, falsely maligned DHS worker, exposes this charlatan for who he is, in his book, **See Something Say Nothing**.

Patel is also greasing the skids for radical acceptance of Islam within the church. While at Calvin “Christian” College, he, in the framework of “interfaith dialogue,” elevated the Koran and misused the Bible. He gave a faulty definition of salvation and impressed the importance of bridging the gap through service, ignoring the exclusivities of either faith.

I was shocked that such a message of deception would be received from a college once known for its Christian orthodoxy. I wondered, “Isn’t there anyone who will stand up for Jesus in this so-called Christian College? Someone who will shout passionately, “You’re supposed to be a Christian College! This man is preaching smoothness and deceit! He is blaspheming the living God. He is preaching out of the Koran which is straight from the pit of Hell!”

But, instead of standing for God’s truth, the crowd stood for, and applauded the fallacies presented.

Spiritual dangers are not far removed from national dangers; they walk hand in hand. It’s appalling and shameless that Calvin College—or any Christian College—would help to “grease the skids” nationally and ecclesiastically. When anyone helps to make a way for acceptance of a known enemy, one who repeatedly states their desire to kill you, it’s an act of treason against our nation; against their consciences, and against the Supreme Sovereign, Jesus Christ and His body, the Church.

When we stop wielding the Truth, trading it in for the comfort of a lie, our consciences are slain, our protection is gone, and we’re easy prey for any who’d have us.

Patel, speaking at Calvin’s January Series, redefined salvation, ignored the exclusivities of Jesus and Allah, and focused on service rather than salvation. However, the Christian’s main calling is to be an “ambassador of reconciliation,” sharing the gospel message, reconciling others to God the Father through Jesus’ atoning work. Regardless of our comfort and temporal

peace, we must speak the truth; the destiny of eternal souls is at stake! So, why has Eboo Patel been welcomed—unopposed—at several colleges around the nation and right here in western Michigan? Why is interfaith dialogue being embraced?

Calvin College, its theological seminary, Western Theological Seminary, Hope, Kuyper, Conerstone, and Aquinas colleges, and Grand Valley State University have troubling attachments to the interfaith movement, even bringing a Muslim speaker to keynote their “consortium’s” event in 2010.

I encourage you to check into your own alma mater or any college that your child or grandchild attends. Where do they stand in regard to interfaith dialogue and the LGBT agenda? What is that college student being taught and are they being instructed to keep and guard the precious treasure? If we keep our heads in the sand regarding these matters, then we are as complicit as these other “Christian” colleges in forsaking the preciousness of the treasure God has blessed and entrusted us with.

These purveyors of interfaith dialogue do a disservice as they purloin the truth. As Christians we are called to love those who disagree with us but not to be silent where the truth of Christ is concerned. It’s our duty to warn of sin and its consequences. It’s our duty to spread the good news of Jesus and His gospel. It’s our duty to point to our heavenly Father and His holiness. We are to have “beautiful feet” that share the good news, not have sluggish feet that only come along to get along.

What about you—what about me...will we be purveyors or purloiners of truth?

The War is Real and the War is Now Conference

by Steve Huston



The Lord opened doors—in amazing ways—as He provided speakers and venues and the financial need for our **“The War Is Real and the War IS Now”** fall conference. Frank Gaffney and Sandy Rios came to speak at our American Decency Association building in Fremont (10/21) and the Prince Conference Center at Calvin College in Grand Rapids (10/22). **But God didn’t stop there.** He brought people to these places and packed out the house on both Friday and Saturday. He not only brought them, God placed an expectancy and a desire to learn within them too. It’s safe to say that these two passionate speakers, by the grace of God, delivered the goods. People left, not only informed, but hungering for more truth on these topics.



The fact is, the war IS REAL and it IS NOW. There’s a war against our Constitution, morality, decency, and our religious freedoms. The war is raging against life, liberty, and truth. Frank and Sandy both addressed these issues in a very powerful way.

One area they addressed strongly was the dangers of Islam and Shariah Law. They talked about how the left and Islam are working together to take away our freedom of speech and our freedom of religious expression. They showed the insidious ways in which these two factions are eroding our foundations—“if the foundations be destroyed what can the righteous do?” (Psalm 11:3)

These timely truth-tellers spoke about the United Nations Human Rights Council resolution 16/18, which takes any expression that defames Islam and equates it to hate speech, thereby making it a punishable criminal offense. President Obama tipped his hand when speaking to the United Nations stated, “The future must not belong to those who slander the prophet of Islam.” Democrat Presidential Candidate Hillary Clinton champions resolution 16/18 and the increase of refugees from Muslim countries known to be homes of jihadi terrorism and Islamic supremacism. With the Trojan horse of immigration (refujihad), the left can import the enemy and overwhelmingly support the demise of our beloved nation.

The re-education or indoctrination of our school children to the normalcy of the LGBT agenda and to the acceptance of Islam, while demeaning our foundations and our founding fathers, through common core, is just another form of civilization jihad. It’s important that we share the truth with our children, parents, coworkers, and others. Oft times we must do so with drops of truth here and there, lest it be too overwhelming and rejected because of its abundance.



Another topic both of our speakers covered was “interfaith dialogue.” ADA founder, Bill Johnson, spoke from a burdened heart about this movement, with Frank and Sandy commenting on it too. Interfaith dialogue has done as much to bring down Christianity and our nation in recent years as anything else. It’s been, in part, the reason churches have invited imams to come and pray or even share their church building, unaware that they’re allowing their church to be “dedicated to Allah.”

“Interfaith dialogue” is a movement where Muslims build a bridge and share their faith, but Christians aren’t allowed to share theirs. It’s a one way bridge to Allah; but the truth is, Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no man comes to the Father but by Him. This topic was a fascinating discussion that you won’t want to miss.

We were given much ammunition for this war which is taking place. Some bombs of truth to light our way, some bullets of truth to deflate the voluminous faulty arguments which come from the left, and other action point weapons to inform and encourage were in abundant supply. There was no shortage of offensive weapons for our protection as well.



Become informed and do your best to inform others too; the War Is Real and the War IS NOW! Order the CD or DVD of these powerful presentations to be better equipped to withstand these evil attacks and to be informed of the steps to take to protect our nation. Prayer to our Sovereign God is the best thing we can do, but He expects us be salt and light pushing back the darkness too.

Order The War is Real and the War IS Now conference CD for \$5.00 or the DVD for \$10.00. See the enclosed response card and order them today.



Celebrating One Birthday and 6.8 Million Murders

by Chris Johnson



On October 16, Planned Parenthood was allowed to celebrate its 100th birthday – 100 years of discouraging life, forty-six of ending it.

As of its centennial birthday, Planned Parenthood has denied births to around 6.8 million people.

In 1916, Margaret Sanger opened the world's first birth control clinic in New York City which would later become the leading provider of abortions in the United States. The foundation of this organization was Sanger's passion for eugenics, specifically for limiting the reproduction of, "morons, mental defectives, epileptics, illiterates, paupers, unemployables, criminals, prostitutes, and dope fiends," even arguing that they should be forcibly sterilized, and implicit in Sanger's list of those "unfit" to "breed" was a racist devaluation of black Americans.

This is the legacy that Planned Parenthood celebrated last month – which Planned Parenthood President Cecile Richards says she's proud of - and it's a legacy that continues to this day only couched in the language of compassion and choice, while it is simply an agent of death.

In an editorial at Time.com, Richards celebrates the organization's past 100 years and looks ahead to the next 100:

"Planned Parenthood's first century was fueled by a defiant fight to secure the right to reproductive health care. In our second century, we're not settling for rights in name only, or for only a few. We will build a world where neither income nor zip code nor race nor gender determines whether a person can get reproductive care, where no one is shamed for making their own sexual and reproductive health choices. One hundred years in, we are proud of our

legacy—and we are just getting started."

6.8 million dead children since 1970, and they are just getting started. If it took the first half of Planned Parenthood's existence to get to the point of legalized abortions, what will the body count be in another 100 years?

We cannot let that happen. As we mourn the loss of life under the culling scalpels of abortionists over the last forty-three years since Roe V. Wade, let us commit to not allowing Planned Parenthood another century, another decade, or another year (by God's grace) of devaluing human life in its most vulnerable state.

As Frank Gaffney told us at our recent event: we have an election coming up, and that means that for at least the next few days, our elected officials care about what we think. Let's hold our representatives accountable and make it clear that Planned Parenthood must be stopped. **They've been around for one hundred years, let's not let them get to one hundred and one.**

Repentance

by Lisa Van Houten



"When God wants to judge a nation, He gives them wicked rulers." That was true nearly 500 years ago when John Calvin stated it and is certainly true today. As we've written in this newsletter of the plight – and blight – of our nation and our churches, we know we are deserving of the judgment of God. Our trust isn't in presidents or judges, but in our sovereign God who calls His people to repent. In the days preceding the upcoming election, we at American Decency join with others who are urging God's people to cry out to the Lord in repentance of our sins as a nation, as His church, and as individuals.

Our friends at American Family Association issue this call: ... *in the midst of the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln called*

for a national day of prayer and fasting, in which he addressed the need for "our national reformation as a whole people."

"We have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God," Lincoln said, adding that it was our duty "to humble ourselves ... to confess our national sins and to pray for clemency and forgiveness...."

How can we as Americans in 2016 do any less? AFA, joining with others, is calling for a national day of prayer and fasting on Monday, November 7 - recognizing our need to repent of our own wickedness and cry out to the Lord for forgiveness - and that He might heal our broken land (2 Chronicles 7:14). ...

For those in West Michigan, a local group of pastors is urging God's people to come together for a cross-denominational service of repentance and revival on Thursday, November 3 at 7:00 PM at Seventh Reformed Church, 950 Leonard Street NW in Grand Rapids. (The service will also be broadcast on WFUR radio, 102.9 FM).

This service "is inspired by the belief that we, the Lord's people, should lead the way in confessing our sins and in seeking the face of God for the revival of the church and the awakening of society."

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Purity in a Digital World

by Steve Huston



“I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes.” (Psalm 101:3a) I wonder how David would accomplish this task in a digital world that is more than eager to place all manner of vile wickedness, immodesty, pornographic images and verbal descriptions—**indiscriminately**—before the eyes of young and old alike. How do we walk and surf with integrity offline and on? How do we keep our heart and mind pure, walking in holiness rather than walking close to the “line” and at times “falling over it”? What is the key to keeping both feet in the light rather than letting one foot wander after worldliness and stand in darkness?

If James tells us that our tongue shouldn't speak blessings and cursing and that a fountain doesn't send forth both sweet and bitter water (3:8-11), neither should our digital devices be used for both good and evil. We ought not to consume the Bible on our phones in the morning, only to find ourselves using that very same device to consume pornography at night. Posting Bible verses and words of encouragement one minute and then swearing, sexting, or promoting evil the next shouldn't be our practice. In ALL that we do, we are to glorify our Creator; we are to do ALL in the name of our Savior, Jesus.

Read on as Tim Challies describes the problem of online pornography and then tells us how to protect ourselves and our children from this addictive evil. He presents five facts for our consideration in regards to online pornography.

1. Exposure to Internet Pornography Happens Early: The average age of first time exposure is 12 years old. Many of these first time exposures are inadvertent; they come through pop-ups or just searching for answers to innocent questions. Sometimes a father has left these images behind or a

friend has brought them up. Unfortunately, the child is forever changed. He or she cannot un-see the images that have been placed before their eyes.

2. Exposure to Internet Pornography Happens Often: 7 out of 10 young adult men and 2 out of every 10 women access pornography almost weekly. These statistics hardly change whether one attends church or not. **Curiosity becomes a repetitive pattern; it morphs into an addiction, drawing people in deeper and in increased frequency.** Almost 9 out of 10 young adults make pornographic viewing a monthly habit.

3. Exposure to Internet Pornography Happens EVERYWHERE: More than half of the pornography consumed is done on mobile devices. 1 of every 5 searches on a mobile device is for pornography. People can search for and/or consume pornography anywhere. Be ever vigilant over your children's safety and over their devices.

4. Exposure to Internet Pornography CHANGES People: Half of Christian men and 20% of Christian women admit to being addicted to pornography. Christian or not, pornography rewires our brains; it changes the way we think, behave, and our perception of other people. Porn shapes us as individuals and shapes us as a society.

“You can watch pornography from the time you're twelve until the day you get married and you'll never learn the meaning and the true value of sexuality as God intends it. Every single message in pornography goes directly against God's plan for sexuality. It's opposite in every way. As people give themselves over to it, they become 'pornified,' you could say. So over time, they start to see everything through the lens of pornography, which is why when I wrote a book on this subject I called it, Sexual Detox. It's really like people need to detoxify from its effects on them.”

5. Exposure to Pornography Causes Shame: 7 of 10 teens admit they've done something to hide what they've seen online

from their parents. Like Adam and Eve, we try to hide our shame, covering our sin.

Mr. Challies goes on to encourage us, stating that this is not a hopeless situation. We need to deal with it. *“God's Word speaks directly into our despair.”* We must warn our children of the dangers of these useful devices and teach them to guard their heart and mind for the glory of God.

How do we live well in a world like this, a world filled with filthy images, seemingly wherever we turn? We are encouraged with two mind-protecting activities:

1. (Personal) Commit to developing godly character: Arm yourself with *“godly character that despises sexual sin and that loves and embraces sexual purity.”* We should look at God's laws as a guard rail to keep us from running off a cliff as opposed to a fence that prohibits us from playing on the grass. *“God's law isn't meant to steal our joy; it's meant to multiply our joy!”*

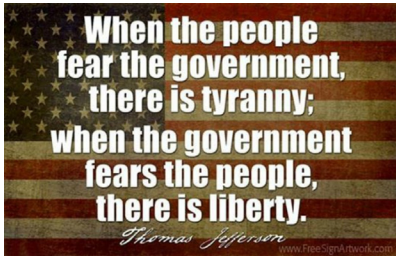
All areas of our life—online and off—are meant to glorify God, to pursue holiness and live in the blessings of God's good rewards. **Strive for godly character at any cost.**

2. (Family) Be active in “Digital Discipleship” with your children: *“As parents we need to take responsibility for what our children do and how they behave online.”* We need our children to develop godly character. Pornography delays or destroys that godly character. Our children need to be trained and taught how to honor God with and through these digital devices. They must be taught, and led by example, to glorify God online as well as off.

As parents (grandparents or any in authority), take an active role in protecting your children in this online world. Be proactive in guiding them to godly character, and to God's glory, in this brave, new, digital world. With joy and solemnity, take up the heavy blessing of responsibility to lead, train, and help them avoid pornography, do good to/for others, and to glorify God ... even when it appears no one is looking.

Coerced Speech is Not Free Speech

by Lisa Van Houten



We now live in a nation where the government mandates what citizens must say and courts force people to violate their religious beliefs under penalty of law. Coerced speech is not free speech.

Yet that is exactly what is taking place. The most recent example, the 9th Circuit Federal Court has ruled that pro-life crisis pregnancy centers must also promote abortion and refer women to abortion services, even if doing so violates their religious beliefs. The court upheld California law AB 775, making the egregious claim that a law which compels pro-life centers to advocate for abortion doesn't stifle their First Amendment rights.

However, while the law forces pro-life groups to offer referral information about abortion, it doesn't require Planned Parenthood to refer women to crisis pregnancy centers or provide ultrasounds to women seeking abortions. The hypocrisy is glaring. The courts are choosing what speech is acceptable and which will be validated by law.

Yet Matt Bowman of Alliance Defending Freedom, which defended the pro-life centers in their appeal to the federal court, stated this atrocious ruling was a "clear violation" of the freedom of speech and religious expression. As Mr. Bowman stated: **"It's bad enough if the government tells you what you can't say, but a law that tells you what you must say—under threat of severe punishment—is even more unjust and dangerous. In this case, political allies of abortionists are seeking to punish pro-life pregnancy centers, which offer real hope and help to women.**

"Forcing these centers to promote abortion and recite the government's preferred views is a clear violation of their constitutionally protected First

Amendment freedoms. ..."

If the government can compel pro-life centers to promote abortion against their will, what will prevent them from restricting the speech of any organization, church, or person with whom they disagree? Who will be their next target? The Left, with the courts in their pocket, will not stop until all Christian viewpoints they oppose are muzzled. As we at American Decency speak out against transgenderism or radical Islam will we find ourselves prosecuted for "hate speech?" It is a very real concern, one which we have discussed among our staff and board.

Some may claim that thought is far-fetched, even accuse us of being conspiracy theorists. However, considering the fact that back in 2014 the city of Houston issued subpoenas to a group of pastors demanding they turn over any sermons dealing with homosexuality or gender identity – it's not such a leap to consider that soon all who speak out against the leftist orthodoxy might meet with the same fate as the pro-life crisis pregnancy centers in California.

In our governmental system of separation of powers, the courts were designed to be a check against an out-of-control executive or legislative branch. Yet when the courts themselves are the perpetrators of tyranny, defying the very Constitution they're pledged to uphold, we have little earthly recourse.

In the case of the California pregnancy centers, Mr. Bowman has stated they will be "discussing the possibility of appeal."

That would send the case to the U.S. Supreme Court. With the current make up of the court, and especially if Hillary Clinton is the one filling Justice Scalia's seat, the outcome is pretty much assured even before the case is even presented. A loss there would be precedent setting, potentially impacting crisis pregnancy centers nationwide.

Even before the tragic loss of Justice Scalia, we saw the court force homosexual marriage upon our nation and advance the

abortion agenda. With Justice Scalia's seat to be filled, along with future Supreme Court vacancies and lower federal court appointees, this presidential election will have immense ramifications for generations to come.

Any restrictions on abortion that the pro-life movement has fought for could be wiped away. Our nation's first freedom, the foundational right to religious liberty, could be obliterated.

Hillary Clinton has already pledged to require support for unrestricted abortion as a litmus test for justice appointees. And when it comes to religious freedom, she has made herself perfectly clear on which side she'll land.

As Marc Thiessen, former chief speechwriter for George W. Bush, plainly states in the Washington Post, "Hillary Clinton is a threat to religious liberty." He writes:

"In a speech not long before she launched her 2016 presidential campaign, Hillary Clinton made a stunning declaration of war on religious Americans. Speaking to the 2015 Women in the World Summit, Clinton declared that 'deep-seated cultural codes, religious beliefs and structural biases have to be changed.'

"Religious beliefs have to be changed? This is perhaps the most radical statement against religious liberty ever uttered by someone seeking the presidency. It is also deeply revealing. Clinton believes that, as president, it is her job not to respect the views of religious conservatives but to force them to change their beliefs and bend to her radical agenda favoring taxpayer-funded abortion on demand."

What will be the response of God's people when government entities seek to force us to bend to their radical agenda and deny our "deep-seated religious beliefs?" Will we stand or will we bow?

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...Land that I Love...?

by Steve Huston

I AM AN AMERICAN AND A PATRIOT.
I AM MY COUNTRY'S KEEPER.
THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS
REPORT TO ME.
AND SO -
I WILL STAY INFORMED AND INVOLVED.
IGNORANCE, APATHY, AND
COMPLACENCY ARE MY ENEMY.
I WILL MAKE MY VOICE HEARD,
AND NOT JUST AT ELECTION TIME.
SILENCE IS THE SAME AS CONSENT IN
THE FACE OF OPPRESSION.
I CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
I MATTER.
I AM AN AMERICAN AND A PATRIOT.



Patriotism! For most—particularly younger folks—it's become an antiquated and dusty word, one that's become distasteful as its meaning has morphed. The same could be said for the word "Christian." Both need a fresh breath of renewal. Neither have the meaning today that is so vital for our nation and our people. Not coincidentally, they are closely related and should we hope for their revival, we must recognize what they meant originally and be willing to live out their original definitions in our present lives. **We must go back, retake the truth, and live out that truth today, regardless of what has happened in the mid-time.**

Webster's 1828 dictionary defines "patriot" (noun) as "A person who loves his country, and zealously supports and defends it and its interests." It gives the adjective definition as "Patriotic; devoted to the welfare of one's country."

If this is truly the definition of "patriot," to believe the Word of God is to believe that true patriots are Christians. To "be devoted to one's country", to bring upon it the blessing of God, then one must individually live by the principles, statutes, and judgments of God. We, as patriots, strive to live holy lives because we believe:

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage! The Lord looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man; from where he sits enthroned he looks out on all the inhabitants of the earth, he who fashions the hearts of them all and observes all their deeds. The king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength. The war horse is a false hope for salvation, and by its great might it cannot rescue. Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, that he may deliver

their soul from death and keep them alive in famine. Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name. Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you." (Psalm 33:12-22)

God lifts nations up and brings them down. **He has a divine purpose and a divine timeline. Still to this day, blessing follows obedience and judgment follows disobedience.** Also, those who bless Israel, He will bless; and those who curse Israel shall be cursed.

From the discovery of this land by Christopher Columbus (Christ-bearer), to the Pilgrim's puritan desire to worship God, to our first president—George Washington—this land and nation has been blessed and set aside for God's use to His glory. Let's look briefly at "our founding":

"Not many people are aware of Christopher Columbus' deep faith in God and His Son, Jesus Christ. Furthermore, very few people realize that it was this faith which was the impetus that initiated his whole voyage." (Catherine Millard, The Rewriting of America's History) His great desire was to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to people of other lands.

Why had the Pilgrims come here? Listen to the first part of the Mayflower Compact:

"In the name of God, Amen. We, whose names are underwritten ... having undertaken, for the glory of God, and advancement of the Christian faith ... a voyage to plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia, do, by these presents, solemnly and mutually, in the presence of God and one of another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body politic, for our better ordering and preservation, and furtherance of the ends aforesaid..."

George Washington, esteemed General of the colonies and first President of the United States of America, was no stranger to prayer and would call his men and his nation to days of fasting, humiliation, and prayer. He was a true patriot by any real

definition of the word. Read his words, with eye fastened upon what it means to be a patriot:

In his Inaugural Address, April 30, 1789, he stated, *"The propitious smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right which Heaven itself has ordained."*

"Religion and morality are the essential pillars of civil society."

"To the distinguished character of Patriot, it should be our highest glory to add the more distinguished character of Christian."

In 1840, a pastor by the name of M.I. Motte preached a message by the title "The Christian Patriot." In this sermon, he puts forth that the best duty one can perform for one's country is to be a true Christian, living in holiness to the precepts of God. Read a portion of his call to patriotic duty:

And how can we make a Christian nation? To become so, must be an individual, not a collective act. Legislation cannot do it, if legislation would. ...The simple and sole process is for each person privately to resolve, for his single part ... to build up the national temple to the Lord. Public opinion is the life-breath of our own government, and therefore to Christianize that, we have but to Christianize ourselves...

... If a majority of the citizens were sincere followers of Jesus Christ, is it not evident, the councils of this nation would be wiser and mightier; its progress more glorious, its dominion even more potent than any the world has ever seen? The day when it shall be resolved, that the same evangelical principles shall govern states that govern churches and gospel professors in their private relations, would be the true jubilee of freedom ...

Should we hope for a revival of these auspicious words—"Patriot" and "Christian"—then we must once again recognize the clarion call to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Christ. For

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But if ... God will shine brighter

by Chris Johnson



Our organization, along with many similar conservative groups, has been decrying the decadence and moral failure of our culture for years. We've watched as it's only gotten worse.

Consider who the American people have chosen for themselves as the Democrat and Republican presidential candidates and the truly vile things each has said and done.

But what if I could look into the future and make these predictions: within the next several generations, the American people will be seeking out God's Word, actively searching for a copy of their own.

Or that there would be so many new churches that we couldn't even keep track of them. How about a passion within the church that makes her members more willing than ever to take risks to share the gospel?

What if secular, non-churched Americans were so enamored by the actions of Christians that they search "Christianity" on the internet, and consequently turn to Jesus Christ?

Given the trajectory of our culture and of our government's treatment of Christianity, would you have a hard time believing the above?

What if I could tell you that within the next several generations the American church would be the fastest growing church in the world?

Of course, I can't make those predictions with any confidence, and to be honest, a selfish part of me hopes they don't come true.

Why?

Because that's the story of the church under one of the most oppressive regimes in the world: Iran.

All of the predictions above come from a report by an Iranian Christian of how Iran's persecution of the church has led to its flourishing. (You can find it at TheGospelCoalition.com).

In this election, we get to choose between bad and worse. There's a very good chance that America will change drastically in the next 8 years, no matter who slides their corrupt backside behind the Resolute Desk in the Oval Office next January.

But let Americans take comfort in this report from one of the darkest places on earth, that even there God is using His people, and they are finding satisfaction and joy in Him.

God willing, we will never see persecution like Iran does – and we must pray for our brothers and sisters there – but if America's days ahead are darker, God will shine brighter.

Coerced Speech is Not Free Speech



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As Dr. Dobson counseled pro-life leaders in California: "I have a simple word of advice to those pastors, priests and others who run California's crisis pregnancy centers. If California attempts to enforce this law then do not comply. Make them put you in jail."

That may very well be the fate of those of us who refuse to say what courts dictate we must say and refuse to believe what presidents say we must believe.

...Land that I Love...?



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the good of our nation and the good of our soul, let us walk in faithful obedience to the call of holy living.

Let us look at our own lives and measure our patriotism by our faithfulness to Jesus. Recognize that "national vice is national suicide" and our personal vices are, in reality, putting a noose around our national neck or laying a knife to our collective throats.

If America is truly the "land that I love;" if we would have God shed His grace on her, then we must become humbled, repenting of our singularly wicked ways. ***Do I love America enough to do this?*** That's a question each of us must ask ourselves. Asking from the Christian's standpoint, we can only go to the question Jesus asked, "What will it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his soul?"

What would this renewed patriotism look like on November 8th, when we enter the voting booth? Again I take you to Rev. Motte's sermon, *The Christian Patriot*:

Choose it, resolve it, O my brethren, as the first of civil duties. Whatever your party predilections, sacrifice them all for the party of righteous men. Support no administration, and oppose none, but on the ground of moral principle. Go with them as far as Jesus Christ would go, and no further. Read the constitution by the light of the Gospel. The Savior be your paramount leader.

Keep in mind that things aren't always as they seem. Listen to General Robert E. Lee writing to General Beauregard on October 3, 1865. "***True patriotism sometimes requires of men to act exactly contrary, at one period, to that which it does at another, and the motive which impels them the desire to do right is precisely the same.***"