

They are ringing their “Liberty Bell”! Will we ring

By Bill Johnson



When I look at myself in the proverbial mirror, do I see a man of conviction? How about you? What do you see in yourself? As I consider myself, my children and grandchildren, the highest desire in my heart is that they will be people of conviction, people unashamed of the Gospel! I am so weary of falsity, compromise, lukewarmness. **God, help us to hold fast in the evil day!**

This morning (October 23), word came that Hong Kong had officially withdrawn the extradition bill. The bill put the Hong Kongers at risk of being sent to mainland China to face Communist Party controlled courts which prompted protests that engulfed the territory in months of escalating conflict between citizens and the police. An extradition to Beijing is seen as doomsday – forget ever being seen again in this earthly world.

Despite the massive risks facing them, Hong Kongers young and old continue to take to the streets in protest - putting their lives on the line.

Comments were made this morning by Sandy Rios on American Family Radio that Hong Kong youth are like American youth in that they are living “the good life” – the abundance of things, nice clothes, money, education and careers – yet despite recognizing that - **they are willing to risk losing all of it**: their life, limb and anonymity all in the name of freedom. Indeed, they are

ringing THEIR liberty bell!

This is a powerful picture of conviction!!! Would you (WILL OUR YOUNG PEOPLE, AS THOSE IN HONG KONG) take a stand against Beijing, against oppression, against a regime that would take away your freedom of religion, your right to bear arms, your inalienable rights?

You may recall, and the media regularly reminds us that in 1997, the British handed Hong Kong back to China, the end of a 99 year long lease and an event that was anticipated and dreaded by the residents. But the agreement was that Hong Kong would remain a semi-autonomous region for 50 years after the lease ended – extending to 2047). However, China is exerting increased levels of brutality to undermine this agreement, exerting its authority in order to press Hong Kong under its Communistic hegemony, denying the freedoms they've long enjoyed.

Here are some of the excesses of Communist China: *forced organ harvesting of political and religious dissidents, a one child policy and its practice of infanticide, over 6,000 crosses have been burned or ripped down from church buildings. Crosses inside churches are now being required to be flanked by portraits of Mao Zedong and Xi Jinping. And unprecedentedly, the Chinese government has begun to use mass surveillance technology, artificial*

intelligence, big data, and a new “social credit system” to persecute the church.

By 2020, 600 million CCTV cameras - nearly one for every 2 Chinese citizens - will blanket China. They are being forcibly installed inside church buildings to record 24/7 the entrances, stairwells, offering boxes, and Bible counters. Using face recognition technology and big data, including from mobile phones and social media, the Chinese government will soon track virtually every social movement and behavior of all of its citizens, including who attends church, buys Bibles, and where those Bibles are taken. [<https://www.billionbibles.com/china/christian-persecution-in-china.html>]

The half has not been told is an understatement.

There is so much that saddens us when we see how cheaply and carelessly corporations and untold numbers of so-called celebrities are addressing the matter of the NBA and China and other associated underminings.

The chickens have come home to roost, as they say! More accurately, it sickens me - when feelings, personal opinion and greed are what is operative and convictions are non-existent

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From the desk of Bill Johnson

When people like NBA superstar LeBron James of the Los Angeles Lakers, Golden State Warriors Coach Steven Kerr, and Antonio Spurs coach Gregg Popovich become American lightning rods for what is the societal standard for the freedom of speech, we are on the path of destruction.

You likely now have read ad nauseam of the degradation that has gained a stronghold at a tweet that simply read: **“Fight for Freedom. Stand with Hong Kong”** posted by Daryl Morey, the general manager of the Houston Rockets.

Two days later, the NBA issued the following statement: “We recognize that the views expressed by Houston Rockets General Manager Daryl Morey have deeply offended many of our friends and fans in China, which is regrettable ... We have great respect for the history and culture of China and hope that sports and the NBA can be used as a unifying force to bridge cultural divides and bring people together.”

Thus began the push back on unsuspecting general manager Daryl Morey. Within a short period of time, Morey withdrew his tweet. Nonetheless in the aftermath, all of China’s partners for the NBA and Houston Rockets suspended ties with the league and team.

James Gorrie writes at the Epoch Times, *Sadly, Rockets teammates James Harden and Russell Westbrook couldn’t find it within themselves to support either Morey or the people of Hong Kong. Instead, they issued a joint statement to the Chinese government: “We apologize ... You know, we love China. We love playing there. They show us the most important love.”*

One has to wonder just what could these two

players possibly mean by “most important love?”

Even the NBA’s top player, LeBron James, who earns in excess of \$100 million per year and has a net worth of almost a half-billion dollars, threw the people of Hong Kong under the bus. James went on to explain that “people (meaning the Laker players?) could have been hurt physically or financially hurt” from Morey’s tweet. He criticized Morey as not being “educated on the situation at hand.”

The situation, for the edification of Mr. James, is rather simple. Hongkongers don’t want to be subjugated by the most brutal and oppressive regime on the face of the earth. Therefore, they are fighting against it. ...

The fact is that the NBA does stand to lose a lot of money if they lose the China market. But ... the NBA is not the North American division of China’s thought police. Not yet, anyway. ...

More accurately, the CCP is in the business of control. Absolute control. And it will use every engagement with American companies, culture, entertainment and education to incrementally gain control and use it for their own purposes. Their purpose is to dominate the world in every aspect that matters. To do so, they must first eliminate the power and influence of the United States.

There’s a reason why the Hongkongers wave American flags and appeal to the United States for help. What other nation in the world is strong enough to defend freedom?

*That’s why it’s so disappointing to see how some of the biggest names in basketball know or care so little about what freedom is, or what it takes to gain and hold onto it. **They’re letting the world down to put more money in their pockets.** Perhaps a stroll in downtown Hong Kong on a Saturday night would help them better understand.....*

But really, this isn’t about basketball, selling billions of dollars of team merchandise or even about the NBA. It’s about the struggle between two political systems and two countries. China is using its huge market as a lure to convince extremely well-paid players and the NBA itself that their interests lie in kneeling before China rather than standing

up for the United States. But it’s even more than that. It’s nothing less than a battle for civilizational survival.

China is betting that the NBA and its players are all about money. They’re testing America’s—and Americans’—resolve to stand up for their principles. The CCP’s strategy appears to be to reposition the NBA’s financial center of gravity to China. To that effect, the message that the Chinese are sending to the NBA and the basketball players is simple: you can get much richer if you play your game on our courts; just shut your mouth and do what we say.

*However, rather than give in to China’s bully/bribe tactics, **perhaps the players, coaches, owners and NBA officials should choose to make a bit less money in exchange for something much more valuable: their integrity in standing for, and yes, defending the greatest of human values.***

What’s more, it seems that the NBA and its players don’t realize the true power they possess. They don’t have to give in to China to do well financially. Why not push back against the CCP? Better yet, shove back—and shove hard... https://www.theepochtimes.com/china-wants-the-nba-to-kneel_3122581.html

I appreciate the writer’s hopes regarding the NBA pushing back, but the NBA is inundated with pampered, greedy leftists.

Friends: We have been had for many years by the Chinese and by too many of our heads of state, at least until President Trump has been trying to reverse course against great odds. The following quote from Bret Velicovich at the Epoch Times, sums up our plight and also speaks to the fact that we must each understand what we can - and DO WHAT WE CAN - with the help of God!

The shameless kowtowing of supposedly - “American” corporations to the authoritarian demands emanating from Beijing makes clear that unbridled Chinese economic influence will eventually compromise our most cherished freedoms if the American people and our elected representatives don’t make a forceful and immediate stand in defense of our country’s values. <https://bit.ly/2WbVoJV>

Bull's-eye on Chick-fil-A

by Steve Huston



Isaiah 59:15 states, "Truth is lacking, and **he who departs from evil makes himself a prey.** The LORD saw it, and it displeased him that there was no justice." When Chick-fil-A took a stand for Biblical values regarding traditional marriage, they essentially painted a bull's-eye on their back. Since that time LGBTQ culture warriors have taken shots at them by denying them access to their university campuses, boycotting, and wrongfully accusing the chicken chain of hate while themselves using hate-filled speech and foul language.

It should be no surprise that Chick-fil-A stands where it does on the marriage issue; **being Biblical has been their goal.** They are closed on Sundays, they help those that are in need, and Dan Cathy, son of Chick-fil-A founder Truett Cathy, states that his marketplace goal is *"to take biblical truth and put skin on it.... We're talking about how our performance in the workplace should be the focus of how we build respect, rapport, and relationships with others that opens the gateway to interest people in knowing God."*

I remind our readers of these things to help us recognize that the accusations the Left throws our way aren't necessarily truthful, just accusations. Although we often hear "feeling statements" about how hateful Chick-fil-A is, the factual statements - actual events - that are reported reflect a fast-food chain that is compassionate, loving, and kind.

One of the most recent hate-mongering statements regarding Chick-fil-A comes from Steven Corbett, principal of Louisiana's Lusher High School, who

turned down Chick-fil-A's offer to provide a free lunch to the school's teachers. It was to be provided through the College Football Playoff Foundation (CFPF) in gratitude to the New Orleans community for hosting the Sugar Bowl and College Football Championship in 2020.

Principal Corbett stated that Chick-fil-A's values do not align with those of the school. *"Out of respect to our LGBTQ staff, we have chosen to not serve Chick-fil-A at an employee lunch. The #1 rule at Lusher is to 'Be Kind' and we live this motto every day." Chick-fil-A has been politically outspoken about its views, and we feel it is not part of Lusher's culture of kindness and community.*" The principal went on to say, *"Anytime an organization is anti-LGBTQ, and has efforts to infringe upon their rights, we thought it was important to support and stand up for their community at this time."*

What Principal Corbett, and so many others, say about Chick-fil-A isn't true. Although they believe in Biblical/traditional marriage, they don't discriminate; they will serve and help anyone. They don't attempt to infringe upon the rights of the LGBTQ community; they've only stated their position on this cultural/Biblical issue. In July of 2012, The New American reported, *"For its own part, Chick-fil-A appears ready to move beyond the controversy sparked by Cathy's comments [on traditional marriage]. In a July 19th statement the chain said that 'going forward, our intent is to leave the policy debate over same-sex marriage to the government and political arena.' The statement said that the company would continue its policy of treating 'every person with honor, dignity and respect — regardless of their belief, race, creed, sexual orientation, or gender.'"*

Regarding this current matter with Lusher High School, a spokesperson for Chick-fil-A gave this statement:

"We are a restaurant company focused on food and hospitality and have no political or social agenda. Our priority is on providing a welcoming and respectful environment for our guests and Team Members."

God has honored this fast-food chain that has honored Him. Regardless the attacks and denial of franchise location; even though they are only open six days a week; in spite of the boycotts and this company's habit of going out of the way to help those in need; **Chick-fil-A reported over \$10 billion in revenue in 2018.**

What about you and me? When we face opposition will we *"take biblical truth and put skin on it"*? In other words, **will we realize that "he who departs from evil makes himself a prey;" then depart from evil anyway?**

In doing so, are we willing to take those Biblical and holy stands and then follow Jesus' command to "love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you"? After all, that IS the call of the Christian.

Another call of the Christian is to speak the truth in love. **We urge you to contact Principal Steve Corbett at steven_corbett@lusherschool.org** and let him know that his actions are inconsistent with his stated "culture of kindness." Inform him that to disagree with another's ideology is not the same thing as hatred or infringing upon the other's rights. If that were the case then he would be infringing upon the rights of Chick-fil-A and every person who stands for traditional marriage. Tell him that as principal of a high school he should be setting an example of learning how to disagree with others respectfully, much as Chick-fil-A has done.

Although most of the Left will not respond in kind, ours is to be a conversation that is God-honoring, remembering that we ourselves are flawed, and that we're dealing with image-bearers of God who are distorted and may not even recognize the God whose image they bear.

Meet Kimberly Cargill - Administrative Assistant



Editor's Note: Kimberly Cargill is a faithful servant of the Lord Jesus Christ: at home, at church and in her work with us at American Decency Association. She labors joyfully, faithfully, graciously with youth, family, and friends as God leads. Kim may seem behind the scenes but she is anything but behind the scenes. **Her words below are a brief look at Kimberly Cargill, an important part of the ADA team.**

I grew up in a Christian household and attended a Christian school (K-12). I went to Awana at my church (K-8th) and that is where I accepted Christ as my Lord and Savior in the 3rd grade. I don't remember a time that I didn't know Christ or hadn't heard of Him. I am grateful for the training that my parents and my church gave me.

I did go through a time in later years that I wondered about my salvation - not that I ever doubted Christ, but I wanted that reassurance - a piece of paper, per se, that gave me the assurance that my name was written in the Book of Life. I am grateful that I had Christian people to talk with about my faith in God and the assurance that I needed.

My parents have always been active in our church - from being Sunday school teachers, ushers, Awana leaders, to helping do things behind the scenes - and taught me the importance of being involved in the local church. I grew up in youth group, helping in the nursery, and singing in the choir. After college, I was able to be a leader in Awana and have been doing that for about 20 years now. I also have been one of the youth sponsors for about 15 years. I see the importance of helping with the children's program and the youth, **for they are the future.**

The Awana program helped me memorize verses and it helped me learn more about God during the devotions. This program has helped reach kids in the community. We see kids from the neighborhood coming to this program not knowing anything about Christ. This is our time and responsibility to share and show Christ's love to them and explain who Christ is and what He did for them. **We hope and pray that they go home and share what they have learned with their family.**

After I went to college and started a career, I was searching for a place for myself in the church. At the time we didn't have a youth pastor and they needed someone to help with the youth group (7th -12th). I had grown up going to and being involved in my youth group. I had great Christian leaders that really taught us and loved on us, I wanted that for the upcoming youth group. I was scared of stepping into this as I had an accounting degree and no Biblical training; but as I thought of my leaders, they were common people who had no training also but followed Christ. I have been helping now for about 15 years and have enjoyed it. I have watched kids grow in their faith and become men and women of God that are serving in their own church and some that are missionaries. I have also watched kids go against what they have been taught and who are living a life away from Christ and that breaks my heart.

When I look back at the 15-20 years of serving, I can see a change in the culture and we, as a church, having to deal with situations that we hadn't thought about before. I see that kids are dealing with topics that are now the new normal. As a youth sponsor, it is my prayer that we are equipping them on how to handle and see them. **Our goal should be to give them the knowledge of God's word about various topics.** I am encouraged to see the kids in the youth group talking about the books and devotions that they are going through as an individual or as a group. For the past 10 weeks, we as a Sunday school have been talking about different "Hot topics" such as abortion, media, pornography and addiction. It is encouraging to hear their comments and to see what they have to say

on these various topics and that they are thinking of it from a Christian worldview. **I pray that they will continue on their quest for knowledge of Christ, as we all should be in the Word daily.**

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Who's Fiddling While China Burns?

by Steve Huston



Let's recognize from the start that the Chinese people and their government, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), are not one in the same. The Chinese, as Steve Bannon describes them, are a hard working people and are *"enslaved by a radical, totalitarian, surveillance state of the CCP; and a radical cadre within that party that suppresses and enslaves that people."* This is only one of the many reasons that the United States and its people must proceed with the utmost caution, **due diligence**, and personal determination in dealing with China. Yes, due diligence; we are responsible to learn what we can from reliable sources and then act on that knowledge. Businesses will have their day of reckoning; but so will we as individuals.

No one in their right mind would give a burglar a key to their home and a schedule of their upcoming activities; **yet we continue to deal with China and purchase their many products** although they are known to steal copyrights and patents, commit espionage, stealing tech and market shares by selling their products for less than the cost of production in order to hook international customers, and to bring those nation's own companies to ruin, basically violating every rule of international trade and commerce.

Only a fool would give an arsonist a can of gasoline and a book of matches, particularly while he's standing outside one's house. **Who hasn't heard of how "arsonist" China is burning human rights and human dignity at an alarming rate** and in atrocious ways. When over a million Uighur Muslims are placed into internment camps, their cemeteries bulldozed, and their mosques are closed; Christians and Catholics are persecuted and their churches torn down; women subjected to rape, abortion, sterilization,

and intrauterine contraceptive devices; harvesting organs while the victim is still alive; jailing and execution of dissidents; but by and large the world remains silent; we're warming our hands at the flames of human dignity that are becoming dying embers and ash before our very eyes.

Children are told to stand up to a bully and not to give in to their demands; never strengthen a bully by standing with him. **Yet as China bullies businesses, those businesses acquiesce to China's demands, choosing income over integrity.** It's even affecting the sports business as some stand on character while others stand for communism as it affects their bottom line. The CCP bullies Hong Kong as over a quarter of a million peacefully protest for liberty. America's founding fathers risked their families, their fortunes, and their sacred honor as they stood against "bully" England. Hong Kongers are doing likewise, even risking the limited personal freedoms they have, knowing that if they don't stand now all liberty will be lost. **Who knows what spark may fly in this conflict, igniting the beginnings of liberty elsewhere - maybe even in China.**

It would be insanity to finance a country which is known for committing human atrocities, gagging free speech while limiting other liberties as well, and has a plan (which it has been and is being implemented) against one's own country! Who would do that?

It may surprise you to learn that China has been propping up countries that the U.S. has put sanctions on, thereby making them ineffective (Turkey and Iran most recently). They are seizing natural resources of various countries, taking control of the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) of various nations, taking over strategic ports, and have weaponized every facet of the Chinese society. They are waging war on the West through cultural warfare (corruption of youth through drugs, education on campuses, propaganda through cable ads and airtime), cyber-warfare, and is setting the stage for global domination through 5G technology via Huawei - if the US foolishly allows it to happen.

Huawei has been called "the biggest national security threat that America has ever faced;" that's no surprise when we read this from their webpage: *"Huawei is a leading global provider of information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure and smart devices. We are committed to bringing digital to **every** person, home and organization for a **fully connected**, intelligent world. We have nearly 188,000 employees, and we operate in more than 170 countries and regions, servicing more than three billion people around the world."*

5 G is basically the interconnectivity of all things running as closely as possible to real time. **The technological development of 5G is inevitable; the question is, "Who's going to control the infrastructure?"** Huawei is spearheading the CCP's agenda for the world. That agenda is to promote the tyrannical model of an abusive surveillance state against the American model of peace, liberty, and inalienable rights. Those in Hong Kong and China are experiencing these dangerous realities already - facial recognition, travel restrictions, social credit scores, etc. **This is a huge deal!**

In looking at all the atrocity-filled ways that China is building itself up to a place of global prominence, we must look ahead to our day of reckoning; what will we do?

We may not be able to control what our government does, but we can let them know where we stand; we can look deeply into our financial portfolios and be sure to not have dealings with China; we can inform others; and of course **we must take these things to the Lord in prayer**, recognizing that our hope is only found in Him. One other thing we can do personally is take a stand by not buying from China. I'm not calling for a boycott; but if I would be willing to not deal with China it would bolster my resolve in standing against wrong and for right. Secondly, it would naturally strike at my human bent toward hedonistic materialism. After all, **Chinese products may be cheaper; but in the long run, are they really?**

Raising the Barr for Religious Liberty

by Lisa Van Houten



Elections have consequences. President Obama and his Attorney General Eric Holder saw religious liberty as an obstacle to their leftist agenda. Rather than defend the first freedom protected by the Constitution – they sought to undermine religious liberty at every turn. Just ask the Little Sisters of the Poor.

What a difference with President Trump's Attorney General, William Barr. Barr recently spoke at Notre Dame University where he gave an incredibly powerful defense not only of religious liberty, but of the ramifications when Christian influence is diminished in society. I'd like to share with you a few excerpts from his compelling speech and encourage you to read it in its entirety here: <https://bit.ly/35Zn1dL>

Where religious expression was once seen as vital to society, it's now seen as a threat to advancing the leftist agenda. Just recently, presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke threatened to tax churches if they refused to embrace homosexual marriage.

Yet, as William Barr pointed out, the Constitutional protection of religious freedom reflects the Framers' belief that religion was indispensable to sustaining our free system of government. As Barr stated: *[The Founding Fathers] never thought the main danger to the republic came from external foes. The central question was whether, over the long haul, we could handle freedom. The question was whether the citizens in such a free society could maintain the moral discipline and virtue necessary for the survival of free institutions. ...*

The answer to that question is becoming increasingly clear. The Founders recognized the truth spelled out in God's Word, "the heart is deceitful above all things," and

unless bridled by "morality and religion," as John Adams put it, the Constitution would not stand against man's deceit. And not just any religion, as Barr makes clear throughout his address, **Christianity was the moral foundation upon which this nation was built.** So, if "morality and religion" are undermined, what will be the restraining force against man's propensity for evil?

As Barr explained: *But, if you rely on the coercive power of government to impose restraints, this will inevitably lead to a government that is too controlling, and you will end up with no liberty, just tyranny.*

On the other hand, unless you have some effective restraint, you end up with something equally dangerous – licentiousness – the unbridled pursuit of personal appetites at the expense of the common good. This is just another form of tyranny – where the individual is enslaved by his appetites, and the possibility of any healthy community life crumbles.

Leftists place their hope in government, not God. And when government becomes god, that government won't protect religious liberty – rather it will see religion as a threat to its own power. And when people deny their Creator and become a god unto themselves, they won't defend another's right to believe in an Authority who sits in judgment over mankind. Therefore, as Barr stated, *over the past 50 years religion has been under increasing attack. ...*

So as Christian influence is driven from society and replaced with moral relativism, what are the consequences? Barr spells it out in graphic detail. *In 1965, the illegitimacy rate was eight percent. In 1992 ... it was 25 percent. Today it is over 40 percent. In many of our large urban areas, it is around 70 percent. ...*

Suffice it to say that the campaign to destroy the traditional moral order has brought with it immense suffering, wreckage, and misery. And yet, the forces of secularism, ignoring these tragic results, press on with even greater militancy.

Among these militant secularists are many so-called "progressives." But where is the progress? We are told we are living in a post-Christian era. But what has replaced the Judeo-Christian moral system? What is it that can fill the spiritual void in the hearts of the individual person? And what is a system of values that can sustain human social life?

The fact is that no secular creed has emerged capable of performing the role of religion.

What are the results when a society looks to government to fulfill the role of religion? Barr spells out the ramifications. *So the reaction to growing illegitimacy is not sexual responsibility, but abortion. The reaction to drug addiction is safe injection sites. The solution to the breakdown of the family is for the State to set itself up as the ersatz husband for single mothers and the ersatz father to their children.*

The call comes for more and more social programs to deal with the wreckage. While we think we are solving problems, we are underwriting them. We start with an untrammelled freedom and we end up as dependents of a coercive state on which we depend.

However, this moral freefall hasn't happened on its own. Rather, Barr asserts, there is a concerted effort by the Left to undermine the influence of Christianity in the culture.

... Secularists, and their allies among the "progressives," have marshaled all the force of mass communications, popular culture, the entertainment industry, and academia in an unremitting assault on religion and traditional values. ...

More recently, we have seen the law used aggressively to force religious people and entities to subscribe to practices and policies that are antithetical to their faith.

The problem is not that religion is being forced on others. The problem is that irreligion and secular values are being forced on people of faith.

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Raising the Barr for Religious Liberty

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THE END
OF
RELIGIOUS
LIBERTY?



Similarly, militant secularists today do not have a live and let live spirit - they are not content to leave religious people alone to practice their faith. Instead, they seem to take a delight in compelling people to violate their conscience.

The examples are endless of wedding vendors, doctors, teachers, sportscasters, first responders, businessmen, and artists who have lost their livelihood and have been figuratively burned at the stake for refusing to bow to the secular orthodoxy.

Barr concludes with this challenge: *I do not mean to suggest that there is no hope for moral renewal in our country. But we cannot sit back and just hope the pendulum is going to swing back toward sanity. ... And we know that the first thing we have to do to promote renewal is to ensure that we are putting our principles into practice in our own personal private lives. ...*

This is tough work. It is hard to resist the constant seductions of our contemporary society. This is where we need grace, prayer, and the help of our church.

Beyond this, we must place greater emphasis on the moral education of our children. ... We cannot have a moral renaissance unless we succeed in passing to the next generation our faith and values in full vigor.

We must be vigilant to resist efforts by the forces of secularization to drive religious viewpoints from the public square and to impinge upon the free exercise of our faith.

I can assure you that, as long as I am Attorney General, the Department of Justice will be at the forefront of this effort, ready to fight for the most cherished of our liberties: the freedom to live according to our faith.

Transition Inquisition

by Lisa Van Houten



When Galileo, facing an inquisition, was forced to recant the truth that the earth revolves around the sun - he purportedly said in defiance, **“and yet it moves.”**

Today many are facing their own inquisition regarding the truth of gender. In Texas, a father lost his bid for custody of his 7-year-old son, James, for trying to protect him from chemical castration and gender transition therapy that the boy’s mother is pushing upon the child. Since James was three, his mother has been telling James that he is a girl, calling him by the name “Luna,” and dressing him as a girl. She has also advocated for using hormone blockers at the age of eight or nine to prevent the onset of puberty. What led the mother to believe James is a “girl”? She testified in court that it was when James chose a girl’s toy at McDonald’s when he was 3 years-old!

We are now at a point in our culture where a boy’s life is being destroyed based on his whim as a toddler. And the institutions that should be protecting this child – the medical profession, the school, and the courts – have all gone along with the delusion. As Mr. Younger has stated: **“All of his authority figures — his mother, his teacher, the librarian at school, the police officer at school, the principal at school — tell him he’s a girl. I’m the only authority figure in his life that tells him the truth; that he’s actually a boy.”**

And now the boy’s father can’t even do that. Reportedly, the court has instructed the father that he may not address his son by his given name, James, and may not refer to him as a boy.

Thankfully, after a public outcry when conservative news sites reported on the case (while the mainstream media ignored it), the

judge has amended the initial custody ruling which gave full custody to the mother, and is now allowing the father to have joint conservatorship over James, which includes making joint medical decisions for him.

However, this case should be a wakeup call. “Every Republican-controlled state should be introducing legislation to make medical transition for minors illegal and provide clear parental rights for both the mother and the father in disputes over the child’s sexuality,” writes Chad Greene at the Federalist. “We have tolerated this far too long in the hope sanity would win out on its own. We have failed these children.”

And as Al Mohler comments: *It is honestly just very hard to imagine how we could have reached this point of mass delusion in the United States of America. We are now unable or are too intimidated to use words like “boy” and “girl” in their only sensical context. ...*

Over the span of history, there are significant moments that stand out, upon reflection, as indicators of an historical hinge. ... This decision, and the fact that we were all called to a massive self-delusion socially about it, that legal force was brought for coercion against a parent, we now understand this redefinition of the family and what will be done to this child as a result of this decision, that that was one of those historical hinges. ...

We’re now told that we are, and we have to be, a society in which we all just consider it normal for drag queens to perform at story hour for children at public libraries, that it makes sense for seven-year-old children to be told that they can indeed transition to a new gender identity. ...

While the secular forces of culture seek to demand that we affirm what is not true - that a boy can be a girl - may God’s people boldly state, **“and yet he is a boy.”** Just as the earth cannot change its God-ordained orbit, so we cannot change our God-designed gender. Stand firm against the forces that seek to undermine Biblical truth – and pray for James and children like him, that they will be protected from this madness.

Where is the Salt and Light in America Today?

Submitted by Bernard Timmerman - Pastor, Sage, and friend of ADA



Many articles have been written on the deaths and violence which have taken place in our nation's schools.

Some have said the reason for these happenings has been because prayer in schools has been forbidden. Others state that the moral law, or Ten Commandments, may no longer be displayed and cite this as a reason for the alarming things taking place.

We must begin to look closer to home than our schools or the decisions made by the Supreme Court. The Lord Jesus Christ our creator stated, "Ye are the salt of the earth but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out and to be trodden under foot of men." Matthew 5:13

Christ spoke these words of instruction to his disciples: "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candle stick and giveth light unto all that are in the house." (Matthew 5:13-15) In this teaching, he declares to his disciples to be "the salt of the earth," "the light of the world," and those that give "light to all that are in the house."

If we are ever to experience a change in the dreadful situation as it is today, we, the church, must learn of Christ. We must listen to the one of whom God the Father said, "This is my beloved Son, hear ye him." (Matthew 17:5) Much good can come from organizations and through government but this is not God's first instrument for needed change. It was to his body, the believers in Christ Jesus that he said, "Ye are my witnesses." They were the ones through whom repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

God is first of all searching his church,

those who profess to believe the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. This takes place when the salt has lost its savor or the light has been put under a bushel.

Some would say we only need better government and better schools. We will never have either until we have better Christians and better churches. Only then, when parents and individuals begin at home to preach, believe and practice the gospel will we have better homes, and better children.

Do you really believe that the gospel can change you from poor salt to good salt, from a light under a bushel to one set on a hill? The gospel of Christ alone is the power of God unto salvation. A salvation not only from the wrath to come (and it surely is coming) but a salvation from every way of sin, every power of sin. It is the power of God.

If a man with a good record ran for president and promised moral reform, people would believe him and there would be much hope. Do you know he would surely fail? ... Unless he could change you and me, he would never fulfill his truly needed promises.

We can be thankful for our great leaders of the past. They have left their mark on this nation. A mark that many want to erase; even denying that they were God-fearing men. Not all were Christians, but there were those who believed in and professed Christ to be their Saviour.

We should not look to those leaders first of all. Instead of saying we need them, we ought to be saying, we need again preachers of righteousness - men sent from God like Jonathan Edwards and others like him.

I have an article before me that states "Jonathan Edwards had more to do with the beginning of American history than even Washington or Jefferson." He had, by God's calling and blessing, a tremendous influence, not in the forefront of government or politics, but in the hearts, homes, churches and schools. Those who believed the message he preached became not only good people, but good citizens and then good leaders.

He certainly was a salt that God used to give salt to the earth and light to the world. During the Great Awakening Edwards wrote, "There was scarcely a single person in the town, old or young left unconcerned about the great things of the eternal world ... This work of God, as it was carried on, and the number of true saints multiplied, soon made a glorious alteration in town ... the town seemed to be full of the presence of God: It was never so full of love, and of joy ... as it was then. ... It was a time of joy in families on account of salvation being brought unto them: parents rejoicing over their children as new born, and husbands over their wives and wives over their husbands."

Holland, Michigan, or your town, our "Jerusalems", need gospel preaching. We need repentance and the remission of our sins. This can begin by giving the word of God a proper place in our hearts and homes. This might mean shutting off the television or even removing it. There needs to be the true preaching of the Word in the church that will bring reviving and awakening. Yes, in our churches first; the place where salt is made. Let's not just be the outwardly pious Pharisees or the liberal Sadducees but the publican who cried, "God be merciful to me a sinner."

Oh what have we done with those great blessings from God? We are today salt which has lost its savor; weaklings being run over without raising the cry, repent and believe the gospel.

Formerly it was said that preachers carried the greatest influence in our nation. Today I fear we are being guided toward the bottomless pit by our news media, movies, television and the Internet. Our nation is being lulled into darkness. God's word states, "There is no fear of God before their eyes." (Romans 3:18) It also tells us: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." (Psalm 111:10 & Proverbs 9:10)

The truth seems to be so little known that when it is voiced, many say upon hearing it, that the church has no right to speak out; but God tells us, "Cry aloud and spare not."