

## Which Ship Will Sail?

By Steve Huston



There are those that would like to see a “Trump America” fail. Do they realize (I fear there are many who do) that this isn’t just for the destruction of President Trump; **it’s for the destruction of America!** What fool puts a hole in his own boat hoping that sinking it will destroy his opponent? It’s the “fool” who has already fashioned another boat within that of his opponent’s. In other words, it’s a plan to take down our Constitutional Republic in order to establish a socialistic/communist state.

There’s an important fact that must be understood in order to understand what we are seeing in America today. We are no longer one America with two different ways of doing things. We are now two different Americas with two differing sets of values, two antithetical systems of government, two polarized destinations, and two diametrically opposed views of the citizens of this “United” States of America.

This is no longer a difference between Republicans and Democrats because although their platforms drastically differ, their stands, sadly, do not. This goes way beyond partisan politics; although a majority of attackers fall into one party and many others who are complicit fall into another. **It’s a difference between the Constitutional Republic that our forefathers handed over to their people and a democratic socialism which**

**will quickly slide into communism, destroying “this last and greatest bastion of freedom.”**

We have had a God-given reprieve under President Trump, but make no mistake, **this is the battle that lies before us in November. It is a battle of historical importance; the future of our nation is at stake.** The enemy fighting “Constitutional America” never sleeps. When they win they march steadily along; when they lose they push forward as they are able. They take the war seriously, fighting for keeps.

Many saw former President Obama as a pawn or inept bungler; he was much more than that. He was a nefarious and seditious fox that had set things in motion so that Hillary Clinton could smoothly continue with the “Hope and Change to radically transform America,” bringing us to our complete destruction. As in a burning ship, we would sink into the waves of history while our nation’s citizenry was distracted by divisions, propaganda, and the “Deep State’s” sleight of hand.

From here out the quotes or statistics presented come from an important and concise, albeit lengthy, article written by Steve Baldwin for *The American Spectator*. “Did Trump Really Save America from Socialism?” was written to lay out the ways that

**“the Obama administration strategically created the conditions to make its progressive revolution a permanent one.”** Because of a Trump win, many of these subversive conditions and traitorous individuals are being brought into the light, exposing the blueprint of death for a free and liberty-loving Constitutional America.

Many of you may be surprised at the Left’s refusal to accept Donald Trump as our 45th president. Such unabated vitriol has never been seen for a sitting president. However, *“the onslaught of verbal, legal, and physical assaults the Democrats have engendered, are not specific to Donald Trump. In other words, it is now clear plans were made by Obama to exploit federal power during his presidency to give Democrats control of our nation—perpetually.”* In other words, if ANY GOP candidate had won the election, what we see now, is what we would have gotten.

Former President Obama has been and is “puppet-mastering” his appointees at the FBI, DOJ, IRS, CIA, State Department, etc. Obama’s appointed individuals within these agencies have been and in some cases continue to be used for the undermining and attacking of President Trump, financial attacks (IRS) against conservatives, and continue to

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**From the desk of Bill Johnson**

Let me take this opportunity to thank so many of you for your stand with us financially and for the words of support and encouragement that many have shared with us.

The years have passed by so very quickly and I have learned and continue to learn through many things, seeking to be a faithful follower of the Lord Jesus Christ.

May God give you and me grace to continue on faithfully as there are so many battles. I have never been more concerned and burdened over America than I am in these days.

Due to the demanding schedule in June and July coordinating a speaking tour and traveling with Phil Haney and (to a smaller degree) Farrah Prudence, I took a mini-break in very recent days.

During that time, I went through older letters and notes from supporters from the past (many of which remain as supporters to this very day).

Also encouraging are words of support and appreciation for our newsletter and for the conferences that we host. It helps keep us going.

I have attended many different churches since becoming a Christian in 1970. I have learned a lot and seen a lot in regard to Christians and the state of the church over these now 48 years. And I have written many times over the years, especially in recent times, of my growing concern regarding the hostility, the angst, and the growing divide in America.

I don't think that I would be nearly so concerned if not for the growing realization that the divide in our country is not merely the predictable political division that has existed

throughout our nation's history regarding the Republicans vs. Democrats. Without a doubt, this division exists like perhaps never before and the distaste that some hold for the opposition party is one that increasingly is marked by, in many cases I fear, a hatred.

But now, too, there are those groups and individuals that flat out hate America, its Constitution, and Christianity. Watch the news for a few days, if not hours, and you can't miss it.

I've been in a unique situation to witness these changes developing, not just as an observer, but as a teacher and then as an activist trying to push back against these changes. Without a doubt, one thing has stood out to me, and I'm convinced it's the answer to all of society's problems.

I taught in the public schools for 18 years. That was a good career, but I had had a strong sense of calling seven years into my teaching career. For eleven years I called out to God to give me that clear sense of what it was that He was calling me to. I waited for eleven years to receive His answer after knocking, praying, and waiting.

Over those years, I also sought to know God more personally. Early on I sensed God through His Holy Spirit, in Word and Truth. There were many times while reading His Word, hearing a sermon or music, or while in prayer that He made Himself known to me personally.

Because of my personal relationship and walk with God and through His Spirit, my heart, mind, and soul are enlivened, quickened, strengthened, and encouraged day by day to get up, stand up, trust again, serve again - to obey, imperfectly but faithfully.

We've been discussing around our morning devotional time how we so much see how the Holy Spirit is put off to the side, compartmentalized, kept at a safe distance, or ignored totally.

I read the Bible every day and I also read particular devotions like C.H. Spurgeon's "Morning by Morning" and "Evening by Evening." Here is but one of Spurgeon's writings on the Holy Spirit, which I found particularly poignant entitled, "Thy Good Spirit."

***"Common, too common is the sin of forgetting the Holy Spirit. This is folly and ingratitude. He deserves well at our hands, for he is good, supremely good. As God, he is good essentially. He shares in the three-fold ascription of Holy, holy, holy, which ascends to the Triune Jehovah. ... All his works are good in the most eminent degree: he suggests good thoughts, prompts good actions, reveals good truths, applies good promises, assists in good attainments, and leads to good results. There is no spiritual good in all the world of which he is not the author and sustainer, and heaven itself will owe the perfect character of its redeemed inhabitants to his work. He is good officially; whether as Comforter, Instructor, Guide, Sanctifier, Quickener, or Intercessor, he fulfils his office well, and each work is fraught with the highest good to the church of God. They who yield to his influences become good, they who obey his impulses do good, they who live under his power receive good. Let us then act towards so good a person according to the dictates of gratitude. Let us revere his person, and adore him as God over all, blessed forever; let us own his power, and our need of him by waiting upon him in all our holy enterprises; let us hourly seek his aid, and never grieve him; and let us speak to his praise whenever occasion occurs. The church will never prosper until more reverently it believes in the Holy Ghost. He is so good and kind, that it is sad indeed that he should be grieved by slights and negligence."***

Have we ever needed this message more than the dark days our country is now in?

Let us revere Him! Let us own His power and our need of Him! Let us speak to His praise!

**America's many social and cultural problems are really just the symptoms of our spiritual problems. The Spirit of God is the only Cure!**

May we, God's people, long for and seek the renewal and revival that comes only from the Holy Spirit. As Spurgeon implores us: *Dear reader, this evening open your mouth wide, and God will fill it. ... Groan within yourself for higher degrees of consecration, and your Lord will grant them to you, for he is able to do exceeding abundantly above what we ask or even think.*

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manipulate the narrative, so far as possible, protecting himself and others he used in his governmental web of deceit and agenda driven plan for the destruction of the GOP and “Old-ship America.”

*“Even Obama’s Director of National Intelligence, James Clapper, admitted in a CNN interview that ‘It was he [Obama] who tasked us to do that intelligence community assessment in the first place,’ explaining that it ‘set up a whole sequence of events which are still unfolding today, notably Special Counsel Mueller’s investigation.’”*

Obama had also been complicit in Hillary’s email scandal, but that’s not the only reason she needed to be protected from indictment. *“Hillary had to be exonerated in the private email scandal and an investigation of her pay-to-play foundation had to be avoided, because Obama could not afford to have her indicted in the midst of her presidential campaign. She was essential to continuing Obama’s plan to transform America and permanently keep the Republicans out of power. The Deep State is essentially the group of conspirators Obama assembled to (a) protect Hillary from being indicted, (b) smear the GOP nominee, and (c) ensure Hillary won the presidency.”*

*“Obama’s goal was to weaponize his agencies so as to create the conditions to make it impossible for any Republican to win the presidency again.”* He also took steps to ensure that 2016 was the last election *“in which legal citizens elected the president.”*

Let us count the ways: 1) Increase the illegal alien (and largely Democratic) vote and 2) Suppress the military and conservative vote.

Attempts to increase the illegal vote: **A.** In an interview with Gina Rodriguez, Obama stated that illegal aliens who vote won’t be investigated by his administration. **B.** Obama and Soros work hand in glove to “promote open borders, attack ICE, and make it easier for illegals to avoid arrest.” **C.** There is a concerted effort to fight any effort that would implement any kind of voter ID system. **D.** A Soros-funded group “successfully convinced the city of College Park to allow illegals to vote in local elections.” **E.** Illegals receiving driver’s licenses in various states, thereby making it easier to become registered to vote. **F.** There was a push to also register felons.

Keep in mind, while all the above was going on, there was also a concerted effort to suppress the military vote. Mr. Baldwin quoted from the Investor’s Business Daily 2012: *“Indifference of the administration and the Defense Department will cause a record low military vote this year, particularly in swing states.”*

With registering illegals (at least 3 million voted in 2016) and felons to vote, add to that the suppressing of the military and conservative vote, wrap it all up in a nice little Trump “treason” and “collusion” package to be delivered by a complicit media, and that leaves no outcome except for the Left’s socialist utopia.

**But...** TRUMP WON! That wasn’t part of the equation.

*“To be blunt, the plan was for Hillary to win and continue the destruction of the American system of limited government, the rule of law, and the free enterprise system. A Hillary victory would have continued Obama’s agenda of open borders, government control of many industries, a cradle to grave welfare system, and emasculated military and socialist policies that would continue economic stagnation. Future elections **would appear to be legit** but they wouldn’t be.*

*“Under a Clinton presidency, she would continue the Obama immigration policies, thereby allowing a few million more illegals to enter the country and would also*

*massively increase Third World refugees who vote heavily Democratic. Indeed, in 2016 she announced that as president she would increase Syrian refugees alone by 550%. Add to this the aggressive federal/state/private voter registration programs targeting these groups and the result would be a boost of Democrat vote numbers probably large enough to keep winning the White House on a perpetual basis, essentially invalidating the will of the legal majority.”*

**We urge you to recognize that having President Trump in office has only delayed their plan;** great damage has already been done to our nation during the Obama years and Constitutional America is ripe for the plunder.

*“...Socialists believe in the Marxist theory that capitalism cannot coexist with socialism, hence they are obligated to destroy the free enterprise system and all the cultural traditions that go along with it. It was not a coincidence that the attacks on traditional marriage, the undermining of religious freedom, the promotion of transgendered rights, and other issues challenging traditional mores came to a fore during the Obama years. Obama and the progressives seek to undermine America’s cultural traditions because they are linked to America’s Christian and capitalist heritage. Their socialist ideology explains the chaos we find everywhere we look today. Historically, socialists detest free speech, free press, freedom of religion, and other constitutional rights we all take for granted. Just walk down any big city street with a Trump hat on and you will witness the attacks for yourself. Start getting used to it.”* For these reasons the socialists have joined forces with the Islamists; but that’s another article for another time.

The above on its own wouldn’t have moved us except for the fact that we’ve apathetically allowed our children to be indoctrinated by a Marxist-loving public school agenda, various forms of media, and an ever-Leftward moving culture for too many decades.

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Steve Baldwin's article (<https://spectator.org/did-trump-really-save-america-from-socialism/>) holds so much more **that should be read**, please do.

**Literally, it's do or die time.** All the above is just a small part of what we are fighting against. Even if you read Baldwin's article, I'm sure "the half has not been told." Add to that the ever increasing anti-Trump/anti-America pushback propaganda of the socialist/Islamic Shariah-compliant media. Add to that a Republican Party which has been entrusted with protecting Constitutional America but is unenthusiastic about it, refusing to stand with their/our president and allowing the Democrats to get away with all their criminal misdeeds unprosecuted. Add to that an American people who should care about the destination of our country but seem apathetic about it (at best) and at worst push for the new ship USSA (United Socialist States of America) to set sail. Add to that AG Jeff Sessions taking his cues for recusal from Obama holdover Scott Schools for no good reason. Yes, add all these things together and one only begins to sense the kind of trouble we are in.

Will these things move Christians to fall on their face before a holy God and cry out to Him for help? Will such hopelessness cause an angst to well up within us—recognizing how deserving we are of judgment yet pleading for mercy—moving us to pray for a revival to come upon our land?

I pray it will do all these things; yet I pray that it move us to some lesser, albeit important, things. I pray that this will shake some out of their slumbering apathy, moving us to talk about politics and the importance of protecting our liberty. This should move us to talk with our politicians, holding them accountable and showing we care about what is happening to our nation. It should urge us to urge others to contact our representatives about protecting

the vote, getting others to vote, and to vote rightly.

**We stand at a crossroads in history.** By the grace of God will we help to move us back to a Constitutional America or will we sit idly by and watch her sink, sending out a new ship which is doomed for our own destruction.

### "The Big Bad" Wolf - huffed and puffed her show away

By: Steve Huston



Last month we brought you an article asking you to make the break with Netflix. One of the many programs we warned our readers about was *The Break with Michelle Wolf*. After only airing for three months, this show has now been cancelled.

Whether it was Wolf's huffing and puffing and asking God to bless abortion, or it was her attempt to blow down the house of ICE by equating them to ISIS, the plug has been pulled and her own house has been blown down.

I would like to say a big, "Thank You!" to any of our readers who called or wrote to Netflix, expressing your concern over Michelle Wolf's filth and constant attacks on conservative and Christian principles.

There are many other shows which ought to be removed from Netflix and many other hearts which need to be changed; but we thank God for each and every victory. **Continue to let Netflix know** that they are hurting children and society with their programming. **Take time to pray** for Michelle Wolf and other image bearers of God whose image isn't bearing the light of God's glory yet.

## A Word about Finances

By Bill Johnson



In our work, victories are difficult to measure. Yet, as I mention in my personal note on page two, the notes and letters we receive are a great encouragement to us! Such as this recent note: "... *Thank you for standing faithful in the gap for truth and righteousness. We continue to pray for you.*" Or this one: "... *Thank you for making us aware of how sad our country has become. We need prayer so badly from all people that are committed to serving our Lord.*"

Another means of support are the gifts we receive from you, the friends of this ministry. As most of you know, we have a track record of sending very few financial appeals. Yet as we come to the end of the summer we find ourselves in need of financial undergirding. Please show your support for our ministry efforts by responding to this brief, but needed request for help.

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# Colorado Coercion Takes the Cake

by Lisa Van Houten



The Left won't rest until all Christians meekly bow to **the idol** of sexual deviancy. There will be no tolerance of those who do not approve of the LGBTQ+ lifestyles and no freedom to practice a religion that calls their chosen sexuality a sin.

If anyone knows that all too well, it's Colorado baker Jack Phillips.

In June the Supreme Court ruled in Jack's favor, stating that the Colorado Civil Rights Commission (CCRC) had exhibited blatant "religious hostility" when they declared Jack guilty of discrimination for declining the request to create a customized cake for a gay wedding. But that hasn't stopped the Colorado Civil Rights Commission, which is coming after Jack Phillips once again in their quest to make an example out of him, lest any other Christian dare to stand when the emperor tells us to bow.

While the Supreme Court ruling was a resounding 7-2 decision in Jack's favor, it was considered a **narrow ruling** in that it spoke only to the fact that the CCRC displayed overt animus toward Jack's religious beliefs. The Court decision did not offer a sweeping protection for religious liberty.

That narrow ruling has left the door open for the CCRC to resume their efforts to persecute Jack Phillips for having the audacity to stand up for a belief that does not align with the LGBTQ orthodoxy. As his attorney with Alliance Defending Freedom stated: ***"For over six years now, Colorado has been on a crusade to crush Jack Phillips because its officials despise what he believes and how he practices his faith."***

Now the CCRC is investigating Jack for refusing to make a custom "transgender"

cake. On the very day in 2017 that the U.S. Supreme Court announced it would hear Jack's case, an attorney, who now goes by the name "Autumn" Scardina, called Jack's bakery, Masterpiece Cakeshop, requesting a specialized cake to celebrate the man's so-called gender transition to female.

***"We told him we'd sell him anything in the shop, but we could not create that cake because of the message it conveyed,"*** Jack stated. *"The Bible tells us God created us male and female, and I believe that. A gender-transition cake is not something I've ever made, and it's not an event I could celebrate. There are plenty of messages I won't convey on a cake. I've turned down requests to make anti-American cakes, cakes disparaging the LGBT community, as well as those glorifying drug and alcohol use, mistreatment of women, divorce, and more."*

Yet as Jack has courageously stood his ground in defense of his right to operate his business based on his religious convictions, it has made him a target for harassment and death threats. After the request for the transgender cake, Jack has been bombarded with other offensive cake requests such as ones depicting satanic symbols and sexually explicit themes. Caller ID, along with other information, indicates that at least some of those offensive requests came from the same Scardina who filed the complaint with the CRCC regarding the transgender cake.

On June 26 of this year the Supreme Court ruled that the Colorado Civil Rights Commission had violated Jack Phillip's right to free exercise of religion, condemning the CRCC's overt religious hostility toward his beliefs. Just weeks later, the Colorado Civil Rights Commission, completely disregarding the rebuke by the Supreme Court, again charged Jack Phillips with discrimination for not creating the transgender cake.

It's now clear that these Colorado state officials will not rest until Phillips either closes his bakery or agrees to violate his beliefs.

Senator Ben Sasse [R-Nebraska], warned, ***"A state powerful enough to tell bakers what to bake is powerful enough to tell journalists what stories to write. This is not healthy for the country."***

The Left's relentless hatred of Christianity and all who refuse to affirm the LGBTQ agenda has become abundantly clear. They will not tolerate the slightest resistance. They will not allow Jack Phillips – **or ultimately any of us** – to disagree with their ideology and lifestyles. The "tolerance" they once asked of us, has been replaced with totalitarianism. Remember when the liberal mantra was "live and let live"? Now it's "coerce into conformity."

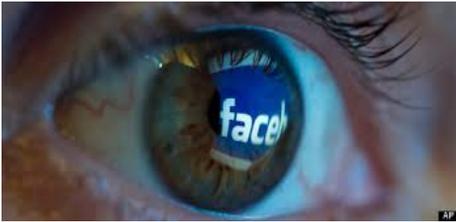
What can we do to stop this liberal onslaught? Most importantly, go to your knees to pray - and then go to the polls to vote. Elections have consequences. Just one more liberal Supreme Court justice could eliminate religious liberty for years to come. And if the Left regains control of the House and Senate in the midterm elections in November, it could lay the groundwork for the beginning of the end of freedom.

Jeremy Tedesco, attorney for Alliance Defending Freedom, cautions: "We always tell our friends that our opposition doesn't rest. I don't think there's any better example of that principle than this same commission taking up essentially the same case against the same man. The Left and progressively-minded commissions like this will never rest. It's just a matter of eternal vigilance," he warned. ***"If we tire out, if we become weary in defending these things, we will ultimately lose these freedoms for the next generation."***

One person who must be weary of the battle, but by God's grace is still standing, is Jack Phillips. He never asked to be a champion for religious freedom, but he picked up the torch and continues to exhibit grace under fire. He deserves our prayers, our gratitude, and our encouragement. Enclosed is a postcard we encourage you to mail to Jack; or use the address to write your own letter of support to this warrior who is fighting a battle which one day **we may face as well.**

# Facebook Follies

by Chris Johnson



Who else remembers first making their Facebook account?

Mine goes back to 2007, not too long after Facebook first launched. I had a new laptop for college, the internet at my fingertips, and the intelligence to post statuses like, “Chris Johnson is hot;” “Chris Johnson is sitting;” “Chris Johnson is talking in the 3rd person;” etc. I shudder to think of what Facebook did with all of that information I gave them early on.

I don’t think that I ever checked the thing, because going all the way back to posts from 2007, I find notes and comments on my wall that I’ve never seen before and haven’t seen anything like in a long time. Old friends from home checking up on me when I was at school, new friends from school checking up on me when I was at home; people I have rarely talked to face-to-face chatting with me just because we were both on Facebook and were, therefore, both cool.

Here’s another fun Facebook fact. Writing this article in Microsoft Word 2007, the word “Facebook” has a squiggly red line under it indicating a misspelling because Facebook wasn’t even big enough in 2007 for Microsoft to notice.

It’s really not that long ago that life wasn’t wrapped around social media, but it sure is now. According to AdWeek.com, the average person spends 2 hours every day on social sites, which adds up to about five years and four months when projected out over a lifetime.

Even that might not be so bad if Facebook feeds looked more like my Facebook “Wall” back in 2007: real life friends interacting and checking in on you, but it’s not.

Once Social Media really started to take

off, we started to hear about “personal branding.” DigitalMarketingInstitute.com explains it like this: *“Sharing online allows you to craft an online persona that reflects your personal values and professional skills. Even if you only use social media occasionally, the content you create, share or react to feeds into this public narrative. How you conduct yourself online is now just as important as your behavior offline.”*

Social media is not so much used to actually be social anymore, so much as it’s used to make yourself look awesome to your followers, and it’s used for social sites to gather information on you and target ads specifically to you.

That study which said the average adult will spend five years of their life on social media also estimated that the average adult will spend only one year and three months actually socializing with other people. **Social media gets WAY more of our time; it’s not even close.**

Of course, we don’t all use Facebook to “build our brand,” a 2017 Pew Research poll revealed that two-thirds of American adults rely on Social Media for news.

With all of that in mind, think of the power that gives these platforms to direct a national narrative once they start using their algorithms to silence the viewpoint it finds offensive which is made easier by those who have “built their brand” around sharing news from that particular point of view.

It might help to think of social media as a big auditorium filled with people each holding a microphone, and Facebook, Google, and Twitter control the volume for each one. Soon we will hear only the voices which they think are worth listening to.

We can already see this happening, here are a few examples from just the last few weeks:

**LifeSiteNews.com:** ‘Activist Mommy’ suspended from Facebook on vague ‘hate speech’ grounds

**Vice.com:** Twitter appears to have fixed “shadow ban” of prominent Republicans like the RNC chair and Trump Jr.’s spokesman.

**Yahoo.com:** Major tech companies remove Alex Jones for hate, bullying

**WashingtonTimes.com:** YouTube muzzles PragerU’s conservative content ...

After an uproar, Facebook reversed its suspension of Elizabeth Johnston (AKA Activist Mommy), and Twitter claimed its silencing of several Republicans was an error in the code **(albeit one that didn’t affect anyone on the left).**

These are all examples of the power that big tech has to amplify its own biases while shutting down opposing opinion. And while activists on the left cry for Facebook, Twitter, and Google to do more of this kind of thing, I don’t think we can expect to see these headlines stop.

After all, conservatives are synonymous with Nazis from their point of view. Who wants to give a platform to Nazis?

Going back to 2007 when I set up my Facebook account, I remember filling in the profile questions and coming to the dropdown box for political views. I was not the least bit up to date on politics, and really didn’t even know what either party stood for, but I selected “conservative Republican.”

Now, I sometimes wonder if that will ever come back to bite me.

These services are useful and free and fun, in fact they’re built to be addictive, **but they are not our friends.** They get to know each user, probably better than they know themselves, by tracking their interests and their searches and their clicks and even by reading their emails, and they have the power to decide whose voices are heard and whose are not.

**Use them (or don’t) as your conscience dictates.**

# Read 'em and Weep

By Lisa Van Houten



There's much truth in the old adage, "Where there's a will, there's a way." But when it comes to defunding Planned Parenthood, far too many Republicans don't have the will, so they don't make a way.

The GOP platform states: *"We oppose the use of public funds to perform or promote abortion or to fund organizations, like Planned Parenthood ...."* However, when Senator Rand Paul recently sought to introduce an amendment that would defund Planned Parenthood in the Senate appropriations package which includes Health and Human Services, it was blocked by Republicans.

In a statement announcing his amendment to fulfill that GOP pledge, Paul said, *"One of the top priorities for a Republican Congress that professes pro-life values on the campaign trail should be to stop taxpayer funding for abortion providers. This is our chance to turn our words into action, stand up for the sanctity of life, and speak out for the most innocent among us that have no voice."*

Before Paul could add his amendment to what's called the "amendment tree," which has limited slots for amendments, GOP leaders filled the last slot available with a "placeholder" amendment which would add a single dollar to one program. As the Washington Examiner reported, *"Its only purpose was to block Paul,"* according to a Senate insider.

Senator Richard Shelby (R-AL) claimed Paul's amendment to defund Planned Parenthood "could be a spoiler" that could trigger a filibuster from Democrats. Or as Paul rightly stated: Republican leadership is in favor of "bloated government spending more than they care about Planned Parenthood." Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell could easily eliminate

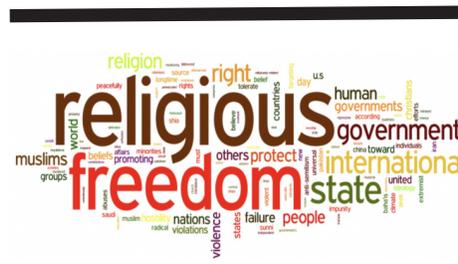
the legislative filibuster which would then allow for a simple majority vote to pass such legislation, yet he refuses to do so.

Senator Paul shamed the Republicans into adding his amendment, stating: *"The Republican Leadership has filled the amendment tree to block my defund Planned Parenthood amendment. But how could that be? Surely Republican Leadership does not favor abortion funding."*

Speaking from the Senate floor, Paul stated: *"Planned Parenthood ends the lives of 320,000 babies each year. That's about 900 babies every day. Planned Parenthood receives over \$400,000,000 of taxpayer money."*

However, pro-abortion GOP Senators Susan Collins and Lisa Murkowski voted against it, and the measure failed.

Once again pro-life voters have been deceived. The response shouldn't be to stay home on Election Day, but work to elect more pro-life candidates who truly have the will to defund Planned Parenthood and will find a way to do it.



Christian leaders nationwide are raising the alarm about a proposed California law that would ban certain forms of speech as it relates to homosexuality and gender identity. The legislation **"makes it unlawful for any person to sell books, counseling services, or anything else that helps someone overcome unwanted same-sex attraction or gender identity confusion,"** according to Alliance Defending Freedom attorney Matt Sharp.

The bill would actually ban books that express biblical viewpoints on sexuality – perhaps even leading to a ban on Bible sales, many Christian leaders warn.

If you think this is too far-fetched, recently California billboards promoting Pastor Greg Laurie's 29th annual Harvest Crusade were removed merely because the ad featured a photo of a Bible. As Pastor Laurie wrote, "Apparently, in our intolerant culture, we no longer can display the Bible in public."

The proposed legislation has passed the California Senate and is waiting a vote in the State Assembly.

Alliance Defending Freedom described the breadth of the censorship as staggering. For example, under the legislation a religious ministry could not hold a conference that would encourage attendees to avoid homosexual behavior or maintain sexual purity and bookstores (even online bookstores) could not sell books challenging gender identity ideology. It would prohibit counselors, even religious counselors, from helping individuals – of any age - overcome unwanted same-sex attractions or gender confusion. This would include gender-confused kids, who instead would likely be pushed into adopting a transgender lifestyle.

As David French writes, *"Christians find their identity in Christ, not in their gender and not in their sexual orientation. The state of California says no. Your gender and your orientation are your identity, and you should engage in actions that celebrate and ratify your alleged essence. The state is creating a new religion of sexual libertinism, declaring that religions opposing it aren't just false but harmful, and then prohibiting contrary religious exercise."*

California Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi (D), affirmed this is the goal of the legislation as he ominously stated during debate of this legislation: *"The faith community, like anyone else, needs to evolve with the times."*

What happens in California won't stay in California. If this bill passes, as there is a good chance that it will, it won't just affect our brothers and sisters in the Golden State, but will be a harbinger of what's ahead for all Americans.

# Will I Find any Faith?

by Steve Huston



In 2015, Iain Murray opened his article entitled “How Scotland Lost Its Hold of the Bible” with this 1883 quote from Horatius Bonar: *“Man is now thinking out a Bible for himself; framing a religion in harmony with the development of liberal thought; constructing a worship on the principles of taste and culture; shaping a god to suit the expanding aspirations of the age. ... The extent of the mischief no one can calculate. A soul without faith, a church without faith, a nation without faith, a world without faith – what is to be their future? What is their present? When faith goes, all good things go. When unbelief comes in, all evil things follow.”*

As the church’s hold on the Bible goes, so will go the church and the nation. Albert Mohler recently reported on The Briefing, *“Just last year, the BBC... reported that a majority of Scots now say that they are not religious. ...23.6% of Scots said they are religious, while 72.4% said they were not.”* Later he states, *“Most people, we are told, in Scotland do not believe in life after death. The majority [of] the Scottish public do not believe in angels, evil spirits, divine miracles from God. Most people in Scotland never pray.”*

America’s strength came from a firm foundation and belief in the Biblical principles of Christianity—it gave to us virtue and morality. From this we derived our strength and our liberties. As a nation we have allowed that firm foundation to be eroded away and it’s affecting our culture, our society, our financial stability, our sensibility, and the church at large. To put it bluntly, America has largely lost its hold on the Bible and is following in Scotland’s footsteps.

By and large the American people have

become Biblically illiterate and Gospel hardened. We’ve obtained much of our Biblical knowledge from Hollywood’s misrepresentations of God, of holy men of renown, and of how a holy God moves and directs the lives of those who say they follow Him. Even the church’s grip on the Bible has become so loose that in many instances it has all but fallen out of her clutches.

With some advising the church to “unhitch from the Old Testament,” other churches and church leaders embracing the LGBTQ agenda, and so many others denying the need for holiness without which no man shall see the Lord, **it’s no wonder that people are claiming that Jesus would be okay with many of our societal sins today.** Never mind the fact that Jesus called us to be perfect as our Heavenly Father is perfect; even with the church leaders of His day He would often point them to the Scriptures saying, “Haven’t you ever read...?”

Although an extreme example, I present a news headline which is the result of the church neglecting to teach the difference between the holy and the profane for far too long: **“Pro-gay church plans to build worship space/brewery, donate profits to Planned Parenthood.”** Yes, it sounds like a satire piece from the Babylon Bee; but no, sadly, this headline was from Fox News.

Here are some of the statements Pastor Chris VanHall made: *“We are open and affirming LGBTQ. We are feminists, and I believe Jesus was, too.” “We are environmentalists, which I believe that’s the original mandate of the children of God to take care of the planet that we all know and enjoy. We are anti-war, which I believe Jesus was, too. We are for racial justice, which Jesus was a Palestinian, Jewish rabbi, a person of color that was killed by white supremacy.”* And let’s not forget that he’s very excited about his church donating to Planned Parenthood. Don’t these things construct *“a worship on the principles of taste and culture; shaping a god to suit the expanding aspirations of the age...”* Instead of **“the Bible says”** - it’s become **“I believe,” “I feel,” or “I think.”**

If this doesn’t smack of Bonar’s quote at the beginning, I don’t know what does. It also reminds me that the prophet Hosea warns that God’s people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; saying that since they had forgotten the law of God, God would forget their children. **Woe is us!**

How do non-Christians view the church of today? An article from the *Friendly Atheist* website gives us a solid hint: “Would the biblical Jesus want his followers drinking beer in church (especially since the Bible itself actually warns about the dangers of over-consuming wine)? Who knows. Then again, who cares? **It’s not like many Christian churches seem to care about anything Jesus preached these days.”**

The title of my article comes from Jesus’ question found in Luke 18:8. As we see nation after nation (including our own nation) rebel against the Word of God and their churches become ineffective and apathetic; as she no longer takes bold stands against sin and neglects to exhort, with fervor, holiness without which no man shall see the Lord; and as heartfelt Christianity puts on the death shroud of formal observance; it’s easy to see why Jesus would ask, “When I return, will I find any faith?”

When a nation like Scotland (and the U.S.) that had strong relational ties with the living Christ turns its feet from the Word and their eyes from Jesus, the headlong fall which takes place is an alarmingly speedy one. We are heading for trouble.

Okay, it’s time to slip our feet out of those comfortable steel-toed shoes. Let’s ask ourselves, do my beliefs align themselves with Scripture? **It’s not about how I feel; it’s about what God says.** Are my words and my life drawing others to Christ by my example? Is my church full of grace and truth, a place where sinners would want to come, yet not remain as they are?

**Pray for repentance and revival in our churches and for a Gospel-awakening in our nation; without them, all is lost.**