

## Conscience or Coercion

By Lisa Van Houten



On September 9, two days before the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9-11, Joe Biden stood before the American people and, in essence, declared war – not against a terrorist threat, but against one-third of the American people. In his animosity-filled speech, which unconstitutionally mandated COVID vaccines for nearly 100 million American workers, the “great unifier” declared that those who aren’t vaccinated are the enemy. *“We’re going to protect the vaccinated workers from unvaccinated co-workers,”* Biden angrily decreed.

While he may see us as his mindless subjects, the American people aren’t stupid. If the COVID vaccine protects the vaccinated from serious illness, as Biden repeatedly stated in his speech, why do the vaccinated need to be protected from the unvaccinated? And if the vaccine doesn’t work, why should anyone take it?

Yet Biden shows more contempt for Americans who exercise the freedom to make their own health decisions, than he did toward the Taliban. *“This is not about freedom or personal choice,”* Biden testily chided. But that is exactly what it’s about! **If we don’t have the right to control what goes into our bodies, we are not free.** The Left sees individual liberty as an obstacle to their totalitarian goals.

The Biden administration claims their man-

date is about public safety – that we have to give up our liberties for the greater good. But public safety isn’t their motivation. The hypocrisy of their mandates exposes that lie. How many times have their “rules for thee, but not for me” been revealed, as the elite ignored the mask mandates and social-distancing they forced upon us “peons.” This latest vaccine mandate is no different. Look who’s exempt: Congress members and their staff, federal court employees, and U.S. Postal workers. And while European travelers have to be vaccinated before entering the U.S., illegal immigrants are streaming in, and as the Biden administration admits, will not be required to be vaccinated. Yet American workers are being told if they want to feed their families, they have to take the job.

Biden and his spokespersons have repeatedly stated that they would not implement a vaccine mandate. Just two months ago Press Secretary Jen Psaki stated that a vaccine mandate is “not the federal government’s role.” Yet Biden has demonstrated that he won’t let the Constitution, which he swore an oath to uphold, get in his way of implementing the Left’s agenda. The outcry from Republicans was swift and strong against Biden’s blatantly unconstitutional mandate, as governors and attorneys general from 27 states are filing lawsuits against it. They, along with a majority of Americans according to a Trafalgar Group

poll, believe that Biden does not have the constitutional authority to force private employers to require their employees to be vaccinated. Unsurprisingly, 83.5% of Republicans oppose the mandate, but Democrats should take note that, in addition, 68.2% of Independents also oppose it.

Not only is this mandate unconstitutional, it will be devastating for our economy already struggling with a massive labor shortage and rising inflation. Employers and hospitals who have already implemented a vaccine mandate are losing employees who won’t compromise their sincerely-held beliefs. A hospital in upstate New York has closed their maternity unit after numbers of nurses resigned due to the vaccine requirement. What will be the impact on our nation’s healthcare as we lose valuable and experienced medical workers who served valiantly throughout the worst of the COVID pandemic before a vaccine was even available, only to see their jobs threatened if they have concerns about taking the vaccine.

Every individual should have the freedom to weigh the risks and benefits of whether or not to be vaccinated. And while there are valid reasons for those who chose to be vaccinated, those who chose not to take the vaccine also have valid reasons for their decision. We have always been a nation

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that had deep regard for the right of conscience. **That fundamental right is being stripped away.**

One year ago in the run-up to the election, both Biden and Kamala Harris were themselves vocal “anti-vaxxer” skeptics as they cast doubt on the “Trump” vaccine. Remember Harris stating in the vice-presidential debate: “If Donald Trump tells us we should take it, I’m not taking it.” They were the ones who politicized this. But Americans, who have credible concerns regarding the vaccine, are now condemned by the very ones who first encouraged vaccine hesitancy.

Most vaccines go through years of trials before they are approved. It’s understandable that there are people who don’t want to submit to a global clinical trial. Remember when Pelosi said about Obamacare that we have to pass the bill to find out what’s in it? Many share the concern that that’s what is occurring with the COVID vaccine. No one truly know what the long-term effects will be, even as more evidence is coming out about adverse reactions. Healthcare workers are required to file a VAERS (Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System) report regarding adverse reactions to the vaccine, yet an undercover video from the esteemed organization Project Veritas revealed federal health workers not reporting concerning vaccine reactions, while also expressing doubt about the vaccine’s effectiveness. But the vaccine reactions that have been reported to VAERS are alarming. VAERS shows that there have been over 701,000 adverse COVID-19 vaccine reactions reported since December 2020. That 701,000 figure included 14,506 deaths, 58,440 hospitalizations, and 1,757 miscarriages. (That total number of deaths associ-

ated with COVID-19 vaccines is greater than the number of deaths associated with all other vaccines combined since the year 1990.) I’m not going to go down the same path as the fear-mongering Left which counted anyone dying with COVID as a COVID death, even if the virus didn’t cause their death; so, I will state that there isn’t conclusive evidence that all of those reported adverse reactions are a direct result of the vaccine, but there is growing scientific evidence of concerning side effects from the vaccine.

We are constantly lectured to “follow the science.” Listed below are just some of the scientific results now coming to light regarding COVID-19 vaccine side effects.

\*A British study recently reported on menstrual cycle changes in women associated with the COVID-19 vaccine.

\*Study findings have shown that teenage boys face much higher heart risk from the vaccine than Covid.

\*A CDC study showed increased myocarditis/heart inflammation risk, lymphadenopathy, appendicitis, and herpes zoster infection after having received the vaccine.

\*An Israeli study found that the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine was associated with a threefold increased risk of myocarditis.

\*The FDA has added a new warning to Pfizer and Moderna Covid-19 vaccines about risk of heart inflammation.

\*As of June of 2021, CDC said that more than 1,200 cases of heart inflammation (myocarditis) in young people had been reported after Pfizer and Moderna Covid-19 vaccinations. Most were in males under the age of 30. Another study found the incidences of myocarditis more than five times more common than the CDC reported.

\*The United Kingdom banned the COVID vaccine for most children aged 12-17 because the found that the benefits of the vaccine don’t outweigh the risks for most young people.

\*Dr. Peter McCullough, cardiologist and Senior Professor of Internal Medicine at the Texas A&M University Health Sciences Center, has called for a halt to vaccinating 30-year-olds due to “no clinical benefit” and safety concerns. He joins 56 additional authors from 17 countries who have signed an endorsement urging that Covid-19 vac-

inations be stopped unless new safety mechanisms are immediately implemented.

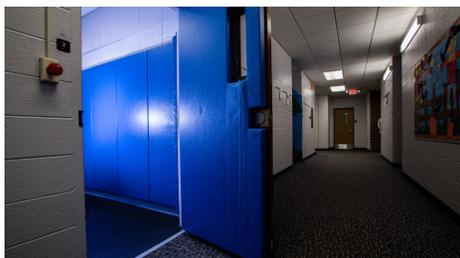
But scientific fact is disregarded if it doesn’t fit the Left’s narrative. Notice that Biden’s vaccine mandate doesn’t mention the tens of millions of Americans who previously had COVID and as a result now have natural immunities. A Cleveland Clinic study showed that natural immunities give even greater protection than the vaccine. Spectrum Health has also acknowledged that fact and is exempting employees with natural COVID antibodies from their vaccine mandate. The Biden administration also ignores therapeutics that have proven to be very effective in treating COVID. We hear little to nothing of treatments that, especially when given early, have had tremendous results. One of those highly effective therapeutics is monoclonal antibodies. Yet, as Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, stated, “on September 13, HHS announced that it was seizing control of the monoclonal antibody supply and it would control distribution. And then on September 14, the announcement was more than 50 percent of the monoclonal antibodies that have been used in Florida were going to be reduced.” Once again it appears the Biden administration is playing politics by holding back life-saving treatments from Red states.

Biden is also playing politics with the lives of our U.S. servicemen. Look at the concerning studies listed above regarding the myocarditis risk among young men. As Tucker Carlson pointed out, *“The fighting strength of the military is young, healthy people, virtually all of them at extremely low risk of dying from COVID.”* Yet the Biden administration is requiring all military members be vaccinated or receive a dishonorable discharge. Again, natural immunities are not being considered and those who apply for a religious exemption are being stonewalled or blacklisted. As Family Research Council’s Tony Perkins writes: *“So is this really about public health -- or a more sinister agenda? Can America really afford to lose hundreds -- if not thousands -- of dedicated, experienced service members in a dangerous global climate like this one? ... But if the*

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# Men Without Chests in the Quiet Rooms

By Chris Johnson



Here's a riddle for you. If you have a bee in your hand, what do you have in your eye?

Well, as everyone knows, *beauty* is in the eye of the beholder...

Dad jokes aside, probably many parents have seen this proverb in action, as I have, when you've been on a drive through the mountains or countryside and are suddenly struck by the beauty of the surrounding landscape or the sunset or the view coming down a mountain. As you direct your children's attention towards the beautiful sight and away from whatever has been keeping them occupied, do their exclamations of excitement ever match your own?

In my experience, these events usually end with me thinking of throwing a tablet out the window.

In 1944, Oxford Literature Professor C.S. Lewis began his book, "The Abolition of Man," with a criticism of an elementary English textbook where the authors' used an illustration along the same lines. In their illustration, a man reacted to the sight of a waterfall by saying, "This is Sublime." Lewis documents the authors' critique: "*Actually...he was not making a remark about the waterfall, but a remark about his own feelings. What he was really saying was 'I have feelings associated in my mind with the word Sublime.'*"

Is the view really beautiful? Or are we just conditioned so that such a view invokes feelings of beauty? We might be tempted to dismiss the whole question as complete nonsense, but their method prompts Lewis instead to speculate about the authors' motives in taking this approach: "*They see the world around them swayed by emotional propaganda - they have learned from tradition that youth is sentimental - and they conclude that the best thing they can do is*

*to fortify the minds of young people against emotion.*"

What I find interesting, is that these words could easily be written about the youth in our day. What is the pithy saying, "Black Lives Matter," but propaganda? Brilliant, because not only could no moral person disagree with it, but it carries in its feisty tone the implication that many people do.

What is LGBTQIA but emotional propaganda? The *A* stands for *Ally*, and who needs allies but someone who has enemies? You don't want to be their enemy, do you?

Do you want to be "Anti-science?" Or an "Anti-vaxxer?"

Lewis disagrees with the text book authors who want to insulate students against this kind of emotional manipulation in this way, but why? Today's youth could certainly use some "fortification against emotion!"

Lewis' description of his observations shows us how much students have changed from his day to ours: "*My own experience as a teacher tells an opposite tale. For every one pupil who needs to be guarded from a weak excess of sensibility there are three who need to be awakened from the slumber of cold vulgarity. The task of the modern educator is not to cut down jungles, but to irrigate deserts.*"

Of course, we are too late to address the task of the *modern* educator, as we are in the grips of post-modernism. Today's students do live in a jungle of emotional manipulation, rather than a desert of cold, hard facts. This transition is documented most famously by Alan Bloom's "Closing of the American Mind."

What the authors which Lewis criticizes in *The Abolition of Man* are getting at is that beauty – and, by extension, goodness and truth – is a subjective emotional reaction. It depends on the mindset and experience of the beholder – and therefore it's not useful and doesn't matter. That is the *modernist* way of thinking and that's what Lewis is criticizing. It's what Lewis' friend J.R.R. Tolkien described in his evil wizard character Saruman who had "*a mind of metal and wheels.*"

The *post-modernist* worldview agrees that beauty is a subjective emotional reaction, but says instead that that is *all that matters*. That's essentially what the Critical Race Theory and Intersectionality of post-modern education boil down to: the one whose feelings are the most hurt ought to have the most authority.

Modern education trained the head; post-modern education shapes the emotions. Take, for example, the L.A. teacher's union president who said this summer in regards to the Covid related school closings: "*It's OK that our babies may not have learned all their times tables. They learned resilience. They learned survival. They learned critical-thinking skills. They know the difference between a riot and a protest. They know the words insurrection and coup.*"

They don't need to know things, just as long as they have the correct emotional reactions.

Interestingly, Lewis' prescription for modernism still applies to post-modernism: "*The right defense against false sentiments is to inculcate just sentiments.*"

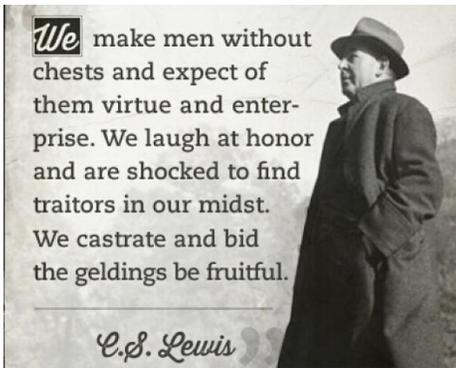
What is meant by sentiment? Well, if the head represents the mind and the belly represents the appetite or emotions, the chest represents sentiment – how we think we ought to feel. As Lewis says, "*The head rules the belly through the chest... the seat of emotions organized by trained habit into stable sentiments... It may even be said that it is by this middle element that man is man: for by his intellect he is mere spirit and by his appetite mere animal.*"

So, let's examine how state education shapes students' sentiments. Michigan law allows public schools the use of "isolation and restraint" – i.e. time-outs - only in cases of emergency and last resort and NOT as a punishment. Federal early childhood standards for the Head Start program insist that no corporal punishment be used, no isolation and restraint be used, and no program or outside time be used as a punishment or reward.

One example of how this plays out comes from a family member who recently pulled

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## Men Without Chests in the Quiet Rooms (Continued from Page 3)



their kids out of a public school because of two destructive class members. At the onset of their fits, the teacher and the rest of the class would leave the room and allowing the miscreants to be as destructive as they liked in the classroom. Then, when they calmed down, the class would return. The kids were not punished until a child was stabbed with a pencil, then they were sent to the principal's office.

In 2019, the Chicago Tribune published an article entitled ominously: The Quiet Rooms. Here's how it begins: *"The spaces have gentle names: The reflection room. The cool-down room. The calming room. The quiet room.*

*But shut inside them, in public schools across the state, children as young as 5 wail for their parents, scream in anger and beg to be let out.*

*The students, most of them with disabilities, scratch the windows or tear at the padded walls. They throw their bodies against locked doors. They wet their pants. Some children spend hours inside these rooms, missing class time. Through it all, adults stay outside the door, writing down what happens."*

There are similar stories from other states. The report is horrific, but it's not difficult to see how these things become an issue. State and federal laws prohibit teachers from disciplinary action of their students, right up until it becomes an emergency. Once it's an emergency, kids can spend hours in solitary confinement. As Proverbs says, *"The mercy of the wicked is cruel."*

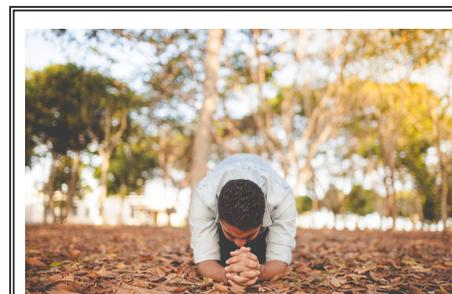
Of course the biggest issue, over which much ink has been spilt elsewhere, is that

the very foundation for moral instruction is not even allowed in the classroom.

Remember Lewis' description of the ideal: *"The head rules the chest through the belly... the seat of emotions organized by trained habit into stable sentiments."*

His often quoted condemnation of modern education applies all the more to post-modern education: *"We make men without chests and expect from them virtue and enterprise. We laugh at honor and are shocked to find traitors in our midst."*

Christians, make sure the people educating your kids are shaping their sentiments by the Word of God. As Pastor Voddie Baucham says, *"We cannot continue to send our children to Caesar for their education and be surprised when they come home as Romans."*



***"God is judging the world with covenant curses. It is good & right to resist evil & tyranny, but we must do so recognizing that God is behind it. He is bringing this down on our heads. If we are not pleading with God for repentance more than anything, we are part of the problem."***

**~ Toby Sumpter**

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***motivation is to "cleanse" the military of conservative men and women of faith, then it all makes sense."***

The Left continues to use a virus that has a survival rate of over 98% to implement their agenda. They have successfully stoked fear and division by convincingly labeling the unvaccinated as a threat to society – turning neighbor against neighbor - to the point that a growing number of people on the Left are actually advocating for withholding medical treatment from the unvaccinated. (Do we deny treatment to smokers or the obese?) In addition, the Left has convinced millions of Americans to willingly trade liberty for safety, convincing them that the government will be their caretaker. Fear has become their master and government has become their god. Will our nation accept this tyranny or will we fight for freedom? In Who or in what is your trust?

***"Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; but we will remember the name of the Lord our God. They are brought down and fallen; but we are risen, and stand upright. Save, Lord: let the king hear us when we call."*** Psalm 20:7-9

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# Treachery, Treason and Trust

By Steve Huston



There has been a long line of treacherous and treasonous acts that have marched forth from the party of the progressive Left; unfortunately, the RINO Right has done precious little to stop, slow down, or bring those acts to justice, and have occasionally committed nefarious acts of their own, making it very difficult to trust those in positions of authority. We must remember that our form of government is great, perhaps it's the best; but when those who occupy and influence the executive, legislative, and judicial arms either usurp rights or betray responsibilities, often at the expense of the people they are hired to protect and represent, it not only sullies our nation's reputation and puts its people at risk, it makes it to appear that our form of government is a failed and broken experiment. In reality, the established government (Constitution) is a success; it's the broken people who have taken advantage of their positions that have failed. Without true justice and the removal of those who abuse their positions for personal or anti-American agendas, the great experiment called America, known for ingenuity, self-governance, liberty, freedom, and justice for all, will continue its downward spiral into oblivion as the specter of communism sings out its siren, beckoning call.

The most recent to come to light in this long line would be Gen. Mark Milley's alleged acts of treason; which, since he has defended instead of denying and in conjunction with his other acts of treachery, seems plausible. In looking at his treacherous acts, bordering on treason, Tucker Carlson reports, "In June, in the middle of a televised congressional hearing, Milley leveled a racial attack against more than half of this country. Milley told Congress that something called White rage was a national crisis. He never proved it or even defined the term and yet still he kept his job, which says

*as much about Congress as it does about him. Then in July, we learned that Milley had suggested the U.S. military was willing to use violence against Donald Trump, who was then the sitting president. 'We're the guys with guns,' he told fellow officers. Still, Congress did nothing."*

Now we find that in his recent book, Bob Woodward reveals that General Milley undermined then President Trump - his Commander-in-Chief, held secret communications with a Chinese general - China being our greatest military rival, and no one in the chain of command knew anything about these calls.

The conversation is reported as being, "We are not going to attack or conduct any kinetic operations against you. General Li, you and I have known each other for five years. If we're going to attack, I'm going to call you ahead of time. It's not going to be a surprise." According to Woodward's book, Milley on Jan. 8 also gave senior military officials instructions to not take orders regarding military strikes or launching nuclear weapons from anyone without the chairman's approval. With all the above allegations, and more, Mr. Biden states, "I have great confidence in General Milley." How interesting that the same party that demanded the impeachment of former President Trump (twice) for having done much less has "great confidence in General Milley."

J.M. Phelps, writing for The Epoch Times, quotes LTC Robert Maginnis regarding Gen. Milley's actions, "The chairman is little more than a presidential military adviser, who is prohibited by law from exercising executive authority and does not have nuclear release authority. Milley commands nothing." Also stating, "If this entire series of events hold true, it is arguably the closest the United States has come to a military coup—and elected leaders must not rest until the country gets answers and all those involved are held to account." And "Nothing can be more important than knowing whether or not a top military official committed treason and tried to take control of America's nuclear arsenal from the former president of the United States."

Although there are many in Congress, and others, who are calling for the investigation and resignation of Gen. Milley, one can't help but ask themselves, "Will we see any real justice?" As our Republic crumbles before our eyes; as we long for righteousness and justice to return to our nation; we ask, "What can we do?"

The answer is that we must repent and cry out to God. I'm not giving a "pat" answer to pray. In Psalm 64 David starts by urging God to preserve his life **from the fear** of the enemy, then starts listing off the many ways in which the enemy is attacking—verbal and physical, even getting the idea that treachery and perhaps treason is involved. When we get to verse seven we read, "**BUT GOD!**"

God comes to David's defense. Verses 7 and 8 explain that, "But God shall shoot at them with an arrow; suddenly shall they be wounded. So they shall make their own tongue to fall upon themselves; all that see them shall flee away." God truly is our defense. God only is our Hope and that fact will truly bring us to a prayer of urgency, recognizing that He will save us from the enemy that we might not be ashamed for that which we stand. We must get to the end of ourselves, fall on our faces before God and realize He is our only real need, repent of those things which keep us from fervently calling on Him, resting in Him as we pray and continue to do right and speak the truth. Then, with patience, we wait for the "BUT GOD!" to work out in our lives and, if the Lord wills it, in our nation.

Instead of fear moving us, we must allow our trust in God to move us. Such trust will move us to pray to our Almighty God; such trust will allow us to live righteously and rejoice, even in such times as these. Trust is the antidote to fear. Regardless the state of our nation let us proclaim the truth from "sea to shining sea" that "**The righteous shall be glad in the Lord, and shall trust in him** (even as traitors surround us); **and all the upright in heart shall glory.**" (Psalm 64:10)

# What About Your School?

By Bill Johnson



The world out there is on fire on so many fronts. How can we therefore stand? We see the lies, our broken voting system, the deceit behind masking, vaccination mandates and vaccine passports, the open borders bringing in thousands of unvetted illegals (with no concern that they aren't or won't be vaccinated). We know that all of this chicanery is not ineptitude but the strategy of the enemy within and without (Marxists, communists, the Muslim Brotherhood, and the influence of Chinese money).

And, then, dear friends, there are the issues of our local schools which have so often been overlooked - at least, until recently in certain places - like the small town of Whitehall, Michigan. But as I share just a few things about their public school, may Whitehall District Schools serve as a wake-up call for you and people like you to look into the makeup of your local public school and get involved.

In brief, Whitehall District became a concern for increasing numbers of us in West Michigan when a small group of people came to several of our July meetings as we hosted film producer Michael Perkins. Michael produced American Family Association's acclaimed movie "In His Image." The 105-minute movie brings personal testimony from numerous contributors of the satanic assault by the LGBTQ agenda and particularly the transgender movement.

This burdened group of Whitehall citizens at our event shared how they began faithfully attending local school board meetings. Upon request, I attended their last meeting. Here is a brief summary: Several persons stated strongly that the school board - once regarded - had lost the confidence of the community due to its moving away from traditional curriculum and teaching meth-

odologies and now energetically implementing liberal, progressive, and socialistic ideologies including the promotion of the LGBTQ+ agenda. A couple of individuals stated that the Superintendent and school board were allowing, if not supporting, the implementation and normalization of homosexuality and transgenderism that presenters recognized as one of the stated objectives of the socialist agenda.

On April 26, 2021, High School Principal Brett Westerlund promoted a "Pride Week" sponsored by the Gay Straight Alliance. Principal Westerlund sent an e-mail to all 9th-12th grade students, including Home-school Partnership students, that contained material that promoted a viewpoint on LGBTQ and political issues.

Principal Westerlund also encouraged students to watch a video by current District employee Kristie as she talked about sexuality and identity. She said, in part, *"I never fit in with the specific female label growing up...I always wanted short hair and to wear opposite gender clothing... Often times I was forced to fit the cultural norms of gender and sexuality expression. I constantly battled these [cultural] norms, along with having to fit into a crappy [sic] little box society defined me as. Society wanted to define me as middle class; a white, female, Christian. However, as I got older, I wanted to make my own box...It's important to share our story ...As storytellers, we can break shame cycles, change the direction in which we're headed as a society, and make waves. We can rock a few boats, and raise a lot of eyebrows."*

So, to counter the force of the narrative pushed by the school district, Whitehall parents have asked to rent their school auditorium to bring Stephen Black and Laura Leigh Stanlake to West Michigan to share their stories of redemption, transformation, and freedom from the LGBT lifestyle—ALL TO THE GLORY OF GOD! Stephen and Laura played significant roles in "In His Image." The event we are proposing is called "Freedom Reclaimed." We also hope to have the parent of a former student speak specifically into the turmoil, disruption, and degradation that the leadership of Whitehall

District Schools has brought into the school system that they have been entrusted with. Despite significant efforts by caring and faithful parents and grandparents to encourage them to apologize and change direction, they foolishly and proudly continue on seemingly unfazed by expressions of concern and parents pulling their children from the school. This, under the supposed leadership of the Whitehall District Schoolboard who have been elected to represent the community they serve and to hold school administration accountable.

This is one little school district. What about your school? All across this beloved America, we are hearing of parents letting their voices be heard for the sake of their children and others. If you need our counsel or just need to discuss what's going on in your schools, please call our office. I'm ready to talk with you.

**In the mean time, we'd like to invite you to come hear the testimonies of Stephen Black and Laura Leigh Stanlake in one of the following locations.**

**Thursday, October 7, 2021:**

Whitehall, Michigan  
(Location and time to be announced)

**Friday, October 8, 2021:**

6:30 PM – 9 PM  
Oakhill EPC  
1930 Leonard NE, Grand Rapids, 49505

**Saturday, October 9, 2021:**

9 AM – Noon  
American Decency Building  
203 E. Main St. Fremont, 49412

**Sunday, October 10, 2021:**

11:00 - 11:45 AM  
Dutton URC  
6950 Hanna Lake Ave SE, Caledonia,  
49316

To learn more about these presenters, you can visit their ministry website at [firststone.org](http://firststone.org). For more information about the conference call 231-924-4050.

# Human Rights in America ...

By Steve Huston



We have often read and heard, with abject horror, about the conditions of political prisoners in China, the Soviet Union, and other places around the globe. When the Constitution was firmly in place, Americans could breathe a prayer of thanks to the God of heaven and sigh with relief that such things could not, and would not, happen here in the land of the free and the home of the brave. That was then; this is now.

We now live in a nation where our Constitution, the law of the land, is nearly on life-support as we see talk of vaccine passports, vaccine mandates, the tyrannical usurpation of rights by many. Meanwhile the betrayal of responsibility by others complements such tyranny - a woke military, woke education, woke corporations, woke churches. And while Obama boldly proclaimed, "Our Founders designed a system that makes it more difficult to bring about change," the Biden regime has found a way through fear mongering and the continuing Leftist way of dehumanizing those who love freedom and the Constitution, resist COVID tyranny, and believe election fraud took place.

With Biden and the DHS making out the unvaccinated to be dangerous enemies and conservative, liberty-minded Americans to be the main terror threat to our nation, is it any wonder that a new poll by Scott Rasmussen shows that 57% of Democratic voters believe Donald Trump supporters are a serious threat to the nation and that 56% consider the unvaccinated a greater threat to America than the Taliban, China, or Russia. On the other hand, Republicans and Independents see the Taliban, China, and Defund the Police activists as America's greatest threats.

How did we get here? When should we have stood strongly, united, and not backed down? Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, in The

GULAG Archipelago, asks, "At what point, then, should one resist? When one's belt is taken away? When one is ordered to face into a corner? When one crosses the threshold of one's home?" He continues, "An arrest consists of a series of incidental irrelevancies, of a multitude of things that do not matter, and there seems no point in arguing about any one of them individually - especially at a time when the thoughts of the person arrested are wrapped tightly about the big question: 'What for?'"

When the belt (our Constitution), that which is meant to hold us together, keep our privacy intact, and protect our liberties, was loosed, we should have firmly said, "NO! If it's outside your enumerated powers, HANDS OFF! We will not be undressed, even by well-meaning tyranny."

Instead, the lullaby of profit, peace, and protection lulled many into a hypnotic rest; little by little our belt removed, until it could be used as a political noose. Each of us could pick a point in history where we could say, "That's a notch too far." Reader, **the first notch**, whatever it was, was one notch too far.

Now with the implementation of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Patriot Act, both unleashed from the constitutional bounds meant to protect its citizens, the Left's dehumanizing any who are not in agreement with them, and the redefining of what a terrorist is, no one is safe, secure, or truly free. **When one of our constitutionally protected God-given rights is in jeopardy, all our God-given rights are in jeopardy; when one American's Constitutional rights are violated, we are all violated.**

We have American political prisoners/detainees that were at the January 6<sup>th</sup> protest. Why aren't violent domestic terror groups like Antifa or Black Lives Matter (both Communist groups) detained in like manner or have DHS domestic terrorist warnings issued about them? Here are two of many reprehensible examples of human rights in America that were shared at the recent Justice for J6 rally.

"Last night for dinner they were served four pieces of white bread, a cookie, and a packet of tartar sauce."

"I just got off the phone after speaking to my son. He's a January 6 detainee in the gulag of D.C. Over the months I have heard of the horrors these U.S. citizens and veterans are being subjected to. ...He told me he's not allowed to shave or cut his hair. It's been seven months now with no shave or haircut. As a veteran he's supposed to be meeting with a veteran representative weekly; he has yet to meet with one. How could our country treat its citizens and veterans in such a manner? As a mother, my heart is broken. I'm frankly losing confidence in our great nation. Initially he was granted bail [redacted], only to have it overruled by a judge in D.C. This judge made a statement that she wants all federal judges to be hard on the insurrectionists. How is this allowed? He's not being charged with any violent crime. He's lost his job, lost friends, family, and is in the process of losing his home. He's denied visits from family. These jailers treat these men like scum. ... This reminds me of how the Jewish people were treated by the Nazis. I never thought I would live to see such treatment in the United States....a concerned mother."

If you are a Christian, remember, **we live in an earthly kingdom but belong to a heavenly one. We are sifted here by trials, troubles, and tribulations.** Such sifting serves a divine and temporal service and the sifting is likely to become more violent. As Spurgeon wrote, "Thus is the chaff severed from the wheat. Thus is the wheat delivered from the dust and chaff. And how great is the mercy which comes to us in the text, 'yet shall not the least grain fall upon the earth'! All shall be preserved that is good, true, gracious. Not one of the least of believers shall be lost, neither shall any believer lose anything worth calling a loss. We shall be so kept in the sifting that it shall be a real gain to us through Christ Jesus."

Reader, may I remind you that as Jesus prayed for Peter before his time of sifting; so has our loving Saviour prayed for us in His high priestly prayer of John 17.

# Democrats Bury the Border Crisis Under a Pile of Manure

By Lisa Van Houten



As thousands of illegal immigrants pour over our southern border, the Left is finally expressing outrage. Using adjectives such as “horrific” and “horrible,” Democrats raced to the microphones to condemn images coming from Del Rio, Texas. So, what caused their moral outrage? Was it the image of literally thousands of illegal migrants wading across the river into the United States? Was it the drone footage of 15,000 Haitians crowding under a bridge in nearly 100 degree heat with no sanitation and not enough food or water? Was it the commonplace rape of young girls during the march north and within migrant encampments? How about the flood of fentanyl, gang members, violent criminals, and known terrorists coming into our country, putting U.S. citizens at risk? No, none of these concerns were what the Democrats vehemently decried.

The object of their indignation were pictures of border patrol agents on horseback doing their jobs. Democrats pounced on images of border patrol agents twirling their horse reins, claiming they were whips used against Haitian migrants. Sen. Jeff Merkley [D] tweeted, “*Use of whips on refugees? Disturbing and unacceptable. This must end immediately.*” VP Kamala Harris, our “Border Czar,” stated: “*What I saw depicted about those individuals on horseback treating human beings the way they were, was horrible.*”

It would be horrible if it were true. But it’s not true and the Democrats knew it. Anyone with commonsense would know it. Art Del Cueto VP of the Border Patrol Council explained: “*They were not whipping anyone. ... What they do is a training technique that has been shown to them to make sure that no one takes over their horse. It was to protect the horse, to protect the rider, and to protect the individual that*

*was trying to cause chaos. ...*” And the photographer who took the picture in question said that the agents never whipped anyone, and that “some of the Haitian men started running, trying to go around the horses.”

DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas and Border Patrol Chief Raul Ortiz both said that they did not see anything wrong with the images. Obviously Mayorkas didn’t get the Democrat memo, because the next day he condemned the images, saying he was “horrified” by the actions of his agents.

The Biden administration and mainstream media haven’t paid any attention to the border crisis until they could find someone to blame – a white guy on a horse. Once again, Democrats condemned law enforcement officials for doing their job – in this case, trying to prevent people from entering our country illegally. It’s no different that a law enforcement officer pursuing any perpetrator for breaking and entering. **But Leftists don’t care about enforcing the law, they only care about advancing their narrative – that America is an inherently racist country.** So, we saw Democrats such as Maxine Waters claiming the images were worse than slavery! Yes, she actually compared the truly horrid stain of slavery from our nation’s past to an image of a border agent twirling his reins. They don’t care about truth; they don’t care about the rule of law or the American people; they don’t even care about the suffering and plight of these thousands of migrants - they are only useful tools in the Democrats’ quest for perpetual control and transformation of our nation.

In spite of the facts, Democrats continued to divert attention away from the border crisis of their own making, by doubling down on these overworked and understaffed border agents who are just trying to do their jobs in an overwhelming situation. On Sept. 24, Biden stated of these agents: “***I promise you, those people will pay. ... There will be consequences.***” This attack upon honorable law enforcement officers, as a scapegoat to distract from the out-of-control crisis created by his own disastrous open border policies, is truly unconsciona-

ble! Biden has no qualms about ruining their careers and reputations just so he can shift blame away from himself.

Not only have these officers already been relieved of their duty, the administration has now banned the use of horses for border patrol, which will only hamper the agents from doing their job, since much of the rough terrain they’re patrolling is not accessible by ATVs. This is just another example that proves the Biden administration is only concerned about optics and advancing their narrative, not about controlling the crisis they created at the border.

And this is truly a crisis. By the end of the year, it’s estimated that at least 1.6 million illegals will have entered our country. That’s more people than the populations of Delaware and Vermont combined! And that doesn’t include those who entered without being apprehended. And have you wondered why all of a sudden there are 15,000 Haitians flooding Texas with thousands more reportedly coming? It’s a direct result of Biden announcing on September 8 that the U.S. will no longer deport Haitian illegal immigrants. Of the 15,000 Haitians, 10,000 have already been released into the interior of the United States. Where are all of these people going? How may have Covid? How many are criminals? No one knows, because the Biden administration doesn’t tell us. Most are put on busses or planes with just a “notice to report” to an immigration office withing 60 days. I wonder how many are doing that?

This is all a ploy of the Left to import as many people as possible into the country illegally, who, they hope, will be future Democratic voters when Democrats ram through legislation to grant citizenship to illegal immigrants.

Those concerned about illegal immigration are often accused of being unloving. As Christians we should be concerned about the plight of others, showing compassion and care for the impoverished. We should be deeply burdened for their salvation. But we can also be concerned about the welfare of our nation and the rule of law. It’s not either or.