

## Sliding Into The Unthinkable

By Bill Johnson



When I drive the expressways, I see a lawlessness that I never witnessed before. Men AND women speeding 15 and 20 and 30 miles over the speed limit. It is amazing that there aren't more death-related accidents. Little concern for others that are just a half-length behind as they tailgate waiting for that extra two feet so they accelerate to the opening - giving little thought to what could happen if someone blew a tire or had a momentary lapse of attention.

We are beginning to see various Christian and non-Christian thinkers, pundits, columnists writing/speaking much more in regard to serious concerns about the radical transformation of our nation, i.e. the future of America as it pertains to freedom, the assault upon our schools, the decline of Biblical Christianity, even down to the level of ignoring traffic laws.

I recall a 1985 article that reported a legal decision that police in filing a report on automobile accidents were to investigate and report whether the drivers were under the influence of alcohol. It was a victory for "Mothers Against Drunk Driving." They recognized that such reporting would "bring it home" to America that drinking and driving is LIFE THREATENING. Our hope was that one day we, in the anti-pornography fight, would see a federal law that would require law enforcement to file reports upon their examination of whether in

cases of rape, molestation, and sex crimes pornography was found at the scene of the crime. Why? Because purveyors of pornography wanted to keep the narrative of "pornography as a victimless crime." That was 1985.

Recently, we unleashed our new website at: <https://americandecency.org> Our website developers helped us with our burden to have a website that would reveal God's faithfulness to this ministry since 1985. The search engine quickly scans through thousands of items.

As you explore its depths, you will be reminded of the nature of the spiritual fight in which our country has been engaged for many years in the past and now collectively we face.

Now we are in a day of advancing wickedness/reprobation. Case in point: Dr. Erwin Lutzer writes in his book: **The Church in Babylon** of just one indicator. Quoting: *The June 2015 Chicago Magazine article "The Change Agent" highlights a doctor who helps his clients switch sexes. These clients range in age from 18 to as young as four. Rob Garofalo admits, "There haven't been many studies on the long term effects of estrogen on young people ... there's so much we don't know yet." Even though there is still 'so much to know', this doctor, and others like him, are preparing to muti-*

*late the bodies of children in the attempt to make them 'who they really are.'* Truly the unthinkable, or is it? It is not!

Since our beginnings, our mission has been to set a marker - to oppose that which God hates and to love what He loves; that *Holiness IS God's Desire for His people*. As our new website will show, we have had many victories. Then came the successful monitoring of the Howard Stern Radio Show where we drove him off terrestrial radio (with over 15,000 advertisers discontinuing sponsoring the Stern Show). Still, he continues on Sirius Radio showing us that even our largest victories fall short of total victory in a fallen world.

Indeed, there are signs that God has removed His protective hand - allowing our nation to experience natural consequences for our sin: abortion; same-sex marriage; blatant disobedience to God's Word; LGBTQ; the corruption of the federal government at nearly every level; the fraudulence of our voting system; corporate America's support of Black Lives Matters (BLM) hastening along BLM in its efforts to destroy America from within (Critical Race Theory, communism); the secularization of our children.

**HIS SHEEP HEAR HIS VOICE. FOLLOW HIM!** Is the unthinkable about to happen?

## Personal Note from the President



Dear friends, I recognize that my front page article is pretty hard hit. I know that as we approach the Christmas season that it is much more "politically correct" to be jolly. I also want you to know that I am writing a little more personally as we close out this year because I/we genuinely care so much about you. This has been a very difficult year for many of us. The battlelines have been drawn and we are no longer able just to surmise that all is going to go well because it always has.

As I mentioned on the front page, I sincerely hope that you will check out our new web page <https://americandecency.org>

**Here's why.** The search engine covers perhaps at least half of our work history. In the search engine, if you go to [mission history](#) you will see a list of spiritual fights that we fought going back to 1985. The list goes up to 2015. I hope to bring it up-to-date as things settle down. Many of you that have been with me for a long time and will appreciate our longevity and our rich history of grassroots, faithful day in and day out activity.

For many years Rev. Donald Wildmon, American Family Association's Founder and President, was known for being able to see ahead 10 years. Not that he was able to forecast the particulars of what evil would come next, but that he had a way of preparing those around him spiritually at least to some degree. The best that I can do is try to give you my best counsel on what God has shown me in His service since 1985. God has kept us close to Him; He has taught, guided, disciplined and kept us in His care.

I write because I'm concerned for all of us as we close out 2021 and very shortly roll into another year.

### Here are some points that I would like to make.

1. We have been an incredibly blessed nation. We have been spoiled. We have been entertained - overly entertained. The exact movie we want, right at the finger tips (with often little discernment), the hamburger wasn't done just the way it was desired - "ketchup and mustard hold the pickle." Give the burger back at the drive through because it wasn't done just right. The steak needed to be a little more done - I'm saying to excess. We have become accustomed to getting what we want, when we want it.

2. Back in 1978, just to choose a year, church attendance was yet very strong with a morning and an evening service in many parts of the country. There was a Wednesday night prayer meeting at many churches. Now there are very few churches that even have an evening service. Even fewer have a prayer meeting. America's churches are in decline.

3. I saw an article a few years ago that I have also heard quoted. It read American Christianity is 2000 miles wide and a 16th inch deep. You've likely heard the statement "As the church goes, so goes the family. As the family goes, so goes the country."

4. There are some people that are on the frontlines battling against voter fraud at their local precinct level or even statewide - very engaged. Others may be volunteering in some leadership capacity to bring much needed change at their local school - attending board meeting and reporting and praying and seeking to build relationship with leadership and seeking to be understood to bring much needed change. There are so many other fronts in which to be engaged, but many Christians have retreated.

5. Understanding the times in order to know what to do. There are so many who are clueless at how fragile our nation finds itself right now. Our newsletters are deeply appreciated by so many of you and we know that because you tell us by email, note, and verbally. We dig deep and we pray and discuss throughout the month leading up to writing them. These articles in this newsletter are prayed through and are very

serious!! And, as many of you say, often loved ones go on oblivious to what is occurring. We write as we do because the times have gotten very, very serious - like nothing most of us have never seen. We need to be turning to God.

6. We urge you to draw closer to God! One of the things that God showed me back when I was in a spiritual fight to get freed from pornography was to SEEK GOD. Get serious. This is not a little game we are playing here. We are talking about our God! He wants our hearts. He wants our lives. He wants our obedience. He wants us to experience true fellowship with Him in Spirit and in Truth. He wants us to mend our marriages (if they need mending). He wants us to want to get right with Him, with our children, our families. He wants us to become involved with a Bible-believing church where Christ is proclaimed faithfully - where sin is preached against and the Word is preached accurately.

7. We urge you to understand that as we see inflation, gas prices soaring, vaccination mandates being enforced, China asserting its global threat both economically and militarily, etc., there will be ripple effects all across the world. We and our loved ones must be prepared and stay strong in the Lord.

I encourage you to learn how to fellowship with the Lord. Start with reading a chapter a day. What is it saying to you? Then pray and ask God to lead you and strengthen you to be faithful to Him in daily devotions. We will all face hardship and difficulties. There is no better way than to have Christ anchoring you - come what may. Share with others. Help your kids/grandkids to see that you are finding help in God and in His Word. If you would like to have a few others suggestions, I sure hope you'll call me at 231-924-4050 or email me at [bjohnson@americandecency.org](mailto:bjohnson@americandecency.org)

Lastly, thank you for helping us to keep on in His ministry - in His Glorious Name! Merry Christmas to each of you!

# What If?

By Steve Huston



The theme of this month's newsletter is "sliding into the unthinkable;" as one looks around our country, doesn't that describe where we've gone over the last two years—into the unthinkable? The "what ifs" placed before the reader in this article will delve even further into the unthinkable, the unimaginable, the impossible; some of it will seem like conspiracy while the parts left for another time will seem like apocalyptic science fiction.

There isn't room to cover everything; **one must do their own research**, keep their eyes open to current and upcoming trends as we see the push for globalism, technocracy, digital currency, vaccine passports, social credit scores, a massive push for jabbing every man, woman, and child with an experimental gene therapy that promises neither protection from the virus nor keeping one from spreading it. As you do your own research and read of the unthinkable below, do some critical thinking and ask yourself, "**What if** any of these unthinkable things are true?"

One must first ask, "How did we get here, where does 'here' lead to, and would the American government purposely mislead its people?"

There are many people throughout the ages who speak of "false flags" and the ability to easily move a people to a government's desired target; perhaps none more concisely than Nazi leader Hermann Goering. "...it is always a simple matter to drag the people along, whether it is a democracy, or a fascist dictatorship, or a parliament, or a communist dictatorship... Voice or no voice, the people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. That is easy. **All you have to do is to tell them they are being attacked, and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger.**

*It works the same in any country."*

The McAlvany Intelligence Advisor (11/21) states, "False flag' operations are usually undertaken to get the public so emotionally stirred up, enraged, or fearful that they will support some government action...that they would have otherwise strongly opposed. Discerning people should ask two questions after every major terrorist attack: 1) Was this a 'false flag' attack – designed to elicit a certain desired reaction (or response) from the people or government or to advance a particular group or government's agenda? And 2) Who had the most to gain from this event – who had the strongest motive? And who had the most to lose?"

**What if** COVID-19 was a false flag event meant to get people to willingly give up their freedoms, follow mandates that were meant to hurt the economy, and lead people to get branded like cattle with a digital health passport and all that it entails. This is not to deny the existence of the COVID virus; but rather, question its severity as compared to influenza and the ways in which reporting was done and how governments responded to it.

**Dr. Mike Yeadon** has a strong resume that accompanies his strong statements on COVID-19, the ways in which it was handled, and the experimental gene therapy (aka "vaccination") that is being pushed upon the unsuspecting peoples of the world. (<https://rumble.com/vk894g-dr-michael-yeadon-a-final-warning-to-humanity.html>) A small portion of his resume includes having a "first degree in biochemistry and toxicology, a research-based PHD in respiratory pharmacology, working 32 years mostly in Big Pharmaceutical companies." His last job in Big Pharma was vice-president and chief scientist of allergy and respiratory research, leaving Pfizer in 2011. He's a professional scientist, and like many of those who speak out, he receives nothing for speaking out except criticism, social isolation from his peers, and has lost work.

He warns several times that our governments have been lying to us, the measures taken to combat COVID are not based in

science or in the history of controlling epidemics, they don't work but are being used to control and cause fear, he gives a strong warning AGAINST vaccine passports and that "top up vaccines" (boosters) are not only unnecessary but have some nefarious purpose behind them. He asks why one would take a chance on their health with these "vaccines," not knowing their effects in the future and knowing some of the current complications. **What if** this scientist who has put everything on the line is right? "*You don't need to be vaccinated by inadequately tested and somewhat dangerous gene-based, spike protein inducing proteins, and you don't need to do what you're told by corrupt scientists who are apparently advising our government... I believe if we get to a point of a so-called vaccine passport I think we will have lost the chance to take it (freedom and normalcy) back and you will regret it.*" He warns, "We are standing at the very gates of hell."

When speaking of variants and boosters this former Pfizer scientist is very clear. "When your government scientists tell you that a variant that is 0.3% different from SARS can masquerade as a new virus and be a threat to your health, you should know, and I'm telling you, they are lying. If they're lying, and they are, why is the pharmaceutical industry making top up vaccines? They are making them; you should be terrified at this point, as I am, because there's absolutely no possible justification for their manufacture. But they're being made and the world's medicines regulators have said because they are quite similar to the original vaccines—the ones that are being given now—we won't be asking them to be doing any clinical safety studies...I'm very frightened of that. There's no possible benign interpretation of this; I believe that they'll be used to damage your health and possibly kill you. Seriously, I can see no sensible interpretation other than a serious attempt at mass depopulation. This will provide the tools to do it and plausible deniability because they'll create another story about some sort of biological threat and you'll line up and get your top up vaccines, and a few months or a year later you'll die of some peculiar inexplica-

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## What If?

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ble syndrome and they won't be able to associate it with the top up vaccines."

While writing this article there have been several others that add to my concern, making me ask myself other "what if" questions. 1) [www.andmagazine.com](http://www.andmagazine.com) has an article called [Biden Will Make You Take The Jab-Even If It Kills You](#), that addresses each of the "vaccines" issues of safety. And 2) [www.technocracy.news](http://www.technocracy.news) shared [Technocrats Move Goal Posts, Now Require Boosters For Life](#), showing the constant state of flux as the CDC, WHO, and others change definitions and requirements in order to gain mass control and push their agenda. "...the rising biosecurity state is attempting to change your perception of what's true and what is false. In the process, they're perverting science into something ruled by faith, speculation and biased opinion. The dangers of that are incalculable."

We've often asked, after looking at the data and seeing that this virus is only slightly worse than influenza and recognizing that this virus holds an almost nonexistent danger to children and those who are under retirement age, why is it necessary to put this experimental gene-therapy into every man, woman, and child? **What if** there's a global plan for depopulation or something worse?

Regardless the "what ifs," we must set our focus on the "**BUT God!**" for that is the controlling factor. As things continue, that will likely take the breath of Americans away; we must approach each one with an open mind, open eyes, and an open Bible. This will help us to be discerning and make wise choices. Above all, remember that God is sovereign; regardless the globalist agenda or any country's national agenda, **GOD IS IN CONTROL!** That being the case, ask yourself, "**What if** God is in control?"

## A Supreme Decision: pray that Roe will be made right

By Lisa Van Houten



December 1 is the moment for which pro-life Americans have been praying for and working towards for nearly 50 years – the Supreme Court will hear a case that could overturn Roe v. Wade. In 1973 the U.S. Supreme Court unconstitutionally invented out of thin air a so-called "right" to abortion. Since then, over 60 million babies have been murdered in the womb. With the invention of the ultrasound, pro-abortionists can no longer claim that an unborn baby is "just a clump of tissue." As parents joyously post images and video of their unborn babies, we see their features and watch them move. But we didn't need ultrasound to affirm that; God's Word tells us that He knit together each of these image bearers; and it was a fetus who was the first to rejoice at the incarnation of Christ as he leapt within his mother's womb. Yet in America, a sea turtle egg has more legal protection than an unborn human being.

The case before the Supreme Court is *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, in which the abortion industry is challenging a Mississippi law that bans abortion after 15 weeks of pregnancy. *Dobbs* is a direct challenge to Roe v. Wade and is considered the best opportunity we'll have to overturn that judicial fiat which has no constitutional foundation. Even the president of the pro-abortion Center for Reproductive Rights acknowledges that, stating: "*The court cannot uphold this law in Mississippi without overturning Roe's core holding.*" However, if the Supreme Court punts on this issue and upholds Roe, it could easily be decades before we have such an opportunity again. If Roe is overturned, it doesn't mean that abortion would become illegal across the nation; rather it would be sent back to the states where it was before Roe. The pro-life movement would then face new challenges to pass strong anti-abortion laws in every state; but

at least then the federal courts couldn't overrule the will of the people. That's great news for the unborn in Michigan, which is the only state in the nation that still has a complete ban of abortion on the books. That law, dating back to 1846, was never rescinded; however Roe currently supersedes it. If Roe is reversed, that 1846 law can go back into effect!

For decades, pro-lifers have voted for wishy-washy establishment Republicans with the quest of someday having enough justices who would rule according to the text of the Constitution so that the wrong-headed and evil decision of Roe would be made right. We now supposedly have that conservative court; yet recent alarming decisions by so-called conservative justices give great reason to worry that they will not have the courage to do what is right – both morally and constitutionally. Amy Coney-Barrett, who was supposed to be the next Scalia, has been a huge disappointment to the conservative movement. She along with Brett Kavanaugh, have shocked those of us on the right by ruling wrongly on clear constitutional issues, such as upholding religious liberty and religious exemptions to vaccine mandates. Will they again cave to pressure from the left or will they follow the Constitution?

Proverbs 21:1 says: "*The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.*" **In the days ahead – and especially on December 1 - I urge you to commit to praying fervently that God will turn the hearts of the Supreme Court justices to rule courageously and rightly - and that one day soon the bloodshed of the unborn would end.**

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# A Vision of the Future?

By Chris Johnson



Recently, Mark Zuckerberg, the founder of Facebook, announced the company's plan to switch focus – and their name. Hence forth, Facebook's parent company will be known as Meta and their vision is to build the tracks that the next iteration of the internet train will run on. In a thorough hour and seventeen minute presentation, Zuckerberg demonstrated not only what they believe the internet is growing into, but how his company is developing the hardware needed to make it happen.

Meta envisions a future where, rather than grabbing our phones or laptops to join a meeting where members' faces are on a grid on our screens, we would don a Virtual Reality headset that would place us in the same room as those in the meeting, virtually, as if you were seated at a conference table with them. Rather than visiting a website, we would visit a company's virtual space, like a storefront or information booth. Rather than scrolling through information with a mouse or our finger on a touch screen, we might ask a virtual assistant that was standing right in front of us virtually, interacting with us like another human. All of this would happen without ever leaving our seats, as we directed a virtual avatar of our own design through the virtual spaces, with hardware developed by Meta.

The avatar would be a completely customizable virtual body, in whatever form you wanted it to be in at any given time. It might look exactly like you, or it might look like a robot, as portrayed in Zuckerberg's presentation. Your avatar's function for others' would be like your profile picture, they would see it and interact with it knowing it is really you, but with a full body that moves through virtual space and interacts with virtual objects.

The hardware that Meta is working on in-

cludes not only Virtual Reality headsets, but gloves that would allow you to feel as if you were holding objects, bracelets with sensors that read signals in your wrists that could be used to manipulate virtual space, artificial intelligence that would give options that you could assent to or deny with subtle body or eye movements, cameras that map a room in order to render it into a virtual space, and more.

As you can see, what Zuckerberg and Meta are envisioning would be an astounding technological leap. And, lest you think this is one crazy billionaire's pet project, just days after the Meta announcement Microsoft also announced they were getting into the metaverse building business as well.

If you're like me, this vision of the future brings to mind countless books, movies, and stories. Though often prescient, past story tellers couldn't even imagine the technology of our day. Where might we be 20 years from now? Who can tell how accurate Zuckerberg's vision might be?

Every technological leap, at least as they pertain to transferring information, brings out concerns from the generation forced to adapt to it – and not without reason.

I, for one, am of the unpopular opinion that humanity as a whole would be better off without the internet at all, in spite of the obvious benefits it has brought.

I invite you to think with me through some of the implications to society of the metaverse as Zuckerberg envisions it.

To start, let me take you back to 2005, when the massively popular online role playing game World of Warcraft was in its heyday. It was about this time that internet speed and availability had begun to allow for video games to be played online and with people from all around the world, which made them both incredibly popular and incredibly addictive.

In 2005, a couple in South Korea were charged with the death of their baby daughter, after she suffocated when they left her by herself for five hours while they were at an internet café playing World of Warcraft.

Then, in 2011, a New Mexico mother was sentenced to prison for 25 years after she allowed her 3 year old daughter to starve to death do to her gaming habits. In 2013, an Idaho woman lost custody of her children because of her neglect of them while playing the same game and a similar story comes out of California in 2015.

My point is not that video games or that game in particular are inherently wicked. I don't think that they are, but when the majority of those who play these games are not being disciplined in the fruit of the Spirit, i.e. SELF CONTROL, they can and do take a disproportionate amount of attention, sometimes, as in these extreme examples, with deadly consequence. How much more so, when a player is not just observing the game on a screen, but is actually immersed in it? Could teenagers get PTSD from an immersive first person shooter that feels like you're actually holding a real weapon and killing real people? What will be the motivation to create a real family when a virtual family can be conjured up in simulation? What will be the motivation to do ANYTHING?

Which brings up another point – as we approach Thanksgiving this year, we're seeing food prices rise and availability dry up. We're given inflation as one reason, and a broken supply chain as another as transportation costs rise and government checks incentivize potential employees to stay home.

Meanwhile, Meta sees a future where people work in the metaverse, meeting in virtual meeting rooms, sitting at virtual desks, creating virtual products.

So who's going to want to drive the trucks? Who's going to want to grow the food? Who's going to want to fix the toilets? As time and attention are divided between the real world and the Utopian virtual world, which will be prioritized?

If you've seen the movie Wall-E, it gives a glimpse of this future. Humanity is too heavy to walk on its own legs. People are given constant comfort slurping sugary drinks, riding hovering lazy boys, eyes glued to screens, as robots do all of their

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# Preparing to be Protected from Propaganda

By Steve Huston



Each of us needs to be able to identify propaganda when we see it or hear it. Perhaps more importantly, we must recognize that our children have been, at least to some extent, educated in propaganda and trained to accept certain forms of propaganda through entertainment and media. The Epoch Times recently ran an article entitled, Teaching Children to Recognize Propaganda, in which Annie Holmquist writes, “Given the accelerated rate of deception in society, it now seems clear that schools indeed didn’t prepare children to recognize propaganda; instead, they were the ones that fed propaganda to children hook, line, and sinker.”

It’s likely that most educators did so unknowingly, trusting both the curriculum and the training they received to the same extent that most parents trusted the schools to which they were sending their children. It’s lamentable that many are victims of propaganda but even more so that the many were neither taught to think critically nor to be discerning. **Where we once held to a foundation of absolute truth which kept our moral compass aligned and our thinking grounded, many now believe that truth is relative at best, some even believing that there is no truth, and that there is no morality except that which makes one feel good.** Such undermining and erosion leaves a nation, society, church, and culture vulnerable to attack and ripe for destruction.

The Bible says as much in, “**Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.**” It’s obvious from the whole of the verse that the “vision” spoken of here is the absolute truth of God’s Word. If we are willing and obedient to align with truth—holding it and protecting it—we are blessed and happy. If we refuse and rebel against that which God has stated as truth and commanded to do, we will perish. Many churches (and parents) have

taught their children to be moral, but how many have taught their children, teens, and young adults how to defend the truth (apologetics) and how to protect their minds from falsehood by holding the truth as a precious treasure to obey and proclaim, protecting it in their own minds as well as the mind of society? (To “keep” means to protect and guard.)

Before we look at ways to protect oneself and one’s children from propaganda, it’s important to define what propaganda is. According to Merriam Webster’s online dictionary, propaganda is “*ideas or statements that are often false or exaggerated and that are spread in order to help a cause, a political leader, a government, etc.*” I would include name-calling in the area of ideas. Using name-calling as a means of propaganda works to both shame the opposition into silence and to attempt to steal the opposition’s credibility, which helps to keep both sides of an issue from being presented. After all, who wants to either be accused of or listen to a deplorable, dreg of society, or any number of –phobes (homophobe, Islamophobe, etc)?

How do we help our children (and ourselves) to identify falsehood and protect ourselves from propaganda **coming from the Left and the Right**? How do we prepare ourselves to cling to truth? I can think of a few ways.

**First**, build the rare art of **critical thinking** in your children by helping them to examine both sides of an argument. Whether the issue is a stolen election; the safety or efficacy of the COVID vaccine, masks or lockdowns; communism vs. capitalism; social justice; critical race theory (CRT); evolution vs. creationism; the “green new deal;” even name-calling or a host of other issues that are pressed upon us these days - research both sides, THINK, don’t forget common sense, and don’t just write someone off because of their political party, what others are saying, or from fear. As Annie Holmquist wrote, “*Knowing what the opposition is saying will strengthen your own arguments and make it more difficult for people to accuse you or your children of being narrow-minded.*”

**Second**, when I was in school we were taught to **look for logical fallacies**, for they seemingly abound everywhere and are used by many. It’s important to recognize bad reasoning both so we are not easily led astray and so that we can build better and stronger arguments in support of truth. A great and fun resource for this is one that we have used with our own children—The Fallacy Detective by Nathaniel and Hans Blue-dorn. Be warned, after they have learned these skills you are likely to hear “fallacy!” or “straw man!” or some other term thrown out in response to bad reasoning. (You’ll be glad of it!)

**Third**, know, teach your children about, and **learn from true history!** Explore past efforts of communism/socialism around the world and in your own country. Was President Trump correct in stating, “*From the Soviet Union to Cuba to Venezuela, wherever true socialism or communism has been adopted, it has delivered anguish and devastation and failure,*” and “*Those who preach the tenets of these discredited ideologies only contribute to the continued suffering of the people who live under these cruel systems?*” Or was it propaganda? Look at China both pre-CCP (Chinese Communist Party), during the beginnings of the CCP takeover, and post-CCP; how did the individual citizens fare during these eras in China? When looking at America’s history we cannot deny that there are stains and blemishes in it; but look also at the much good from our history and the trending paths that were being lived out. To take one portion of any history and put it under a microscope, divorcing it from other events, gives a skewed and propagandized view.

**Fourth**, encourage your children to **read books that glean wisdom from ages past.** Give them books that lay down a foundation of traditional healthy moral values and that build strong character. By filling their heart and mind with truth they are more likely to recognize and reject propaganda. A few of my family’s favorites are books (and audio dramas of those books) from Lamplighter Publishing, R.M. Ballantyne for boys, and Isabella Alden (Pansy) for girls.

**Finally and foremost, recognize the Bible**  
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## Preparing to be Protected from Propaganda



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**as the foundation of ALL truth.** Dennis F. Kinlaw wrote, *“The Scriptures say that God is the source of all truth. If we turn away from truth, we will end in illusion or delusion because only truth is reality. When we walk away from truth, we lose reality and are destroyed by delusion.”* The whole of the Bible is instructive in truth and wisdom (putting truth into practice). The Proverbs particularly speaks to the whole of life in practical terms. There are thirty-one chapters in the book of Proverbs and many of our months have thirty-one days. My youngest daughter has been reading through the book of Proverbs each month for some time now, in addition to her other Bible reading. This, with prayer, can help us to recognize and combat propaganda.

Bible study helps to build discernment. Humbling oneself and prayer and seeking God’s face adds to one’s strength, helping us to recognize and dismiss propaganda. Repentance is the highest form of humility and puts us in a position to become even more discerning.

**Oh Lord, in a world filled with propaganda and deception help us to see YOU—the Way, the Truth, and the Life. May we allow Your Word to be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. For Your glory help us to be beacons of truth, helping others to side-step Satan’s deceptions by Your grace. Amen.**

## A Vision of the Future? (Continued from Page 5)



work for them. But, at least in Wall-E they were still consciously present in the real world.

The fact is that, no matter the flowery picture Zuckerberg paints of the future, the hardware his company is actually busy developing right now is making possible the ideas presented in the sci-fi stories that have seemed so far-fetched. Is humanity bound for a future as portrayed in the Matrix?

To answer, let me give you this glimpse of the metaverse, as reported in the BBC, *“Based on the idea of a virtual world called the Metaverse, put forward in Neal Stephenson’s cyberpunk novel Snow Crash, [Meta] allows people to do what they do in the real world without leaving their chair.*

*People meet, chat, dance and socialise. You can attend lectures, gamble and inevitably have sex.*

*Residents can also make and sell goods in exchange for the world’s currency, the [Libra,] which has an exchange rate with the US dollar.”*

*“...In [Meta], sports manufacturers Adidas and Reebok sell virtual training shoes in the world, Toyota and Nissan sell virtual cars while Starwood Hotels, owner of the Westin and Sheraton chains, test out their new hotels in the world.*

*“Others are also taking note. The BBC has rented an island in the world to stage live music events, while the Reuters’ news agency now has a permanent [Meta] reporter...”*

Now, I’ve played a little bit of a bait and switch on you. In the brackets above, I’ve replaced the words ‘Second Life’ with ‘Meta’ in snippets from a BBC article from 2006. Second Life was the original meta-

verse, and it actually predated Facebook by about a year. In my research, I found forums with users arguing which would be more successful, Facebook or Second Life, and one prescient user predicted way back in 2011 that someday, Facebook would create its own 3D world.

As you can see, Second Life has not taken over the world. Granted, its graphics have not kept up with current standards, but that’s doubtless in part because they have not been financially successful enough to do those kinds of updates due to not having enough users. Regardless, major companies have bought advertising space in the Second Life “grid” as they call it, assuming then, as now, that that was where the future was headed. People have made millions of real dollars selling real estate in the virtual world.

In Zuckerberg’s presentation, in fact, much of it looked familiar to those with a tangential relationship to video gaming. The avatars mostly looked like the avatars introduced over a decade ago on the Nintendo Wii, and the meeting rooms looked like what has been available in the Oculus VR headsets for at least five years. Yet humanity has not streaked to this technology.

In fact I would say that Facebook’s shift to the metaverse is a huge gamble that, with a new generation of hardware and connectivity (5G), they can convince consumers to embrace opportunities that have been available for years.

Time will tell, of course, but regardless, as technology advances, so does the wicked imagination of humanity. Christians need to ground themselves in the timeless truths of scripture that will inevitably be raised: Is it adultery if it’s with a virtual woman? If your avatar in a video game is covered in the virtual blood of your opponent, you can feel a virtual knife in your Meta glove-fitted hand, and you’re experiencing the same adrenaline rush as someone who commits a vengeful murder in the real world, is that sinful?

These are the types of questions this technology will raise. The Bible has the answers, and Christians will need to be ready to share them.

## Stephen Black is Back!



One of the hardest-hitting satanic attacks on the church and on Scripture today is the notion that “Gay Christianity” is a valid position that should be accepted and even embraced. **Stephen Black of First Stone Ministries** addresses this deception **with truth and grace** better than any other I’ve heard. His passion for Jesus and truth is well-balanced by the grace he has received from Christ and freely passes on to others. We were blessed to have him here in October and feel doubly so to have him back with us in December. Be sure to attend one of the following meetings if at all possible.

### Wednesday, December 1

Cornerstone United Reformed Church  
6442 36th Avenue, Hudsonville  
Presentation: 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

### Thursday, December 2

Dutton URC  
6950 Hanna Lake Ave SE, Caledonia  
\* Pastor’s Luncheon: 12 – 1:00 PM  
\* General Audience: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

**If you’re a pastor and would like to attend the pastor’s luncheon, call 231-924-4050 for more information.**

### Friday, December 3

American Decency  
203 E Main Street, Fremont  
Showing “In His Image” and Q/A with  
Stephen Black and Laura Perry  
6:30 PM – 9:30 PM

Stephen’s messaging comes from Scripture, personal transformation through encountering Jesus Christ, and the freedom that comes from daily suffering, dying to self, and yielding to Christ. This is a much needed message for the church. Laura Perry, who Christ saved out of transgenderism, will be accompanying Stephen at some events.

## Whose Coming Forth is of Ancient Days

By Chris Johnson



Imagine an author writing the story of a hero. He begins with the hero’s birth, shares some of the stories that shaped his childhood, and then goes on to tell of his mighty deeds and how he saved his people. And only then does the author tell us that, oh by the way, this warrior had been foretold since the beginning of the world and prophets throughout history continuously anticipated his coming and the people were all really hoping he would come soon, The End. That’s bad story telling!

But when Christians set out to read the Christmas story, I’d venture to guess that most of us turn straight to Luke 2. Often when we read and meditate on the story of Christ’s birth, we forget that we’re starting in the middle of the story. The Christmas story does not begin with the gospels’ accounts of Christ’s birth, but with the promise of His coming millennia before and the words of the prophets leading up to His birth! Yet, these are often treated as an afterthought - if they’re mentioned at all.

So where does the story really begin? Of course, all things were created through Christ: God’s Word made manifest; but from a narrative standpoint, His coming was first foretold when God told the Serpent in Genesis 3, “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will crush your head, and you will strike His heel.”

Whenever I read that passage, I wonder – as Eve bore children and then watched her daughters have children and their daughters have children, etc. – did she ever stop asking, “will this be the Skull Crusher? Will this be the one to set things right?” Did she lose all hope when Cain killed Able or did she keep hoping with every child she watched come into the world that it would be him? Did she pass this hope on to her

daughters? Were they still asking this question when God visited Abram and told him, “all peoples on earth will be blessed through you?” When Isaac passed this blessing on to Jacob (Genesis 28) and Jacob passed it onto his sons who would become the fathers of the 12 tribes, did they understand that God’s promise to the serpent was present in that blessing?

Of course, we can only speculate about what Eve and the patriarchs might have wondered or hoped, but from our perspective we can marvel at the story that God was telling throughout the history of Israel.

As I write this, Thanksgiving is still a week away, putting Christmas over a month out, but we’ve started making plans for getting a Christmas tree. We’ve been Christmas shopping and even wrapped a few gifts. For all of us, particularly for those of us with kids, anticipation for Christmas is thick in the air. This anticipation is a great reminder of how the world anxiously awaited the coming of the Messiah through the children of Abraham. As the old carol eloquently states, “a thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices!”

As God established the symbolism of the tabernacle and the Levitical priesthood, He further communicated what the promised Skull Crusher would be: a spotless Lamb, a bloody Sacrifice, and a perfect High Priest. And then He began to speak to His people through His prophets, “*But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me One who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.*” (Micah 5:2)

Let us remember, this Christmas, what kind of world we live in. We live in a story not defined by “Once Upon a Time,” but by “the fullness of time” (Galatians 4:4). Christ came on His due date, neither late nor early, but precisely when He was meant to. And may we remember in our troubled times that the One who wove the Christmas story from creation to the virgin birth, from the raw material of His Word, is still weaving that story, it’s still just as good... and we’re in it. Merry Christmas!