

“Then shall we know, if we follow on ...”

By Bill Johnson



There is distress in the land! And, it is not going away any time soon. Another way of saying it is - the world is on fire.

“But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.”

- 2 Timothy 3:13. One wonders how we are ever going to get through this, or if we ever really will.

There are some that still say, "Well, other oldsters in times before us were wringing their hands before us and so it goes." Yes. That is true. And, oldsters like me and some of you are - I wouldn't say necessarily wringing our hands - but we are deeply troubled. We see no one in a high leadership position that is speaking truth or leading wisely! We hunger and thirst for truth; for it is truth that heals, truth that will lead to right thinking, right living and truth that will set us free.

As one of my daily devotional readings points out: *“Truth is vital for our lives. If people in a given culture are not broadly committed to telling the truth and honoring commitments, the entire fabric of society will disintegrate. Should our science and technology not be based on what is true about the world, the consequences would be deadly. Our vehicles would probably not have working brakes because we ignore the law of physics, we might ingest poisons thinking they are safe because chemical*

companies do not bother to give us warnings or do not test the safety of their products first and so forth.” [Tabletalk Magazine, The God of Truth, January 31, 2022]

We've all had reason to think about this recently; some because experts tell us that even our little children (5 and under) need to be vaccinated and vaccinated now! - when the truth is that less than 0.1 percent of young children have died of Covid19 and the vaccine has known, dangerous side effects. We are troubled when the government and leading corporations are pressing us toward embracing electric vehicles - ostensibly because of their distaste for fossil fuels, although the methods used for mining lithium are actually *less* environmentally friendly (and the lithium market is under Chinese control).

Increasingly they enforce their green agenda although it has already proven to be foolhardy, as their wind farms are made profitable only by government grants and the production of which also damages environments, wildlife, and landscapes. Are the facts about electric cars compelling enough to replace gas engines with electric cars? You do the research.

What about our medications? We gave over the manufacturing and distribution of our medications to the Chinese long ago. Was

that really wise? Was it based on a belief that China is our friend? China is our ally? Is that truth or a lie? Doesn't that leave us vulnerable to having lifesaving and preserving drugs withheld from the citizens our agencies are sworn to protect?

It's obvious that these kinds of economic and geopolitical decisions must be based on truth, at least if our leaders have their constituents' best interests at heart.

What about the efficacy of the shutdowns? Masking? Social distancing? It's all been proven a fraud.

What about the public schools? Are they disseminators of truth? Are they training our youth in the way of knowing the difference between the truth and a lie? Sadly, we all know that the answer is no.

As Christians, we seek to be truth-tellers and pursuers of truth. To us, truth is more than just useful and beneficial. Turning again to Tabletalk Magazine, *“Scripture of course places much of its emphasis on the fact that God is a God of Truth. As with His other attributes, when the Word of God tells us that He is the God of Truth, as it does in Isaiah 65:16 and in many other passages, it does not mean simply that the Lord possesses truth. Instead, it means that God is truth itself. Truth is not something that the*

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Personal Note from the President



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Lord could have or not have and still remain God. It is essential to His very existence. Jesus, who is God incarnate, helps us understand this when He says, 'I am the ... truth' (John 14:6,7)."

In his book "Art & the Bible," Francis Schaeffer wrote: "The ancients were afraid that if they went to the end of the earth they would fall off and be consumed by dragons. But once we understand that Christianity is true to what is there, true to the ultimate environment - the infinite, personal God who is really there - then our minds are freed. We can pursue any question and can be sure that we will not fall off the end of the earth."

One of our great concerns in our day is that those who are leading us are not operating as either truth seekers or truth tellers but rather as people with a nefarious agenda. At the center of that agenda is not to uphold the U.S. Constitution as they pledged to do, but to undermine it and the Christian ideals that constructed it.

One tragic case that makes the point is the capitulation to the Taliban in Afghanistan - walking away from millions of dollars of military hardware: machine guns, grenade launchers, night vision goggles, even tanks and airplanes and the powerful and strategically located Bagram Air Base. More importantly, thousands of American citizens and international support staff were left behind to be hunted down and in many cases slaughtered.

Those in command are not stupid, they are corrupt! Their agenda isn't 'ill-advised,' but wicked - to lead in a way that weakens America, one day at a time, until they can move with greater angst and speed.

But God! One of the highest joys of being in Christ is being in Christ and knowing that with each passing year that He LIVES and that He loves to hear our prayers and to answer them.

The happenings we see and hear about are so discouraging and troubling. But Puritan Preacher Samuel Ward wrote: "Make use of your faith. This is the chief mystery of our spiritual life. Stir up your soul to talk with Christ. Consider the promises and privileges you enjoy. Think of them, roll them under your tongue, chew on them until you feel their sweetness in your soul. Consider how wonderful that your debts are canceled, and how wonderful that God's wrath is satisfied. Unstirred coals do not glow or give heat. The beauty of faith is its use. Don't just have muscles, use them. Let a man diligently and thoroughly improve his faith and the joy it will bring to him will be great."

One "muscle" that often is not utilized is making use of our faith through PRAYER, as I recently had the privilege of discussing with a faith leader from Traverse City, Michigan - Pastor Dan Gilmore.

Dan has much to say about our need not only for prayer but for *ferve*nt prayer. We invite you to listen in on our conversation at <https://rumble.com/vum6nh-interview-with-dan-gilmore.html> or see the enclosed response card to order a DVD. In our troubling times, I'm sure you will find it to be an encouragement. "Unstirred coals do not glow or give heat." We hope that you can use Dan's and my chat to "stir the coals."

"For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people."

Ephesians 1:15-18

Lisa's Kidney Update



I recently wrote an article where I invoked the quote "He who has God's Heart has His Arm," William Gurnall from the 1600s. God has answered so many of my prayers over the years of my life and in this ministry. And so it is, I ask you to prayerfully join with me in praying for a very significant prayer request.

The need has been mentioned at least once before in this newsletter. It has to do with my dear friend Lisa who has been at my side in this work so faithfully and effectively since the early 1990s. Lisa is a valued member of our ministry team. I know most of you are fully aware of that. We have known for a long time this day would come as Lisa has a genetic, incurable kidney disease that took the life of her father when she was seven years old. She has a sister and a brother who also inherited the disease and both were blessed with donated kidneys. Over the last year there has been a decline in her kidney function.

One dear friend recently called me and we wept together as my friend found out from a medical team that despite being burdened to donate her kidney there was a very small issue with her own medical profile that prohibited this from happening. She had prayed fervently that she would be the one.

Please join me in praying that God will in due season (may it be soon) raise up that special one who also has a sense of God's touch upon their life. Lisa is not undergoing dialysis yet, but soon will likely be in such a position.

Father: May many of us have your heart that we would also have your arm! It's in Christ's name that we pray. Amen!

Please call me (231-924-4050) if you want more information or call the St. Mary's/Mercy Health Donor Program at 616-685-6899 for information.

Reich's Wrong & the Left's Rights

By Chris Johnson



On January 17, the Michigan Democrat Party sent out a tweet. Just a few hours later, they didn't just delete their post, but strongly recanted, begging followers not to take it seriously.

So, what was the offending message? Here it is: *"Not sure where this 'parents-should-control-what-is-taught-in-schools-because-they-are-our-kids' is originating, but parents do have the option to send their kids to a hand-selected private school at their own expense if this is what they desire. **The purpose of public education in public schools is not to teach kids only what parents want them to be taught. It is to teach them what society needs them to know. The client of the public school is not the parent, but the entire community, the public.**"*

In spite of this message's confident, sure-of-itself tone, its recantation rang with desperation as the Michigan Democrats' account begged voters not to take the message seriously come election season: *'We have deleted a post that ignored the important role parents play—and should play—in Michigan public schools. Parents need to have a say in their children's education, end of story. The post does not reflect the views of Michigan Democrats and should not be misinterpreted as a statement of support from our elected officials or candidates.'*

This was not, however, an isolated incident as, barely a month later, Wisconsin State Representative Lee Snodgrass – also the vice chair of the state Democratic Party – sent out this gem: *"If parents want to 'have a say' in their child's education, they should home school or pay for private school tuition out of their family budget."*

This post was similarly doomed for the dust bin; when Snodgrass apparently came to her senses she replaced it with this one: *"I deleted my Tweet since it was lacking in nuance and easily misinterpreted. I wouldn't*

want anyone to think that parents do not have a role in their child's public education- I sure did. I encourage all parents to engage in voting for school board, join PTO and meet with teachers."

So, to boil it down, parents, we should absolutely be involved in our kids' education: by voting for school board and attending occasional parent-teacher conferences. The absence of support for parents having a say in the curriculum, however, is glaring. Leave THAT to the professionals.

It is obvious that this sentiment of teachers not wanting to cater to the parents whose taxes are paying their salaries is a common one, and it is one that is common on the left. It was perhaps most courageously championed recently by former Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe during his 2021 bid for reelection. During a debate he, now infamously, said *"I don't think parents should be telling schools what they should teach."* Unlike his party members in Michigan and Wisconsin, McAuliffe not only stood by the comment, but reiterated it numerous times. Thereafter, the remainder of his opponent's campaign primarily consisted of telling voters the opposite of that, which led to a handy victory for himself and other Republicans running down ticket.

McAuliffe's election performance perhaps gives us a clue as to why Democrats in Michigan and Wisconsin were so quick to walk back their original comments.

Looming in the background of these events, is the president of the National School Boards Association's letter to President Joe Biden stating, to quote the Heritage Foundation's report: *"that 'extremist hate organizations' were showing up at school board meetings, and that these protests should be characterized as 'equivalent to a form of domestic terrorism and hate crimes.'"*

These "hate organizations," meanwhile, were posting the videos of the meetings they attended online, where they turned out to simply be parents disagreeing with school policy on mask mandates and LGBT propaganda.

Carl Trueman dedicates much of his latest

book, "The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self," to tracing the philosophical history of the "sexual revolution" and how it has manifested in today's culture. In doing so, Trueman notes the work of Wilhelm Reich, specifically his 1936 book actually entitled "The Sexual Revolution," and makes these summary statements: *"... 'at the heart of Reich's revolutionary program is sex, education and the need for children and adolescents to be allowed sexual freedom.'"*

He continues several paragraphs down: *"Reich also believed that the state must be used to coerce families and, where necessary, actively punish those who dissent from the sexual liberation being proposed. In short, the state has the right to intervene in family matters because the family is potentially the primary opponent of political liberation through its cultivation and policing of traditional sexual codes."*

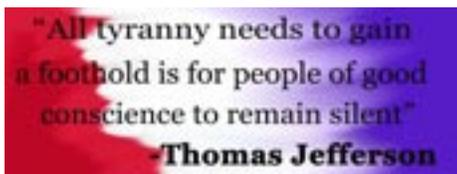
Remember the Michigan Democrat's tweet about public education being to teach children what *society* needs them to know?

There are headlines almost weekly regarding some new atrocity uncovered in a school curriculum, or on a teacher's social media account, or in a public library. When seen individually, they are an oddity, but when seen day after day, and when there is a purposeful, political trajectory documented in renowned philosophical works (as Trueman's book demonstrates) that weaponizes these atrocities, and finally when a certain political party that shares that purpose provides cover for the system committing those atrocities, we have to recognize that state schools are no place for kids, much less Christian kids.

In short, the headlines that we read about weekly that are always in some school district other than our own are the logical outworkings of a political philosophy shared with their Democrat benefactors and protectors which is *designed* to see your kids reject your values and traditions. It's not a conspiracy; it doesn't need to be! It's the result of shared assumptions and values, which are exactly what they hope to imprint on America's kids.

Resisting Tyranny IS Loving Your Neighbor

By Steve Huston



Those who attended, in person or via Facebook live, our **Lesser Magistrate event** (2/10/22) received a lot of information, encouragement, and means by which they can make a difference in their local areas. **We should have a brokenness of heart, recognizing that those God has put in power are using that very power to strike against Him and His church; that motivates us to act boldly, fervently, and decisively, with prayer.** Whether one was in attendance or unable to attend, I urge you to order the DVD (\$10) containing this important information; see the enclosed response card.

Our speaker, Pastor Matt Trehwella, reminded his audience that God created four great governments, each with their own specific roles, responsibilities, and limits. Those are the family, church, civil, and self governments. **Any abuse of their authority is NOT to be complied with; it's to be resisted.** Or as John of Salisbury said in his book *Policraticus*, "*Loyal shoulders should sustain the power of the ruler so long as it is exercised in subjection to God and follows his ordinances; but if it resists and opposes the divine commandments, and wishes to make me share in its war against God, then with unrestrained voice, I answer back that God must be preferred before any man on earth.*"

He also shared that our founders graciously gave us four boxes to stand on in this fight against tyranny. These are meant to hold governments and those in authority in check. **1. The soap box** - Our First Amendment that guarantees our right to speak out freely. **2. The ballot box** - We brought you into this position and we can take you out. **3. The jury box** - We are given the right to judge not only the case, but the law as well, and if the law is being applied correctly. **4. The cartridge box** - Second Amendment. Very often we were reminded that the duty

of the lesser magistrate was one of interposition; in other words, standing between the unrighteous greater magistrate and the localized people placed under the lesser magistrate's authority/protection. We must never forget that the law of God is the objective standard to which all men and governments are accountable. In this sense we hear the Roman Emperor Trajan declare, "*Use this sword against my enemies, if I give righteous commands; but if I give unrighteous commands, use it against me.*"

Another theme that rang clearly, and with great passion, was a call for the church to stop giving blind and total compliance to the civil government. One of the quotes Pastor Trehwella used was from John Knox. "*For now the common song of all men is, 'We must obey our kings, be they good or be they bad; for God has so commanded.' True it is, God has commanded kings to be obeyed; but likewise true it is, that in things which they commit against His glory, He has commanded no obedience.*" It is no surprise that our founding fathers reiterated this same sentiment over and over again in their writings and in their interactions with others.

In closing out the lecture time, before the Question & Answer period, Matt Trehwella gave contemporary examples of counties standing successfully up to their state governor regarding unconstitutional COVID mandates and states standing up to the federal government regarding the Second Amendment. He dismantled the lie of "Judicial Supremacy." And he spoke at length regarding abortion, abolition, and the lack of sincerity in truly saving the pre-born – reiterating the need for lesser magistrates and the church to stand against this blight upon our land.

Whether dealing with abortion, COVID mandates, or anything else, **"You cannot appease a tyrant; you must defy them and defeat them."**

Be sure to get your copy of this DVD (\$10); see the enclosed response card.

The titles of various important books and other resource listings would be enough for

me to purchase a copy.

Don't forget to check out his Rumble channel, "Defy Tyrants." While you're there, be sure to watch his three videos on Christian resistance.

Let me close with a quote from page iii of The Magdeburg Confession,

"The bearwolf was a monster of German folklore. Martin Luther used the bearwolf as a symbol of tyranny. The pastors of Magdeburg wrote of it in the *Magdeburg Confession* while speaking of the fourth and most severe level of tyranny.

"A soldier's song from that era also spoke of the bearwolf:

"Give unto Caesar what is Caesar's, just as we read; But how much more so for the Lord God! As long as he does the Lord's will, and lives in peace, Caesar's office we must honour; Should he transgress, he is no more Emperor or lord, but an outlaw And a bearwolf against which we must guard. [Magdeburg, 1548 AD]"

This was truly a cutting edge presentation; pray with us that God will use it to cut us to the quick, breaking us and drawing us to repentance. Then might He quicken us, making us alive to His Word, His Way, and moving us to call out those in authority to use their God-given power to His glory, His honor, and His praise.

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Honk if You Love Freedom

By Lisa Van Houten



In our brave, new, Leftist world, facts are irrelevant, words are redefined, and people become puppets. In this world violent protests are called “peaceful,” and peaceful protests are labeled as “insurrections.” Democracy is “under attack,” we’re told, and so tyranny must be used to “preserve” it. In this Leftist world, “freedom” has become a dirty word.

Thousands of blue-collar Canadian truckers have captured the world’s attention as their Freedom Convoy has filled the streets of the capital city of Ottawa in a peaceful demonstration seeking relief from Canada’s draconian and unscientific vaccine mandates and covid policies. What began in January as reportedly 150,000+ truckers rolled into Ottawa from all over Canada, grew even larger as millions of Canadians joined the efforts – either in person or through their support of food, funds, and services. In true Canadian fashion, the protest has been incredibly peaceful and orderly. The only law-breaking occurring is from government leaders and police officers who have unlawfully confiscated fuel cans and even arrested a great-grandfather merely for honking his horn in support.

We know so much more about Covid than we did just one year ago. We now know that the “vaccine” does not prevent transmission. Neither do masks. So, mandates requiring vaccines as a basis for employment is asinine. And as Covid cases plummet, and with the vast majority of cases resulting in nothing more than a common cold, numerous nations and even Democrat-led states are rescinding their restrictive Covid mandates. But not the tyrants among us – they’re holding on to their despotic power with a tight fist.

Chief among them is Joe Biden and Canada’s Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau. Tru-

deau comes by his fascist tendencies naturally; his parents were good friends with Cuban dictator Fidel Castro. When Castro died, Justin Trudeau lavishly praised the brutal despot, referring to Castro as “legendary” and “remarkable.” Before he was elected prime minister, Trudeau was asked what country he admired most. His answer – China, stating, *“there is a flexibility ... of having a dictatorship that he can do everything he wanted, that I find quite interesting.”* Not being hindered by a pesky thing like the rule of law is a tyrant’s dream come true.

Trudeau could have met with the truckers to hear their concerns. He could have followed the actual science and rescinded the mandates as some of the Canadian provinces are beginning to do. But that would mean loosening his autocratic control and keep him from his dictatorial aspirations. Instead, Trudeau has demonized his own citizenry, at first labeling them as a “fringe minority ... holding unacceptable views.” To fascists like Trudeau, there is no freedom of thought for the masses – “truth” is whatever the Supreme Leader says it is. When that didn’t work, he ratcheted up the name calling, stating: *“They don’t believe in science/progress and are very often misogynistic and racist. It’s a very small group of people, but that doesn’t shy away from the fact that they take up some space. This leads us, as a leader and as a country, to make a choice: Do we tolerate these people?”* Notice the chilling, dehumanizing language used against his fellow citizens who dare to think differently: ‘they take up space’ and shouldn’t be ‘tolerated.’ Such language has been used by dictators in the past, most notably by Adolf Hitler, who’s term for Jews who ‘took up space’ was “Lebensunwertes Leben” – lives unworthy of life.

Egged on by Joe Biden who urged Trudeau to “crackdown” on the protestors, Trudeau then went to full-on tyranny by evoking for the first time ever Canada’s Emergencies Act to crush political dissent. The Emergencies Act is designed to react to actual national threats to the sovereignty of the nation. The Freedom Convoy isn’t trying to overthrow the government – they just

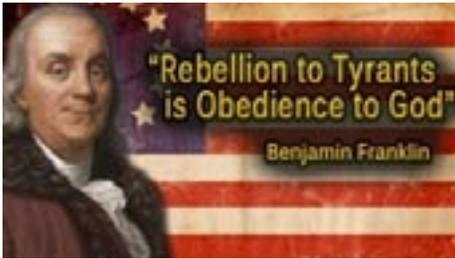
want their freedom back. Yet Trudeau is treating these nonviolent truck drivers as domestic terrorists and enemies of the state. Under the Emergencies Act, Trudeau is now seizing the bank accounts and vehicles of those participating in the protests and suspending their insurance policies. The Act will also enable banks to freeze the accounts of anyone linked with the protest or are suspected of aiding the truckers. No warrant or court order needed, a person’s assets can be seized based on suspicion alone – just for supporting a cause the government doesn’t like - for “holding unacceptable views.” Protestors are being told their children could be taken away by Child Protective Services and American Family News reported that Pastor Artur Pawlowski, who was previously arrested for refusing to shut-down his church during Covid, was arrested yet again because he was scheduled to speak to the protestors. In addition, Trudeau said that the government will have the power to “compel” tow-truck drivers to forcibly remove semi-trucks and will give greater powers to the police to detain, arrest, and fine protesters. This comes after The Canadian government already threatened the Christian crowdfunding site Give-SendGo which facilitates donations from supporters to the protestors.

Ironically, Trudeau claims these measures are about “protecting people’s jobs” when it’s his own job-killing mandates that are being protested. The Canadian Civil Liberties Association issued a strong statement opposing Trudeau’s use of the Emergencies Act, stating: *“... Governments regularly deal with difficult situations, and do so using powers granted to them by democratically elected representatives. Emergency legislation should not be normalized. It threatens our democracy and our civil liberties.”*

But as people are making it clear they’re done with Covid, leftists have to find a new way to keep the masses controlled. The new narrative they’re pushing is a page right out of Orwell, seeking to convince people that “freedom” has a negative connotation, stating that the use of the word “freedom” has become “common among

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Honk if You Love Freedom



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far-right groups.” In other words, don’t use the word “freedom” or you’ll be identified as an extremist. That’s how those who cherish freedom are seen by the autocrats in power. Parents concerned about masking and LGBT ideology are now domestic terrorists. So are truckers protesting vaccine mandates (but not BLM rioters burning down buildings). In the U.S., the Department of Homeland Security recently sent out a bulletin warning that those who spread “mis-information” about Covid or speak out about election fraud, could be domestic terrorists. Mat Staver, President of Liberty Counsel, had this to say about the DHS bulletin: *“The National Terrorism Advisory System Bulletin is the latest tactic by the Biden administration to trample on the First Amendment and bully law-abiding citizens. ... Freedom of speech is a fundamental right of every dissenting voice to freely voice or express their opinions and ideas. ... However, this administration apparently feels threatened by Americans who think for themselves and will not uncritically accept government propaganda and coercion.”*

James Madison presciently warned: *“There are more instances of the abridgement of freedom of the people by gradual and silent encroachments of those in power than by violent and sudden usurpations.”* We’ve already seen this happening in the U.S. and it’s naïve to think that the crack-down on freedom in Canada won’t happen here. The Leftists in charge of our federal government would jump at the chance to seize power as Trudeau has done. And given the opportunity, they’ll do just that. Much like a restraining order, the Constitution only works if those restrained by it respect it. As Albert Einstein said: *“The strength of the Constitution lies entirely in the determination of each citizen to defend it.”*

Coups, Collusion, and Comfort

By Lisa Van Houten



Yet all along it was the Clinton campaign and the Obama administration who worked, aided by a corrupt FBI and CIA, to undermine Trump’s campaign and presidency, engaging in what amounted to a coup against a sitting president. Now that Durham is bringing forth actual proof, the media is silent.

Remember when Donald Trump insisted that he was being spied on by Democrat operatives? Coming as no surprise to conservatives, it turns out he was right. According to a motion filed by Special Counsel John Durham, Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign paid a technology company to “infiltrate” servers that belonged to the Trump campaign and the Trump White House “for the purpose of gathering derogatory information about Donald Trump.”

As Gary Bauer writes, *“this bombshell revelation should shock and horrify any American who loves this country. Durham alleges that a company with a contract to secure the White House computer systems was also involved in the conspiracy against Trump. ... The special counsel alleges that people in that company were monitoring the White House computer system and passing information on to Hillary Clinton’s operatives, who then fed fake information to the CIA AFTER the election. In other words, the spying on Donald Trump did not end when the election was over. Hillary Clinton had eyes and ears inside the Trump White House!”* Smack dab in the middle of this was Hillary Clinton’s senior policy advisor, Jake Sullivan. Sullivan now serves as Biden’s National Security Advisor, where he has access to highly classified information!

For years during the Trump administration all we heard from the media was an endless refrain of “Russia Collusion” based merely on unfounded accusations. Even after the Mueller investigation spent \$40 million of taxpayer money to investigate Trump and came up empty, the media wouldn’t let go of the bone. As Victor Davis Hanson writes: “Four years of national hysteria, a divided nation, and dangerous new tensions with Russia were some of the wages of Clinton’s machinations.”

These actions, tantamount to espionage, perpetrated by Democrat and Deep State operatives is far worse than Watergate. Under Watergate we saw a president resign in disgrace and multiple colluders go to prison. But do you really think we’ll see justice brought against those who spied on Trump and colluded to undermine his presidency? It’s highly unlikely that these charges will go anywhere – certainly not beyond low-level accomplices. We have a two-tiered justice system in the U.S. and the likelihood that Hillary Clinton will be prosecuted is somewhere between zilch and none.

As Christians we know that every person – ourselves as well as Hillary Clinton – will one day stand before the judgment seat of God to receive deserved justice or unmerited mercy. Those of us who have called upon Christ for salvation will be clothed in His righteousness and our sins will not be counted against us. The unrepentant will receive far worse than any human justice system could mete out. As Image Bearers, innate to our being is a desire for justice – not revenge - but a longing that all will be made right. In the kindergarten Sunday School class I teach, we recently talked about how Adam and Eve were the only people who ever experienced true happiness. Putting it in language five-year-olds can relate to, we marveled about what it must have been like to live where no one was ever sad, or angry, or afraid; where they were never mean to each other or to the animals. Then we talked of the wondrous promise that one day God will create a new earth where all is made right again! What a glorious comfort that is for every believer! It’s easy to become discouraged at the rampant injustice in this world, until we remember the words of Psalm 145:20 – *“The Lord preserves all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.”*

Marching Towards Totalitarianism

By Steve Huston



Last month I wrote about the development of second-class citizens; this month it's important to look at the development of totalitarianism within the United States and globally. While many may think, "*You're crazy; totalitarianism is gulags and food lines. We don't have that here in America;*" it's vital that we recognize that "gulags and food lines" are among the final pictures of totalitarianism, not the beginning stages. It's akin to looking at the wreckage of a semi-truck and car collision, saying, "That's not a car; it doesn't function like one or look like one, so it can't be a car." Also, one might consider the political prisoners of January 6, 2021 as being held in a "gulag;" and remember, we've witnessed several occasions where government has shut down private food lines, even fining those who passed out food to the hungry. At the very least we've seen totalitarianism flex its muscles to see what they can or cannot get away with. We may not be at the Mao and Stalin point of totalitarianism yet; but we must recognize the steps it takes to get there, the fact that technology is making it easier to achieve, take an honest look at ourselves, and cut the noose before it gets too tight. The elites will tell us it's for our own good; but remember, "*No one ever complied their way out of totalitarianism.*" (RFK Jr.)

As American Thought Leaders interviewed Rod Dreher, author of [Live Not By Lies](#), he explained the roots and reasons that leave a country open to totalitarianism as listed by Hannah Arendt, a German Jewish refugee from Nazism, in [The Origins of Totalitarianism](#). In this book she looked at both Germany and Russia to see how totalitarianism came to power and what aspects of their social life made them susceptible to this tyrannical evil. As you read through this list, think open-mindedly about what has taken place in America over the past two years. Could this be why those in authority have

been corralling the masses down the road which they have chosen? Is this why it's so important to them that we do not hear any dissenting voices to their propaganda narrative, that people do not think for themselves, and that each person gets injected with a substance that has been proven ineffective and for which only time will tell its effects on the human body and mind?

First, and by far the most dangerous, was mass atomization of the people and widespread loneliness. This happens naturally when on a large scale lifestyles are disrupted, people's ties to the institutions are severed, and close-knit families unravel. It leaves people without direction and not knowing who they can trust. Dreher explains that the loneliest generation in America today, surprisingly, is "Generation Z."

Second was the loss of authority. Institutions, religion, all the things that had given people meaning, structure, and a sense of direction in life were called into question. Floundering, the people grabbed on to totalitarianism which gave a promise, albeit a false one, of direction.

Third was a willingness to believe propaganda; they would believe any lie so long as it conformed to whatever people wanted to believe in the first place. "*When we lose desire to know the truth - even if the truth hurts, even if the truth goes against what we want to believe - then we are opening the door to totalitarianism, again, of either the left or the right.*" (Dreher)

Be warned, these are the things which opened, and still open, the door to totalitarianism. Our wealth and our democratic history will not protect us from totalitarianism. Dreher reminded his listeners of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's warning, "**People around the world think that what happened in Russia can't happen here. In fact, it can happen in any country on earth, under the right set of circumstances.**"

Technocracy and tyranny walk hand in hand; Mao, Hitler, and Stalin likely fantasized about the levels of total control made possible by today's technology. The National Pulse reports, "The Chinese Com-

munist Party has developed an artificial intelligence prosecutor that can identify and suggest charges for alleged crimes including 'dissent' and 'provoking trouble.'" There's talk of new cars in the European Union soon containing a "black box" to record driving data for authorities. Let's not forget facial recognition technology, implanted micro-chips, weaponized immigration, the deliberate breakdown of law and order, manipulated inflation, geo-engineering, and the list goes on. Although another article for another time, recognize that Central Bank Digital Currencies plus vaccine passports equal two of the greatest tools for total control ever known to mankind. With all these tools available to global and national tyrants, totalitarianism seems inevitable; but the triumph of tyrants is never certain. Good men and women must stand and raise families that will stem the rising tide. "**The family is such an important source of resistance.**" (Dreher)

"*What makes a totalitarian society totalitarian is that there are no middle institutions between the individual and the government.*" (Dreher) The totalitarian government sees the family as a rival to the ruling ideology; so, the state does what it can to eliminate the traditional family unit. Pointing to the school, he says this is why they are teaching Critical Race Theory, propaganda, and gender ideology.

It's important to raise our children to be Christians and dissidents. We must help our children be able to discern truth from lies. Totalitarians assault the family because it's the God-designed basic building block for society; its destruction leaves us open to totalitarianism, worshiping the state rather than the one, true Creator God. **We must build our families strong, in and on the only true stability known to mankind—the Lord Jesus Christ. It's sad if our nation fails; but it's devastating if our family leaves this world without a saving knowledge of Jesus, and without walking in holiness. May all that come behind us find us faithful and may our children be lights in a dark and dying world.**

Again, it's in Him that our hope lies. Anything else is to live by lies.

A Nation of Priests

By Chris Johnson



As my kids, my wife, and I have been reading through the first few books of the Bible together, we've waded through a lot of ritual and ceremony that, to be honest, at times I've been tempted to skip (and sometimes have). But we have learned some valuable lessons in sticking with it.

I can't say how much has registered with my 6 and 9 year old, but as we've read about the very specific details of how God wanted the tabernacle built - what materials the priests' clothes must be made from, how the Holy Spirit inspired Oholiab and Bezalel to weave and engrave and cast the items in exactly the right way, and how God gave them a specific recipe for the ointment and incense which could only be used in His service, and then of how He prescribed the different sacrifices of the different animals, wines, and grains, each appropriate for a unique occasion - I've asked my kids as we've read, "what do you think God was trying to tell His people in demanding that level of detail?"

The only possible answer is that what God was demanding was a recognition of His specialness, His unique glory, His Holiness. As the Hebrews donated their possessions, which God specified must be done of only by those whose "heart moved them," for the crafting of the tabernacle; and then as their craftsmen began to forge and weave and carve and mold these uniquely beautiful pieces; and finally as they stood in the entrance of the courtyard of the tabernacle which they had built with their own hands and saw the glory cloud of God's Presence perched above it; they surely said to themselves, as did Jeremiah, "There is none like you, O LORD; you are great, and your name is great in might."

Who could be worthy to work in the service of such a God, surrounded by the gold,

bronze, the blue, scarlet, and purple linen and leather, and the aromatic incense and all under the cloud of the Glory of the Presence of God? Only Aaron, his sons, and the tribe of Levi were chosen to be priests, and then only after they underwent a cleansing ceremony. *"Thus you shall do to them to cleanse them: sprinkle the water of purification upon them, and let them go with a razor over all their body, and wash their clothes and cleanse themselves...."*

Hundreds of years later, after the ascension of Christ, the apostle Peter who had been born and bred into this religious system, doubtless taught from birth to revere the priests as the intermediary between Israel and God makes this shocking statement to early Christian exiles, both Jew and Gentile, in 1 Peter 2:9, *"you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."*

King Jesus' subjects make up a whole nation of priests, and we even are brought into this priesthood in the same type of ceremony as the Levitical priests who served the same God: through the water of purification, or Baptism.

And just like the Levites, with their fancy linen robes and tassels and headwear, our purpose is to proclaim His excellencies to those who are not yet brought into our priestly nation.

The imagery of those early books in the Bible is easy to just skip or skim over, but they reveal - at surface level - that God is deeply concerned that His people recognize His Holiness and then to act accordingly.

1 Peter, the book which refers to Christians as a "chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation," is addressed by Peter to "elect exiles," exile meaning *one who is cast out*. Jewish converts to Christ would have been cast out of their communities for believing what Jesus taught, as would Gentiles, but Peter tells them here, 'you haven't just been cast out by your families and communities, you've been *called* out by God and set apart by Him.'

Any pastor or pastor's kid or ministry leader's kid can tell you, that there are different expectations for you once you've been identified as belonging to the ministry (or to the minister). So we can imagine what it would have felt like for a Levite to walk around the market place in his ephod and turban. He wouldn't blend in. Plus he had to shave his legs, apparently, so even more so.

But that's the life of the priesthood, similar to the lives of exiles. Our lives and our lifestyles should make us stand out. In a neighborhood full of rainbow flags, we should not be ashamed to tout the symbol of the cross. God's made it even easier than that for us in our day, though. I can go out in public with my wife and kids and be the oddball just by holding hands and getting along with each other!

One more interesting aspect of Israel's priests, however, is how their culture depended on them. In the polemics of the minor prophets, it was often the priests who bore the responsibility. Hosea 4 says, *"Yet, let no one contend, and let none accuse, for with you is my contention, O priest... My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me..."*

God set the responsibility for the destruction of Israel on the shoulders of faithless priests. Matthew 5 makes the same point in Jesus' well-known sermon: *"You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world."*

Salt preserves, light brings wisdom and knowledge, and we are to do these things in Christ's name so that *"they may see your good works and give glory to your father who is in Heaven."*

May God grant us the courage to be salt that has not lost its savor and a light not hidden; may we be a nation of faithful priests, dedicated to His service.