

Victory Declared - TOO SOON!

By Steve Huston



Ok everyone, chins up!

I understand that things aren't looking very good in America or around the world, but stop looking down with that defeated, downcast countenance and look to the hills for our "help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth." He's not done!

I start to get discouraged too whenever it looks like truth and justice is going to come forth but then scurries back into its hole like a groundhog that's just seen its shadow. When we learned that the judge, jury, and defendant were all playing for the same team in the Sussmann trial, weren't we all left scratching our heads wondering why Durham didn't push for the recusal of the judge or object to a very tainted jury?

I, too, get tired of the bold-faced lies that spew from the left and their media lapdogs surrounding key players in politics, lies which are later proven and admitted to be just that, lies! (Russian collusion, Hunter's laptop, "most secure election in history," and a list that could more than fill this newsletter).

If you love life, you might feel like throwing your hands up in despair when it finally looks like SCOTUS may overturn Roe v Wade only to hear that there are some state attorneys general who say that they won't uphold the laws in their state and we hear

the head of the executive branch say he'll just pass some executive orders, effectually overturning the overturning.

I love America and its Constitution. I too wonder how the left is able to get away with dismantling it one Amendment at a time while also expanding well beyond their enumerated powers, desirous to hand our sovereignty over to a global power-grabbing entity, and turning a blind eye to the many "unrestricted warfare" attacks perpetuated against us by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

It all just seems so unreal. Including the mind blowing denial of truth, science, and reality while setting forth leftist "facts" and figures based solely on feelings to push their destructive agendas regarding social engineering, gene manipulation, and a host of other things meant to corral us down a chosen path to a destructive end.

If we don't keep our eyes "set on the hills" it will be overwhelming. So much surrounding ourselves and our country has changed; but we still have a God-given responsibility to act. It's up to "We the People" to do everything we can to make a difference instead of showing indifference by thinking, "it's sad but it's just the way things are today." Phil Haney was fond of quoting Abraham Lincoln and I find that quote particularly insightful for today. "The dogmas

of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty and we must rise with the occasion. As our case is new, we must think anew and act anew. We must disenthrall ourselves, and then we shall save our country." (We realize it will be God who saves, perhaps using us.)

Yes, it looks like the Left is winning. They are, in many cases, taking a victory lap; but they'll trip before the eternal finish line because our God reigns. He is sovereign and we can rest in that! In other words, **victory has been declared too soon because, BUT GOD!**

Take a few minutes to read 2 Kings chapter 11. When Athaliah saw that her son was dead she killed all who could be heir to the throne so that she could rule; or so she thought. God had saved one for Himself, Joash. She ruled confidently for six years, believing that she was safe. **BUT GOD!** In that seventh year God stepped in with the boy He had set aside for Himself. In the seventh year Athaliah, the one who had committed treason, cried out, "Treason! Treason!" In that seventh year she was taken outside the Lord's house; she and all that followed her were put to death. Justice had finally been served. But that wasn't all; in the seventh year the wickedness of false gods was removed from the land and the

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Personal Note from the President



Our hearts are so heavy as the news rolls in once again: school shootings - nineteen innocents wantonly shot and killed - and the police stand down? Why? Pro-abortion protestors outside of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett's house donning fake bloodstained clothes and holding baby dolls. Just a few days earlier, an attempted assassination of Supreme Court Judge Brett Kavanaugh. Then there's President Biden deliberately dismantling fossil fuel supplies, elevating gas prices, driving inflation, and making us vulnerable on the world stage. Don't forget the January 6 "Show Trial" where one side lines up testimonies against Donald Trump with absolutely no meaningful defense.

Is there an end to any of this insufferable injustice?

For me, with each passing year I have grown to have a deepening appreciation of the short book of Ecclesiastes. I see there a genuine picture of life as it unfolds for most of us who have lived for a significant period of time (or who have lived a lot of life in a short period of life).

Ecclesiastes is an amazing book of the Bible written by Solomon, son of the great King David, the man after God's own heart. In his early moments as King, God asked Solomon what He would ask for as he began in his reign. When he could have asked for wealth or even greater power and influence, he is remembered for requesting greater wisdom. God granted him that gift and his years of kingship unfolded. Though exercising some of the wisdom found in his writing of Proverbs, Solomon demeaned his calling by his adulation of foreign women from near and far - prostituting himself and God's calling. As Solomon advanced in years, he wrote the book of Ecclesiastes. It

is a remarkable book whereby Solomon expounds on life as he experienced it in all of its vast fullness of trials and tribulations far beyond perhaps most any other human being.

Here's a poetic sample from the opening of Ecclesiastes: *...All is vanity. What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun? A generation goes, and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever. The sun rises, and the sun goes down, and hastens to the place where it rises... All things are full of weariness; a man cannot utter it; the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing. What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun. Is there a thing of which it is said, "See, this is new?" It has been already in the ages before us. There is no remembrance of former things, nor will there be any remembrance of later things yet to be among those who come after.*

I've known people who have poured out their lives working, serving, raising their children and grandchildren and they are wonderful examples of godly people. But, predictably, life comes to an end. Cancer. Heart attack. High blood pressure. Some young man or woman with great promise meets with tragedy and is suddenly taken out. A sudden, unexpected disease, or accident, or even murder. On the other hand, another person who has raped, stolen, murdered, is released within days because of some corrupt judge or prosecutor. Is there no end of such accounts? No, there isn't. Yet, as Steve writes in these pages, but God!

My youngest grandchild (aged 7) was seemingly hanging on to my every word the other day and I saw a great opportunity to give him an idea of what we do in this ministry calling that God has given me. His other grandfather also lives nearby, and is a wonderful man of God and a very excellent farmer and example for a young boy. Calvin gets to ride tractors and learn about planting, chopping, plowing and harvesting. Clearly, he knows what his farmer grandpa does. But what I do is a lot harder to explain. What I told him, I pass on to you - in very short form, what we do here is share the vanity of life without God

and the joy of life with God!

Ecclesiastes teaches about the futility of life under the sun, without God. The cruelty and injustice of the world is endless. Following God, however, brings purpose and peace. We want to bring joy to the one who has given us every blessing, both here and in eternity. I urge you, friends, not to despair as Ecclesiastes says, "under the sun," but rather to live as one under God.

The fear of the LORD prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened (Proverbs 10:27).

As C.H Spurgeon writes in his Cheque Book of the Bank of Faith:

There is no doubt about it. The fear of the LORD leads to virtuous habits, and these prevent that waste of life which comes of sin and vice. The holy rest which springs out of faith in the LORD Jesus also greatly helps a man when he is ill. Every physician rejoices to have a patient whose mind is fully at ease. Worry kills, but confidence in God is like healing medicine.

We have therefore all the arrangements for long life, and if it be really for our good, we shall see a good old age and come to our graves as shocks of corn in their season. Let us not be overcome with sudden expectation of death the moment we have a finger-ache, but let us rather expect that we may have to work on through a considerable length of days.

And what if we should soon be called to the higher sphere? Certainly there would be nothing to deplore in such a summons but everything to rejoice in. Living or dying we are the LORD's. If we live, Jesus will be with us; if we die, we shall be with Jesus.

The truest lengthening of life is to live while we live, wasting no time but using every hour for the highest ends. So be it this day.

Ben

Victory Declared

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people rejoiced! **All things were made right because BUT GOD!**

We long for justice here and now, even as I am sure the people of the land longed for justice in Athaliah's day. God's timeline will not be rushed or delayed by the feeble whims of man; **BUT GOD** will bring justice to every land and He will not leave "truth lying in the street." Whether we wait for the "seventh year" literally or figuratively, **God is sovereign and wickedness will find no acquittal in His courts.** If righteousness will not return to this land in our lifetime, know this: when Christ returns all wickedness will be put under His feet and righteousness WILL rule. Those who follow after the unrighteous will be destroyed with those leading the evil charge.

That being the case, dear Reader, I beg of you to remain faithful to the one, true God, He alone is sovereign and almighty. It's not enough to ascent to truth in our minds; it must be lived out in our lives. I close with this timely warning from puritan William Gurnall. "He [God] has given us a girdle of truth for protection. But not everyone who applauds truth will follow it when it leads him to prison. And not everyone who preaches it is willing to suffer for it. Arguments are harmless things – blunt weapons which bring no blood. But when we suffer we are called to fight with the enemies of truth. And this requires more than a sharp tongue and logical brain. Where will disputers be then? They will appear like cowardly soldiers, who, in basic training when no enemy was in sight, seemed to be brave as decorated heroes. To be on truth's side then meant only recognition and reward, not danger and death." **If we will not stand with truth in the hard and evil day, we will find ourselves standing against the Defender of Truth, He who IS TRUTH, Jesus Christ. Be faithful and fruitful!**

Trevor Loudon Coming to West Michigan!



Trevor Loudon is a name many of you recognize as he has spoken in Fremont in earlier years and throughout the country and appears frequently in conservative mainstream media including Epoch Times where Trevor has his own broadcast channel called: "Counterpunch".

Frank Gaffney refers to him as a champion in the cause of exposing the CCP (Chinese Communist Party). He has been the movie producer behind "The Enemies Within" and the "The Enemies Within the Church."

His tireless labors of research, writing, authoring, producing movies, interviewing and speaking faithfully across America he attributes to having watched and experienced his homeland, New Zealand, being overcome and inundated by communism some years ago. He passionately warns Americans because he sees America as the "world's last hope for Freedom."

The theme of the events: **America - The World's Last Bastion of Freedom**

Trevor will be doing what he does best - update his audience on the present chain of events and unfolding of what the CCP is doing and how they have infiltrated nearly every institution including the church. Trevor makes clear that the Church is faltering badly and is under serious attack; but we also know that God's true church is a glorious church – it is the Body of Christ. (I Cor. 1:2 gives a fourfold description of God's church). To bring balance, showing the danger and the hope, we are having a second speaker as well.

The second speakers at each of these events will be speaking into the importance of the

church to wake up and arise in loving obedience to serve our Lord, that God would be glorified and our people might be saved.

Thursday, July 28. 6:30 PM

Oakhill Church, 1930 Leonard Street NE, Grand Rapids

Speakers:

Trevor Loudon

Pastor Alan Flowers, Spencer Mills Church, Gowen

Friday, July 29. 1:00 PM

Living Word Church, 1551 Wood Street, Muskegon

Speakers:

Trevor Loudon

Ralph Rebandt, former senior pastor at Oakland Hills Community Church, Farmington Hills of 30 years. One of the few remaining Michigan gubernatorial candidates.

Friday, July 29. 6:30 PM

New Life Fellowship, 12960 James Street, Holland

Speakers:

Trevor Loudon

Pastor Mart Novak at New Life Fellowship

Saturday, July 30. 9:00 AM

American Decency Association, 203 E Main Street, Fremont

Speakers:

Trevor Loudon

TBD

Sunday, July 31

Christ the King Presbyterian Church, 2224 Main Street, Shelby

Speakers:

Trevor Loudon

Pastor Jeff Swanson at Christ the King Presbyterian Church

"Any force for freedom that doesn't actively oppose communism is doomed to eventual failure. It is as impotent as a Saint who won't oppose sin, a pastor who won't condemn the Devil, a policeman who won't arrest criminals, or a doctor who won't fight disease."

- Trevor Loudon

Dragging Kids Down the Slippery Slope

By Lisa Van Houten



LGBT, LGBTQ, LGBTQIA+ - the rapid advancement of the sexual revolution in just the last decade is mindboggling. They've run out of letters to describe the perversity and now just add a plus sign to encompass all the future forms of degradation coming down the pike. The collective cultural conscience is increasingly deadened as that which not long ago would have shocked and horrified the majority of Americans is now often greeted with just a helpless shake of the head while depravity is accepted and normalized. And the next step in that escalation is already worming its way into society – the sexualization of children.

One of the tools being used to groom children to embrace LGBTQ+ ideology is the growing Drag Queen phenomenon. Michigan's Democratic attorney general, Dana Nessel, who is a lesbian, recently made headlines when she stated: "Drag queens make everything better. Drag queens are fun. ... A drag queen for every school."

This was not just an off-the-wall statement from a radical leftist or a poor attempt at humor – as Nessel claimed – but a growing push by those on the left to use what has long been rightly viewed as a sexual perversion to indoctrinate children. Drag queen story hours in public libraries are now spreading to public schools. New York City has spent more than \$200,000 in taxpayer money on drag queen shows for children in schools. Drag queen shows have taken place in public schools all over the nation from Pennsylvania to Wisconsin to Iowa to Colorado. In Arizona, a teacher who arranged a drag show for students was later arrested after allegedly having sex with a student.

The left hates it when conservatives use the term "grooming," but that is exactly what they're doing by using drag queen shows to normalize and glamorize sexual deviancy

among young children. And that's on top of the sexual re-education taking place in schools which promotes transgender identities, introduces children to a wide range of explicit sexual behavior, encourages promiscuity and experimentation, and tries to hide all of this from parents.

America's children are inundated with LGBTQ+ ideology, while at the same time progressives are seeking to drive a wedge between children and parents. Parents who want to protect their children from transgender ideology and who don't want big hairy men dressed in sexualized women's clothing gyrating in front of their five-year-olds, are portrayed as the enemy by the left, while progressive educators deem it their responsibility to "liberate" children from the "harmful" moral constructs of the traditional family. This is how cultural transformation takes place, by capturing the hearts and minds of children and alienating them from the values of their parents.

And the inculcation is permeating every aspect of our culture. Fisher Price recently released a drag queen play set for preschoolers, cartoons such as Blues Clues featured a drag queen to push LGBT propaganda, summer camps to teach kids how to perform drag are now a thing, and drag shows are popping up at zoos and MLB baseball games. Even liberal "churches" have gotten into the act. The Naples United Church of Christ in Florida was slammed for planning a "youth pride concert" that features a drag show, "forbidden queer literature" and asks children attending to list their pronouns.

Meanwhile, in what can only be described as child abuse, parents who've bought into the ideology are taking their children to drag shows to watch sexualized performances by gay men. Recently a gay bar in Dallas hosting a drag queen show for kids was just the latest chapter in a growing trend of drag shows for children. The event, entitled "Drag the Kids to Pride" invited children to "hit the stage with queens." Video of the event showed men dressed in thongs surrounded by children and parents in front of a sign with language too vulgar and explicit for me to repeat here. Video also showed children stuffing dollar bills in

the underwear of the gay men on stage, as their parents looked on laughing.

Not only is the innocence of children being corrupted, children themselves are being exploited, urged to perform for the sexual pleasure of men. For example, video from a gay bar in New York depicted a young boy dancing provocatively in drag for a crowd of men. Meanwhile, child pornography is exploding online. In 2019 the New York Times reported that more than 45 million online photos and videos of children being sexually abused were reported by tech companies, more than double from the previous year.

We're watching the sexualization of children become mainstreamed before our eyes, leading the way to the legitimization of pedophilia, as pedophiles seek to be change their nomenclature to "MAPs" – Minor Attracted Persons. In January of this year USA Today published an article attempting to destigmatize pedophilia entitled "What the Public Keeps Getting Wrong About Pedophilia."

What we are doing to an entire generation of children is abhorrent. This is the outcome of the redefinition of human beings based on their sexual desires rather than their God-designed dignity. Perhaps it comes as no surprise that a culture which sacrifices millions of unborn babies on the altar of convenience would also sacrifice young children on the altar of sexual deviancy. **How the stench of our nation's sin must rise to a holy and righteous God.**

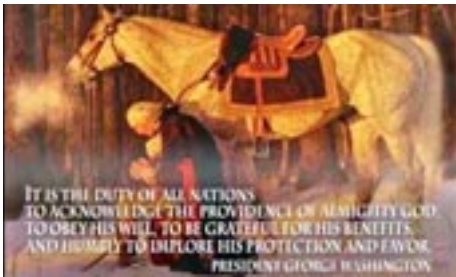
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America's Fall From Grace

By Steve Huston



“America! America! God shed His grace on thee and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.” So goes the last few lines of that grand old patriotic hymn *America the Beautiful*. Admittedly, America’s crown of unity sits tarnished and askew. That precious headpiece doesn’t sit straight because the good which is supposed to be propping it up and keeping it level has no absolute standard by which to gauge itself. Having kicked the Ten Commandments, the Bible, prayer, and Jesus out of the public square has left America’s governments and citizenry unmoored, unstable, and without a moral compass to find her way back home. That’s not to say that there aren’t good people left in America; there are. After all, we’re image-bearers of God, albeit dulled and limited by the chains of sin. O how we have fallen. The question is, **“O, how have we fallen?”**

Who can deny that God’s Hand of grace was all over this nation’s founding, from miraculous wartime events to the Biblically based Declaration of Independence (DoI), freedom-protecting Constitution, and the notion of self-governance combined with a “self-limiting” government. For all the arguments about America not being a Christian nation, let’s cut to the chase; our founders were imperfect men who believed in the one, true God, that He actively works in the affairs of men who will one day be rewarded/judged by what they have done in the flesh, and that the atoning work of Jesus is the only way of salvation. Beyond that, many of them believed the republican form of government, which they had purposed for this nation, was either a Christian form of government or could only be held onto through the teaching of Biblical Christianity and the expectation that those virtues be implemented in the lives of her citizens. Princeton-educated signer of the DoI, Ben-

jamin Rush, and many others, wrote or spoke about republicanism (our form of government-not to be confused with the political party which didn’t come into existence until 1854) expressing the above sentiments.

“In contemplating the political institutions of the United States, I lament, that we waste so much time and money in punishing crimes, and take so little pains to prevent them. We profess to be republicans, and yet we neglect the only means of establishing and perpetuating our republican forms of government, that is, the universal education of our youth in the principles of christianity, by means of the bible; for this divine book, above all other, favours that equality among mankind, that respect for just laws, and all those sober and frugal virtues, which constitute the soul of republicanism.”

It’s in this same vein of thought that John Adams said, “Our Constitution was *made only for a moral and religious people.*” The problem with morality divorced from Jesus is that it eventually breaks down into anarchy, every man doing what is right in his own eyes. We’re pretty much there now, aren’t we?

With such a wonderful, grace-filled start, **how did we get to where we are now?** J. Edgar Hoover asked it this way: *“What has happened to the time-honored precepts of hard work and fair play which influenced the American scene during the all-important formative years of this great Republic? Where is the faith in God which fortified us through our past trials? Have our national pride, our moral conscience, our sensitivity to filth and degradation, grown so weak that they no longer react to assaults upon our proud heritage of freedom?”* Sadly, Mr. Hoover, the answer today is a resounding, “Yes!”

How? We assumed incorrectly. We, as a nation, assumed that “Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty” meant that “We the People” must constantly guard our freedoms and our Constitution which guaranteed them. The first question should have been where does our liberty come from? The answer, of course, is from God. So, we must be eter-

nally vigilant over our relationship with God and “keep” (guard) His laws in our heart and mind. **Instead of vigilant we were negligent in this regard.**

From 10,000 feet, the path we took looks something like this. Bobbie Ames, in *Land that I Love*, gives these four steps. **1. Deconstructionism:** *a tearing down of our past heritage, spiritual and religious.* **2. Moral Relativism:** *the destruction of all moral absolutes.* **3. Pluralism:** *diversity of morals and tolerance prevails toward all except those with Biblical morality.* **4. Existentialism:** *in which feelings rule. ‘It is what I feel is right for me.’* Remember, we’ve been traveling this path for a long time, subtly at first, boldly taking leaps and bounds in recent years. In choosing a path that unhitches us from God and His precepts, we’ve unhitched ourselves from His peace, rationality, and blessing, opting for chaos, insanity, and destruction.

Where do we go from here? According to the song we started with, *America the Beautiful*, we must **1. Humble ourselves to God’s correction;** *“God mend thine every flaw.”* **2. Purposefully live Biblically;** *“Confirm thy soul in self-control thy liberty in law.”* **3. Prioritize the spiritual;** *“Till all success be nobleness and every gain divine.”* In other words, we must get back to our roots. I don’t mean our constitutional roots; we must quickly return to the roots of Biblical Christianity lived out in our lives because it’s real in our hearts.

As much as we need revival in our land it’s vital that revival takes place in each of us. Let us become eternally vigilant over our relationship with Christ. As government and culture attack our Christian constitutional republic and us, individually, **let us reassert our Christian faith with Biblically informed action,** walking in holiness of heart and life in the public square, as Jesus taught. **Be passionate in prayer, diligent in devotions, and evangelizing everywhere;** for God never promised to save America, but He promised to save us. Finally, *“Let us rejoice and triumph in Christ Jesus and his righteousness, even if the times are ever so sad.”* (Thomas Brooks)

What Will Calvin University Do?

By Chris Johnson



In 1563, a German prince named Frederick III commissioned the publication of a document summarizing the shared beliefs of the young Protestant movement which had separated itself from the Roman Catholic Church. This document, the Heidelberg Catechism, has been used as a standard of Christian orthodoxy by many different denominations and sects ever since. Composed of 129 questions and answers, as well as the scripture references the answers are based on, the catechism provides a basic summary of the historic, faithful understanding of God’s revealed Will in scripture.

Among the denominations organized, in part, around the Heidelberg Catechism is the Christian Reformed Church in America, which has its roots in the conservative Dutch Reformed Church and yet is the parent denomination of the increasingly infamously liberal Calvin University.

Last month, from June 11-16, the denomination held its annual national organizational meeting, called “Synod 22,” to discuss the direction of CRC churches, including what they would do with a controversial 2020 “Human Sexuality Report,” which lent strong support to a traditional, Biblical understanding of sexuality. The report recommended, for one thing, that Question 108 of the Heidelberg Catechism would be officially understood by the CRC to condemn homosexuality.

108. Q. What does the seventh commandment teach us?

A. That all unchastity is cursed by God. We must therefore detest it from the heart and live chaste and disciplined lives, both within and outside of holy marriage.

The Human Sexuality Report recommended that ‘unchastity’ in the answer above be understood explicitly by the CRC to include: “premarital sex, extra-marital sex, poly-

mory, pornography and homosexual sex.”

On June 16, after 2 days of debate, the Synod agreed by a vote of 123 to 53, to affirm the Human Sexuality Report as “a useful summary of biblical teaching regarding human sexuality” and recommend it to churches and to affirm the recommended interpretation of answer 108.

Of course, the representatives agreed on most of the sins listed, but the sticking point was on the condemnation of homosexuality. The CRC has officially *not* condemned homosexual temptations since 1974, but the response to individuals who act on those temptations has been left up to individual congregations. I imagine the Synod which voted not to condemn homosexual temptations wouldn’t be able to fathom that within 50 years their churches would be arguing to affirm homosexual practice. Those who’ve watched Calvin University know that they, for one, have done exactly that, sliding farther and farther away from any kind of orthodox Christian understanding of sexual morality.

We who’ve studied Calvin’s long stridden tracks on the muddy descent over the years were pleasantly surprised – more like shocked, actually, to see their parent denomination which has allowed this slide thus far, so solidly reject what the school has gone so far to affirm.

Within the past few years, Calvin has allowed the operations of “Sexuality and Gender Awareness” which is a LGBTQ+ student organization, hosted events promoting homosexual ideology, advertised transgender-friendly bathrooms, and elected and allowed a gay student-body president.

The school has employed activist professors and only ended their employment after one performed a wedding for a lesbian couple and another organized a drag show for people with Down Syndrome. Who knows how many similarly minded professors are teaching at Calvin, but just haven’t quite crossed that line, but a recent letter urging the university “to recognize that good people have differing viewpoints, and biblical interpretations related to sexuality should not be an employment issue at Calvin” was signed by over 140 staff and faculty.

According to the Calvin Chimes, their school paper, a denominational task force will be appointed to determine the implications for the university. One professor, the

author of the best selling “*Jesus And John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted A Faith And Fractured A Nation,*” Kristen Kobes Du Mez, says “*Many people are polishing their CVs, starting to look at what else is out there and preparing themselves to leave.*” CVs are sort of academic resumes.

In her words, before the Synod’s decision “*School policies explicitly allowed professors room to criticize elements of CRC orthodoxy as long as they agreed to conduct their lives according to the church’s rules. And in a long-running internal CRC debate over how to temper biblical writings with contemporary values, Calvin faculty were frequently among those pushing hardest for more progressive views.*”

It seems too much to hope that Calvin University could recalibrate its moral compass to the Biblical North Star, but as their name sake reminds us, “All events are governed by God’s secret plan.” Certainly this decision of the CRC is a step in that direction.

If you’re in the CRC, let your pastor know that you’re encouraged by the denomination’s decision. Denominational leadership will doubtless be on the receiving end of plenty of harsh criticism and the emotional manipulation that is the hallmark of homosexual activists. They need to know that their flocks support them!

Whether or not you’re in the denomination, we can pray for the leadership and for the members of the Calvin commission, and for Calvin staff – particularly as they prepare to welcome a new president – that they would have a renewed zeal to submit their consciences and their institution to the Word of God.

The LGBTQ conflict is raging elsewhere in the Reformed world right now. The well known Christian publishers, Eerdmans, recently published a list of books to read for “Pride Month,” meanwhile the Reformed Church in America is undergoing a split, as conservative churches break from the radical arc of the old denomination.

All of this upheaval is tragic, but it is also, obviously, awakening Christians to the battles on our doorsteps. May God grant us the strength to fight it. As Joab encourages in 2 Samuel 10:12, “*Be of good courage, and let us be courageous for our people, and for the cities of our God, and may the LORD do what seems good to him.*”

ROE OVERTURNED! Justice Delayed is Not Justice Denied.

By Lisa Van Houten



As I write this, The Supreme Court has just announced its decision to overturn Roe v. Wade! For nearly five decades pro-life Americans have prayed and labored for this day – even as we know the fight to protect the unborn will continue in every state. Since the leaked Dobbs decision in early May, the left has erupted in fury that their ability to murder unborn babies could be limited in any way. Besides throwing temper tantrums, activists have attacked dozens of pro-life pregnancy centers; over 45 pregnancy resource centers have been firebombed or had their property destroyed and vandalized. Now with the overturning of Roe, leftists promise the violence will only increase. Get ready for a summer of rage. A radical pro-abortion group called “Jane’s Revenge” has threatened crisis pregnancy centers across the country, stating in part: **“From here forward, any anti-choice group who closes their doors, and stops operating will no longer be a target. But until you do, it’s open season ... We will never stop . . . Everyone with the urge to paint, to burn, to cut, to jam: now is the time.”**

If that’s not domestic terrorism, I don’t know what is. Where’s the condemnation from the Biden administration, Homeland Security, the Justice Department? No one in the administration has condemned the violence directed at pro-life Americans. Finally, on June 17 the FBI stated they would “investigate” these attacks, but no official in the Biden administration has said a peep about them. Imagine the reaction if there had been 45 attacks upon Planned Parenthood buildings. Attorney General Merrick Garland labeled parents who merely voiced concerns at school board meetings as “domestic terrorists,” but he turns a blind eye to leftists engaging in actual domestic terrorism. As protestors continue to intimidate Supreme Court justices outside of their

homes – a direct violation of federal law – Garland has refused to put a stop to it and arrest the protestors, even after the assassination attempt against Justice Kavanaugh. As the head of the Department of Justice, Garland has betrayed his sworn duty to uphold the rule of law and protect the rights of all American citizens. Instead, he’s proven to be a political hack, weaponizing the DOJ against conservatives and using the highest law enforcement agency in our nation to protect criminal actions by those on the left. The Department of Justice has become the Department of Injustice.

Reminiscent of communist regimes, Democrats are using the power of the federal government to take out their political adversaries. The following are just a few examples of the DOJ’s double standards: *“... President Barack Obama’s attorney general, Eric Holder, faced no repercussions after Congress held him in contempt for refusing to comply with its Fast and Furious investigation. Meanwhile, former Trump adviser Peter Navarro was put in leg irons during an ambush arrest at the airport for the same charge of contempt.*

“Trump national security adviser Michael Flynn was financially destroyed by a federal investigation, meanwhile fired former acting FBI Director Andrew McCabe won back his taxpayer-funded pension even though McCabe admitted to lying to the FBI about a press leak. Former CIA Director John Brennan, a serial Trump antagonist, repeatedly lied before Congress. His penalty? A lucrative book deal and no leg irons. ...”
[The Daily Signal]

And this from Gary Bauer from 6/10/22: *“Just hours before last night’s show trial began, Biden’s FBI arrested Ryan Kelley, one of the last remaining Republican candidates in the race for governor of Michigan. (The other leading candidates were all suspiciously kicked off the ballot.)*

The charges against Kelley are all relatively minor. He’s essentially being accused of trespassing on federal property. He never entered the Capitol Building. But for this minor trespassing infraction, the FBI hunted him down and arrested him. If only

the Bureau was that aggressive with Antifa! ... This is an extraordinary development. It seems to suggest that almost everyone on Capitol Hill that day may be subject to arrest. ...

By the way, the five candidates kicked off the [Michigan gubernatorial] ballot all had the same petition problem. Really? All of them? That almost sounds like sabotage. Is this a scheme to secure a key 2024 state, currently led by a deeply unpopular Democrat? And now they’ve taken out one of the last remaining candidates, on the opening day of the Pelosi Show. What a remarkable coincidence! (Hardly.)”

How can we expect justice when those wielding it are so corrupt? The more difficult question to understand is why are evildoers allowed to prosper? We certainly aren’t the first to ask that question; it’s been asked by every generation of believers - Job (Job 21:7), David (Psalm 10) Asaph (Psalm 73), Jeremiah (Jer. 12). Habakkuk’s cry could be our own: **“O Lord, how long shall I cry for help ...the law is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; so justice goes forth perverted.”**

You can sense the despair in Habakkuk that we, too, easily feel when we focus on the deeds of the wicked. But that’s not where our focus should be, and God didn’t leave Habakkuk in despair either. The Lord answered Habakkuk, and gives us the same reply: **“For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told. ... For still the vision awaits its appointed time ... If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come ... but the righteous shall live by faith.”** (Habakkuk 1-2) The righteous shall live by faith, until our faith is made sight. In the meantime, God gives us a command with a promise in Psalm 37, **“Fret not yourself because of evildoers. ... For the Lord loves justice; he will not forsake his saints. They are preserved forever, but the children of the wicked shall be cut off.”** God is doing a work in *our* days; His story is still unfolding – and while we don’t understand the intricacies of the plot, we do know the ending! In God’s timetable, justice delayed is not justice denied.

Mental Health as Gun Control

By Chris Johnson



Following the atrocity of the Uvalde shooting, activists, lobbyists, and politicians have slid into the familiar political grooves of their opposing, uncompromising moral resolutions on what the government's responsibility is to ensure these too-familiar tragedies stop being carried out.

At this point, the liberal-led House of Representatives has passed a radically-over reaching gun control bill and the Senate has reached a bipartisan compromise on their own bill which is less extreme, but which is still extremely concerning.

The House also passed a separate "red flag law," which would allow "families, police and others to ask federal courts to order the removal of firearms from people at extreme risk of harming themselves or others." That's how ABC News describes it, anyway.

The Senate's bipartisan bill, on the other hand, offers grants to states which enact such legislation, but stops short of actually enacting it within this bill. It also offers funding for more school security and mental health counseling, as well as including juvenile records in the already mandatory background checks required to purchase a firearm.

Let's start with why "Red Flag Laws" are a bad idea. I've seen it best summed up in a tweet from a liberal account which went something like this: "Step one – pass red flag laws. Step two – everything is a red flag."

As ABC News reported above, "families, police officers, and others" would be able to ask courts to take away an individual's firearms if they found their actions to be erratic or threatening. That doesn't sound like

such a bad idea until you think of what people are threatened by in our day. Disagreement is labeled hate speech. Silence is considered violence. How many quasi-intellectual think pieces have been published questioning the sanity of those who hold opposing opinions on things like homosexuality or abortion or free speech? A year ago, the federal government was investigating parents who showed up to school board meetings to protest trans propaganda. How many judges will find out someone publicly questioned the veracity of the 2020 elections and find that to be a good reason to take away responsibly owned firearms? What if you were at the rally in Washington D.C. on January 6? Red flag laws are an open door to mass gun confiscation on the basis of a fluid definition of what constitutes a "threat."

As for the other House bill, it cracks down on issues which would have no impact on criminality, but would punish legal gun owners for the way they enjoy using their firearms. Most weapons used in school shootings are already procured illegally, as two-thirds of such shooters are already under the legal age to purchase a weapon at 18. AR15s are a common hunting rifle for feral hogs, coyotes and other varmints. Kyle Rittenhouse, like it or not, effectively used his AR to defend himself as he brought aid to the Kenosha community. These examples of responsible gun ownership are just a few of the stories that would be affected by this legislation.

I could keep going through each aspect of these gun bills and pointing out the problems, but I want to get to the one that everyone seems to agree on, which is the Senate bill's emphasis on funding school "mental health" programs. Who could disagree with increased mental health? Do you want people to be depressed and anxious?

Of course not, but what are the accepted treatments for depression and anxiety? Are kids being encouraged to get outside of themselves and focus on bringing joy to others? Is it being explained to them that they are created in God's own image and that He made them, "male and female," "very good," for the purpose of glorifying and enjoying Him forever? And that they

will only know peace when they are fulfilling their created purpose? Are they being encouraged to rest in the reality that God's authority in the world is ultimate and that He loves His people and works everything out for their good?

Of course not. Not in our public schools. We see the results of secular mental health solutions in every headline reporting on drag queen story hours, sex camps for kids, teachers encouraging their students to explore the possibilities that their sexuality might not be "binary." We see them in every account of the detransitioned who have scarred and handicapped themselves for life, because their counselor told them they'd be happier if they lived out their fantasies, had their sexual organs cut up and turned inside out, and expressed themselves as the opposite sex. The modern ideas of mental health professionals send people to jail when they try to stop their kids from living out this self inflicted horror story.

The American Psychiatric Association's "Position Statement on Treatment of Transgender (Trans) and Gender Diverse Youth," culminates with this: "*If the developmental trajectory affirms the trans identity, treatment with estrogen or testosterone can be instituted to facilitate development of affirmed secondary sex characteristics, if desired. Gender-affirming surgeries may follow in later adolescence or young adulthood.*"

This is the official position of any APA psychiatrist, and this is what psychiatrists are being trained to do. Meanwhile, APA guidelines urge that clinicians "be aware of dominant masculine ideals."

Mental health IS at the heart of BOTH of these problems. But the solution is not to look inside and see who we really are and learn to express that true self more fully and insist that others affirm our delusions. Indeed, that is what the shooters are doing, expressing the darkness and depravity of the human heart unbound by conscience.

Instead we must submit to God's designs for men and women, working together to the glory of God.