

## The “Othering” of Conservative and Christian America

By Steve Huston



“I have an important message if you love our constitutional Republic, follow Jesus Christ, are a Republican, want to Make America Great Again and/or voted for Donald Trump: You are now being officially ‘othered’ by the Biden administration.” Frank Gaffney used these chilling words to begin a recent Secure Freedom Minute broadcast.

Perhaps your first thoughts are: “What’s ‘othering’ and why does Team Biden have me in their crosshairs?” Gaffney described “othering” as “a technique routinely used by totalitarians like Marxists that, if allowed to run its course, will result in the singling out, persecuting and even destroying of its targets.” Those “targets” he’s referring to would be anyone who opposes this regime’s political stances and their blatant disregard for the Constitution; anyone who believes in Biblical values (for example - traditional marriage, opposed to abortion and children being subjected to LGBTQ+ ideology, only two genders determined by one’s biological makeup); believe in the historical record that this nation was founded on Judeo-Christian values and teachings; refuse to subject their bodies to an experimental, potentially DNA-altering, problematic “vaccine;” or question the outcome of a very suspicious election which has put these people in power. They’ve been “othering” for a long time, but now they have the

power to push their divisive and destructive agenda through and are better able to act against their political opponents, bullying and intimidating others into silence and/or submission. As per usual, labels are applied, meant to belittle or to be seen as lesser. Some of these would include “Christian nationalist,” “domestic terrorist,” and “MAGA Republican” – regardless of whether one supports Trump personally or not.

Dede Laugesen (Executive Director, Save the Persecuted Christians; Executive Secretary, Committee on the Present Danger: China ) explains, “Team Biden is demonizing America’s conservatives, Christians, and those who hold traditional conservative views, crafting narratives to create division among Republicans and to cast suspicion on those who hold traditional religious and moral beliefs. ‘Othering’ is part and parcel of the Maoist, communist playbook resulting in the deaths of tens of millions and employed against Jews in Nazi Germany with the same effect. Don Hanley in his book, *Terrorism: The Newest Face of Warfare*, identifies four steps in the process of preparing a select population or group for suppression or eventual extermination. The ‘other’ is made to be **perceived as a problem or threat** in order to gain power, then **dehumanized** (cast doubt and dispersion upon that group), then the other is **stripped of their rights** – first socially and then in

law, after that the ‘other’ is **disarmed and the violence and killing begins**. The net result of ‘othering’ is division, exclusion, deception, and violent death.”

She gives one example of how this is taking place: “Techniques used in the process of ‘othering’ force individuals to question their dignity and police their own thoughts in a drive to negate personal liberty and subject every individual to the power of the accusing authority. In China this authority is the Communist Party. In America it’s Team Biden and the radical left. The rhetoric in America pertaining to conservatives and specifically conservative Christians is increasingly inflammatory and discriminatory. Parents protesting critical race theory, gender fluidity, LGBTQ rights, pornography, and other various Team Biden political agendas imposed on public school children have been called ‘domestic extremists’ and threatened with prosecution by America’s top law enforcement officer Merrick Garland.”

The above quotes come from a webinar hosted by Frank Gaffney, other participants included former Marxist professor Michael Rectenwald, former CIA Sam Faddis, Trevor Loudon, and Committee on Present Danger China chairman Brian Kennedy. Each gave presentations that would help our readers to better understand this very real

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## Personal Note from the President



My mind turns to a large stack of historical papers that I have accumulated since 1985 on the work of American Decency Association (once American Family Association of Michigan). As I peruse the documents (that I call ADA Accomplishments), it is very humbling and heartwarming to review the so-called victories. It is humbling because there are some amazing successes, but whether the successes came in 1985 or in 2021 (or whenever), I recognize that that was then and now is now.

Some of those victories such as passing strong obscenity legislation (1991) were great successes; only a few reading this would recall the major evidence of God's hand in leading us day by day over several years to experience that fulfilling day in the governor's office as John Engler signed it into law. Yet then we were disappointed to recognize in those following weeks and years that this important new law was never successfully applied by county prosecutors.

So much could be said to unpack the whys and why-nots, yet that is not the reason behind my choice of topic; but rather, to draw several insights and pose questions not only from labors in ministry but labors in life.

Still, that being said, God is faithful! What He calls us to do, we are to do it with all our might - that He would be glorified. Is it that God truly was glorified through those years of meeting with prosecutors from Detroit, Pontiac, Muskegon, Flint, Ann Arbor, Saginaw, Bay City, Fremont ...? Was God glorified and was anything at all accomplished through the many speaking engagements throughout Michigan (upper and lower peninsula) presenting the message: Holiness: God's Desire for His people? What was accomplished as I went from community to

community showing Dr. James Dobson's movie "The Winnable War" some 125 times in the late '80s and early '90s?

What about you veterans of parenting and grandparenting (particularly those who have been at it so many years)? Some, perhaps many, may be heavy laden with sadness at what appears to be great failure or lack of fruit from years of loving sacrifice.

But then the fruit of our labors sometimes comes after we die and we don't see it in our lifetimes.

Life is short to the elderly, but to the young, as they look ahead, it seems so long. As I drive down the road to town, I pass by homes and I remember when Tom and Hilda lived there. They were such bulwarks in the faith visiting the weak, the hospitalized, those in the senior facilities, making a pie for an elderly neighbor - faithful Christians serving in their church. Over there I see the farm of my in-laws now occupied by my son Chris, Dave and Geneva Van Sloten were such examples of hard labor, helpful to local farmers, ever faithful in serving the Lord, life examples gone since 2001 and 2003, yet their lives still speak into my life.

Life is precious, short and hard. I think of my dad who little by little it seems exhibited dementia and how unsettling that was to him and debilitating. I came alongside him in the last months and year of his life. I have often said to myself and a few others, I learned some of my most valuable lessons in life from the way he finished out his life - so tender, patient, even kindly to caregivers.

Sometimes the Lord's work seems so thankless. We have an event like a Trevor Loudon event and I am disappointed or shocked at a low turn out on a particular evening or we show a documentary as recently "What is a Woman?" and less than 40 attended. Yet, as people leave, a young woman comes up and looks in my face and says "Sir. I wanted to thank you for all you do. I have only been to a few of your events but each time I have come I have been inspired, strengthened, helped and I just want

you to know how much your ministry means to me."

The times are tough and getting tougher and less friendly to people of faith. I recall the words of my most beloved mentor/example - Rev. Donald E. Wildmon; founder of AFA and American Family radio. I can still hear his voice in my head "Bill, we aren't called to be successful but to be faithful."

***"... By his grace I will die in harness, and lay down my charge only when I lay down my body. Age may instruct the young, cheer the faint, and encourage the desponding; if eventide has less of vigorous heat, it should have more of calm wisdom, therefore in the evening I will not withhold my hand."*** C.H. Spurgeon, Evening by Evening, 09.20.22

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A quick note to those who read our newsletter faithfully and support us in prayer and finances. Your financial support, prayer, and your notes of encouragement and updates about yourself is our affirmation and lifeline. You are the faithful evidence of God's faithfulness! We see that as God's continued pleasure with our ministry.

We do acknowledge that with right leadership our nation's economic woes could be turned around in short order. We acknowledge that our present leadership desires to bring our nation to its knees with its new world order agenda. We are seeing it unfold before our very eyes - day by day. We have had four months during this past year where financial giving has reached new monthly lows. It is understandable given, the cost of gas, milk, eggs, sugar, flour and the like. We acknowledge we are in a war, a spiritual war of monumental proportions.

God leads His dear children along! We are His children and so are you. We have so much to be thankful for in Him and in you and your desire that we would flourish in the Lord. May God continue to bless each of us together in His labors and in His Holy Name.

# This Past Sunday

By Chris Johnson



This past Sunday, our church had the privilege of baptizing two brothers, four and five years-old, who were only recently adopted by their long-time foster parents.

As the service was beginning, the boys' new mom, her sisters, and their cousins, gathered around the piano to celebrate the occasion with a special music piece. Their mother is a Christian school music teacher and she and her talented family enjoy singing together.

Now, these boys have been through a lot in their young lives. Their birth mother was a drug addict. She neglected them while she had them to where the older child, as a 3-year-old, was fetching hot dogs from the fridge to feed his little brother while their mom was incoherent. While they were in foster care and the state was trying to reunite them with their mother, she would often skip her visitations, leaving the boys, of course, distraught. It was a year-long struggle for these boys to belong to a real family that loved them, as the court system repeatedly fumbled and drug its feet throughout the adoption process.

Now the boys' new family's voices rose together:

*I love Your voice  
You have led me through the fire  
In the darkest night  
You are close like no other  
I've known You as a Father  
I've known You as a Friend  
And I have lived in the goodness of God*

Then, as we listened to the ladies beautifully singing these words, those of us close enough heard a little five-year old voice belting it out right along with them.

*And all my life You have been faithful!  
And all my life You have been so, so good!*

*With every breath that I am able  
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God!*

I don't know how much of his early years of neglect this little guy remembers. Hopefully he doesn't even realize how true that song is for his own life, but it does serve as a reminder for those who have seen what this family has gone through to finally come together.

As Psalm 139 tells us, God knit these boys together in their drug-addled mother's womb. He was with them as the adults in their life who should have been bringing them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord were instead seeking an escape from reality. God was with them while he cared for his brother when he should have been being cared for himself, while they were bouncing back and forth between their foster parents and the home they had been rescued from and then back again. He's still with them now as they work to overcome the challenges to their development caused by the trauma they've undergone.

At Christmastime, we often hear Christ's title, Emmanuel, meaning "God with us," but it's easy for us to forget about that the rest of the year. He is with us. His Holy Spirit is in us, and He knows exactly what each of us is going through. In fact, He's walking through it too.

As we read through the dark details of the world around us in these pages and elsewhere, let us be reminded and inspired by these boys of this truth. God is managing the minute details to bring to pass what He knows to be best for His people.

Can we trust that He can work through what seems to be chaos for His glory and our good?

May we echo the spirit of the writer of Psalm 139:

Where shall I go from your Spirit?  
Or where shall I flee from your presence?

<sup>8</sup> If I ascend to heaven, you are there!  
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

<sup>9</sup> If I take the wings of the morning

and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

<sup>10</sup> even there your hand shall lead me,  
and your right hand shall hold me.

<sup>11</sup> If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,

and the light about me be night,"

<sup>12</sup> even the darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is bright as the day,  
for darkness is as light with you.

<sup>13</sup> For you formed my inward parts;  
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.

<sup>14</sup> I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works;  
my soul knows it very well.

<sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from you,  
when I was being made in secret,  
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

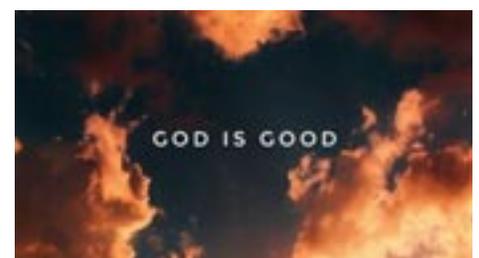
<sup>16</sup> Your eyes saw my unformed substance;  
in your book were written, every one of them,

the days that were formed for me,  
when as yet there was none of them.

God formed us and He formed these days for us, nothing is getting by Him unnoticed. His works are indeed wonderful!

The question is, do we trust His judgment? None of us would have ever sent those boys into the situation they were in at an early age, just as many of us wouldn't choose our own situation now, maybe not our personal situations OR our geo-political situation that we are still in the midst of. But still we can trustingly sing:

*"all my life You have been faithful!  
And all my life You have been so, so good!  
With every breath that I am able  
I will sing of the goodness of God!"*



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and present danger. I urge you to visit [www.presentdangerchina.org](http://www.presentdangerchina.org) and watch [USA BETRAYED: Formula for Fratricide: Biden’s ‘Othering’ of MAGA](#). Tucker Carlson (9/14/22) points out the dangers of this “othering,” specifically the hypocritical nature of the Left regarding questioning the elections, pointing out that dissent is not a crime, it is a patriotic act. It’s well worth viewing.

If there is any doubt that this is happening, all one needs to do is view Mr. Biden’s speech given in front of Independence Hall on September 1, 2022. In essence, he was declaring war on nearly half the population of the United States of America.

We must take Dede’s solemn warning to heart: “*What begins with the marginalization, discrimination, and ‘othering’ of a targeted population, unless challenged, will morph into censorship and cancelling... Unless such non-physical suppression is stopped, there can quickly follow violation, desecration, seizure and destruction of properties like churches and other sanctuaries. From there it is all too short a step to violence against conservatives and communities of believers.*” Trevor Loudon explains that the Bible and Christianity could be deemed as hate speech. The left knows Christianity is what makes America different, so it must be taken out of the way.

The real question is, as Dede asks, “**Will American Christians become the world’s next victim of persecution?**” She tracks the status of violence targeting Christians for their beliefs. Globally, over the last four years there’s been an increase of 67% which now includes 360 million heavily persecuted Christians. It’s very troubling as we recognize the increase in “othering” Christians in America which could easily lead to

persecution. One of the partners of *Save the Persecuted Christians* observed that persecution develops in stages – “**there is the squeeze, the silencing, and the smash.**” Where do you see us today? She continues to warn, “This pattern is very familiar elsewhere and we must be alive to and ready to counter its manifestations here.”

Each one of us has a duty to get better informed as to what is happening here in our own country and to share that knowledge with others. I would urge you to visit [www.savethepersecutedchristians.org](http://www.savethepersecutedchristians.org) and watch the webinar entitled *The Demonization of America’s Christians*. There you will hear knowledgeable people like Sam Faddis, Frank Gaffney, Liz Yore, Trevor Loudon, and others speak on the following important topics: ‘*Christian Nationalists: Do You Have Items on the FBI’s List of Symbols for ‘Domestic Violent Extremists’? Most of Us Do; Demonizing the Church from Within—with A Little Help from Known Communists; Purging Christians from Civic Life, Discourse, and the Public Square; ‘Gun-toting’ Catholics Maligned by The Atlantic as ‘Rosary Radicals,’ ‘Rad-Trads,’ and the ‘Church Militant;’ and Warnings for America from Countries Where Being a Christian Could Get You Killed.*” “In short, we must protect the right of Christians to believe, worship, and associate freely worldwide or risk losing the ability and moral courage to exercise our own constitutional right to religious freedom at home.”

I have no desire to cause our readers to fear, but we must not have our heads in the sand. We must recognize that, at the rate things are progressing, the possibility of persecution is very real and possibly closer than most think. My goal is that of Peter’s as he wrote, “*Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:*” (1 Pet. 4:12) Whether heavy persecution comes or not, we must be ready to stand faithful, sharing the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. We must warn that there’s a greater and more righteous judgment coming. Above all, we must show love for as the persecuted Wurmbrands stated, “love is the heart of the gospel.” Might our prayer echo

that of the psalmist: “Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up thine hand: forget not the humble.” Psalms 10:12

Many believe Biden’s speech was not only meant to justify violence toward the “others,” his people want to incite violence or an overreaction from those being “othered.” That way they’ll have an excuse to shut down the elections and lock up the dissidents. As Sam Faddis warned, “They’re going to do anything and everything that allows them to subvert the process, seize control, and remain in power. The rulebook is thrown out. They’ve already legitimized the use of violence on their part.” (burning cities, etc.) **What should we do?**

**First**, don’t give in to their baiting for violence. We must use ballots, not bullets. **Second**, get as many people as possible active in the electoral process – poll watchers, election judges, etc. Free and fair elections are our best hope in turning things around. **Third**, talk to others, urging them to press for unity not division, brotherhood not “otherhood,” Remember the devastation that took place the last time fratricide was allowed and our nation was divided. **Lastly**, rest in God’s sovereignty, praying with David, “Hear my voice, O God, in my prayer: **preserve my life from fear of the enemy.**” (Psalms 64:1) Remember that God’s grace is sufficient to see you through whatever the “othering” may bring. **After doing all you can do, humble yourself to His will and He will give you more grace, as much as you need.**

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# The 'Dis-respect' of Marriage Act

By Lisa Van Houten



In 1996 the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) was passed by Congress with overwhelming bipartisan support, including then Senator Joe Biden, and signed into law by none other than Bill Clinton, defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman. How far we have fallen in 26 years. Earlier this summer the House of Representatives passed the deceptive and Orwellian-named “Respect for Marriage Act” (RFMA) which, instead, blatantly disrespects and undermines the institution of marriage ordained by God and recognized by every civilization since the beginning of time. If RFMA is passed by the U.S. Senate and signed into law by Joe Biden, it will repeal DOMA and enshrine homosexual marriage as the law of the land.

You may say “we already have legalized gay marriage in the U.S. thanks to the Supreme Court’s Obergefell ruling so what’s the big deal? It’s settled law.” If pro-lifers had the same attitude toward abortion, *Roe v. Wade* would still be in place. But *Roe* was an egregiously unconstitutional decision, as was the Obergefell decision, which forced gay marriage upon every state against the vote of the people. Democrats fear that one day the Supreme Court will have the courage to right that wrong as they recently did with *Roe* and so Nancy Pelosi pushed a surprise vote on RFMA as an end run around the Supreme Court. But not only would RFMA codify gay marriage into federal law, it would also force all states and the federal government to recognize any “marriage” lawfully performed by any state. Therefore, if at some point in the future, a state recognized polygamy as a lawful marriage, all states would be bound to that as well.

Yet in addition to being a direct assault upon marriage and family, RFMA would eviscerate religious liberty, opening wide the door

for “injured parties” to file civil suits against those who don’t affirm gay marriage, while also threatening the tax-exempt status of Christian ministries. As Alliance Defending Freedom wrote in part: *“The Respect for Marriage Act effectively deputizes interest groups to sue religious individuals, organizations, and businesses that operate according to sincerely held beliefs that marriage is between one man and one woman ... Private organizations such as faith-based foster care providers and religious social service organizations that participate in a joint activity with the state or whose operations are entwined with government policies, will likely face litigation for merely practicing their faith.”*

In essence, the purpose of this bill is to crush dissent. It’s another weapon to attempt to force Christians to deny the Word of God and affirm their false definition of marriage and sexuality. **The more immutable a truth is the more the Left will attempt to destroy it. Immutable truth infuriates them. Their actual enemy is their Creator and His authority, to Whom they refuse to submit.** As God’s representatives, and hopefully spokespersons of His Truth, we Christians have become the target of the Left, who are bent on silencing and demonizing our message.

RFMA passed the House with every Democrat voting in favor of it and, to their great shame, supported by 47 Republicans who pandered to the LGBT mob and joined the Democrats to protect gay marriage, undermining not only their party’s platform, but also the voters who put them in office. The Republican Party platform, approved in 2016 and reaffirmed just two years ago in 2020 states: *“Traditional marriage and family, based on marriage between one man and one woman, is the foundation for a free society and has for millennia been entrusted with rearing children and instilling cultural values. .... We also condemn the Supreme Court’s lawless ruling in Obergefell v. Hodges [which allowed] five unelected lawyers [to rob] 320 million Americans of their legitimate constitutional authority to define marriage as the union of one man and one woman.”*

Now RFMA moves to the Senate, where Democrats will need 10 Republicans to vote for the bill. Several have already indicated they will - Susan Collins, Lisa Murkowski, Thom Tillis, and Rob Portman - with another six not ruling out their support for the bill. Many of these Republicans just seven short years ago strongly opposed the Supreme Court’s Obergefell ruling. What’s changed? Is marriage no longer worth defending? Was their outrage just lip service, pandering to their base? As LifeSiteNews opines: *One of the national GOP’s dirty little not-so-secrets is that it’s only as conservative as it needs to be to stay in office. Their natural inclination is to go with the flow on marriage and sexuality ...*

**There is a direct causal line from the Supreme Court re-defining marriage to the following years’ assaults on religious liberty and today’s all-out war on gender distinctions.** Indeed, look at the Pandora’s Box that has exploded since the Obergefell decision normalizing transgenderism, threatening religious liberty, and further destroying God’s design for family. We see the disintegration of our society as a result. If RFMA becomes the law of the land, that will only intensify.

While Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer(D) had been pushing for a vote on RFMA by the end of September, he is now indicating a vote will be postponed until after the election in November, a signal that he currently doesn’t have the votes of 10 Republicans. Our concern is, however, that after the election when they won’t have to face the wrath of voters at the ballot box, wishy-washy Republicans will be convinced to vote for the re-definition of marriage. Republican Senators are feeling the heat now, we must continue to hold their feet to the fire both before the election and afterwards.

**Call your Republican U.S. Senators and let them know you expect them to uphold their party’s platform and the sanctity of marriage. The United States Capitol switchboard is (202) 224-3121. A switchboard operator will connect you directly with the Senate office you request.**

# Amazon's Rings of Power: If You Don't Know What Evil is, How Can You Fight It?

By Chris Johnson



Last month, Amazon Prime began streaming the most expensive television production ever made. Their source material was worth the investment: the appendixes to one of the most cherished works of fiction in the last century, J.R.R Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings."

Tolkien is known for his extensive world building. He famously wrote entire languages for the races in his books, as well as extensive histories of the world he created (or, as we'll see in a moment, "sub-created"). The appendixes to the Lord of the Rings are filled with back-stories, legends, histories, and details of what Tolkien named "Middle-Earth."

Tolkien was an academic whose focus was on the history of the English language, and the cultures from which that language sprang were the inspiration for the cultures in his fiction. He was also an ardent and devoted Catholic, calling the trilogy "a fundamentally religious and Catholic work."

So, when Amazon set out to expand the stories introduced there, they faced a tough choice. Honor the works' famously meticulous origin, or else try to shape it to appeal to a society which abhors both European "whiteness" and Catholic tradition.

Tolkien fans were concerned that his beloved work would not be treated in a way that honored his vision for the world he brought into being. The concerns proved to be warranted, as the first episode introduces an accusatory story line where a black elf is maliciously confronted by a white human who refers to his kind as "you people." The characters are further complicated by the black elf's forbidden affection for a white woman, which allows the show to pretend the conflict is over the human/elf relationship, rather than the black/white relationship. Thus, Tolkien's intricately crafted and

beloved world is ham-handedly crafted into another weapon against the Left's favorite boogeyman: white supremacy.

Just as disappointing though, was their treatment of one important character in the Lord of the Rings book, whose backstory they are reimagining: Galadriel. Galadriel is a queen, whom traditional Catholic Tolkien revealed, was modeled from the Catholic doctrine of Mary. Tolkien himself wrote in a letter to a friend: *"I think it is true that I owe much of this character to Christian and Catholic teaching and imagination about Mary."* In the book, this character is known for her wisdom, her beauty, her skill in crafting, and for being a gracious host, i.e. traditional feminine ideals.

Yet, in Amazon's series, Galadriel becomes a sword-wielding, warrior, feminist icon who must overcome the obstacles men in authority put in her way in order to accomplish her mission. Thus, Tolkien's world is crafted into another weapon against the Left's *second* favorite boogeyman: the patriarchy.

Accuracy to source material takes the back seat, while heading off liberal screeds against systematic oppression takes the front.

Along with his fiction, J.R.R Tolkien also wrote poetry, and in one of these, called *"Mythopeia,"* he explains his philosophy of creativity.

*"...man, sub-creator, the refracted light through whom is splintered from a single White to many hues, and endlessly combined in living shapes that move from mind to mind. Though all the crannies of the world we filled with elves and goblins, though we dared to build gods and their houses out of dark and light, and sow the seed of dragons, 'twas our right(used or misused). The right has not decayed. We make still by the law in which we're made."*

Tolkien saw himself as a sub-creator- a prism through which the creative glory of God refracted. Through our creativity - by way of the written word or the silver screen or any number of other medium - our crea-

tions travel from mind to mind. Thus, we can "create" worlds filled with wicked things to fight against the good things. We have that right, but we can use or misuse it. What we cannot escape from is that we must create in relation to the will of God who made us.

That is why Tolkien's work rings true, while Amazon's attempt sounds so hollow. As a devoted Catholic, Tolkien knew what goodness was, and, as a World War 1 veteran, he knew all too well what evil was. In his stories, he was trying to communicate these undeniable truths and because of his knowledge and experience, he was incredibly and powerfully successful. Amazon, on the other hand, is just trying to get new subscribers. They're not trying to teach anyone transcendent truths, they're only trying to appeal to the lowest common denominator.

The shows' executives clearly have no concept of truth beyond their own estimations, which is how you get a scene where Galadriel tells her companions that a place is so "evil" that their torches don't give off heat. What exactly do they think evil is? They don't say, but Galadriel wants to fight it.

The Truth that Tolkien knew tells us what evil is, and would have us fight it. Yes, in racism and prejudice – when the real things can be found – but also in the much more prevalent forms of the slaughter of the unborn, the mutilation and abuse of young people, the unjust weights and measures that steals the life and productivity of hard-working people.

As Tolkien's character Sam Gamgee told us, *"It's like in the great stories, Mr. Frodo. The ones that really mattered. Full of darkness and danger, they were. And sometimes you didn't want to know the end. Because how could the end be happy? ...But in the end, it's only a passing thing, this shadow... And when the sun shines it will shine out the clearer. Those were the stories that stayed with you. That meant something, even if you were too small to understand why. But I think, Mr. Frodo, I do understand. I know now. Folk in those stories had lots of chances of turning back, only they didn't. They kept going. Because they were holding on to something."*

# Vote No on All 3

By Lisa Van Houten



It's no secret how vital this election is both federally and at the state level. As Christians we not only have an obligation to vote, but also to vote in ways that most closely align with the principles set forth in Scripture. In many states, in addition to voting for candidates, those going to the polls will be casting votes on important ballot proposals. **Here in Michigan there are three very troubling ballot proposals which would permanently and detrimentally amend our state constitution.** For those outside of Michigan, become informed of the issues you will face on November's ballot.

**Proposal 3** on the Michigan ballot is the most concerning of all. If passed, Prop 3 would enshrine an unlimited, constitutional right to abortion in Michigan through all nine months of pregnancy, including partial-birth abortion, and prevent the legislature from passing any future restrictions on abortion in Michigan. In addition, it obliterates pro-life laws already on the books such as requiring parental consent for minors to have an abortion and would allow minors to obtain puberty blockers and sex-change surgery without parental knowledge or consent.

**Proposal 2** is an effort by the Left to permanently undermine election integrity. This amendment to Michigan's constitution would make voter fraud far more easy and likely to occur. It would allow for nine days of in person voting (giving the potential for the tongue-in-cheek adage, "vote early and often" to become an actuality.) Prop 3 also eliminates any requirement to show an ID in order to vote, allowing for non-citizens to vote. In addition, Prop 3 would deny citizens access to voting records, preventing Michigan citizens from discovering election fraud.

**Proposal 1** would make it easy for career politicians to stay in office. In Michigan, we have term limits for our state representatives. Prop 1 would double the years they would be allowed to serve. Incumbents who hold office for numbers of years become more responsive to lobbyists than voters and it is very difficult for grassroots challengers to overcome them.

**We at American Decency are making available an educational flyer for our Michigan readers regarding these three ballot proposals entitled, "Vote No on All 3." We're offering them in bundles of 10 and we urge you to use the enclosed response card to order multiple bundles of the "Vote No on All 3" flyers to hand out to family, friends, neighbors, and your church.** (If cost is a factor, please let us know and we'll do our best to meet your need.)

## Deliver Us From Evil

By Lisa Van Houten



In less than two short years in office, the Biden administration is rapidly turning the United States of America into a police state, with a weaponized Department of Justice and FBI becoming a version of the KGB, abusing their powers to intimidate and silence the political opponents of the Biden administration.

We've seen the DOJ target parents, painting them as domestic terrorists, for speaking out at school board meetings. Hundreds of Americans have been prosecuted and/or harassed merely for exercising their first amendment rights on January 6, 2021. Recently FBI agents surrounded My Pillow CEO Mike Lindell at a drive-thru, confiscating his phone, because he dared to ques-

tion the legitimacy of the last election. In Biden's police state, having an opposing opinion and expressing it is tantamount to a crime. The Biden administration is so bent on painting all conservatives as fascists, the FBI is cooking the books to make it appear that there is a dramatic increase of threats from "domestic violent extremism" (aka: MAGA Republicans) all across the nation, an FBI whistleblower revealed. That same whistleblower also stated that FBI agents are being pulled from investigating actual crimes, such as child sex abuse cases, to instead investigate conservatives.

**Anyone who rejects their agenda is an enemy.** And that includes the small non-profit organization Eagle Forum of Alabama, which has only one full-time employee. The DOJ has targeted this group, issuing a subpoena for all the organization's documents and communications going back five years, just because the group supported legislation passed in Alabama which prohibits sex change procedures for minors. The Biden administration is suing to stop the Alabama law, but Eagle Forum of Alabama is not party to the suit – so the only reason to subpoena their records is to harass and punish a group which dared support a law that protects kids from transgender ideology and to send a chilling message to other conservatives.

***"This is an outrageous attempt by the Justice Department to try to intimidate citizens engaging in everyday, routine activity on issues important to them. The reason the Justice Department is doing this is because this is a particular view they want to silence,"*** states Hans von Spakovsky of the Heritage Foundation.

It's troubling that one election can usher in tyranny, sweeping away constitutionally protected liberties. Yet we serve the God who rules and overrules. Pray as our Lord taught us: ***"... deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen."***

# He Giveth More Grace

By Steve Huston



Throughout all the stages of our life we suffer from various forms of affliction. The nature of these afflictions might be physical, mental, emotional, financial, relational, or even political struggles; most often it's a combination of two or more. Some are natural, coming with age, while we may unintentionally bring others upon ourselves by our choices; some afflictions are forced or placed on us by others and sometimes affliction comes to us by way of persecution. With all the varied aspects of affliction, there are at least two commonalities: 1) we desire them to pass as quickly as possible and 2) God's sovereign hand brings them to us, will see us through them, and will take them away in His perfect timing.

In the midst of the Apostle Paul's affliction he called out to the Lord three times asking that he might be relieved of it. I love God's gracious response to His beloved servant's request: "**My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.**" (2 Cor. 12:9a) God's strength is made perfect in our weaknesses, our affliction. We see it time and again in the lives of those who have trusted their condition and circumstance to their Heavenly Father.

God laid out His sovereignty and His sufficiency but man has a responsibility to choose what he will trust in. What would Paul do? He could complain, become bitter or angry, focusing on himself; or, this bond-servant (love slave) of Christ could take the route that he chose. Knowing that God's grace is sufficient he said, "**Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.**" (2 Cor. 12:9b) Paul, believing that God's grace is sufficient, took his eyes off from self and focused on Christ. Instead of cursing his afflictions, he embraced them for the sake of Christ. He believed that ALL things work together for the good of those

who love God, the called according to His purpose. (Rom. 8:28) James, our Lord's half-brother, exhorts us with these words, "**But he giveth more grace...**" (4:6)

When physical ailments or mental limitations assail your temporal temple of clay; when your body no longer co-operates with your brain's desire; when pain rather than comfort is your constant companion – **KNOW that God's grace IS SUFFICIENT and He gives MORE grace!**

When emotions play havoc with your peace, causing your mind to wander from its Biblical moorings; when permanent and ungodly solutions push in on temporary situations; when fear desires to overtake you – **KNOW that God's grace IS SUFFICIENT and He gives MORE grace!**

When financial, medical, nourishment, or other needs (perceived or actual) are looming over us, threatening to crush us; when we've obediently trusted in God to the best of our ability and Satan is now laying siege on our stronghold of obedience, seemingly ready to prevail; when we've come to the end of our proverbial rope – **KNOW that God's grace IS SUFFICIENT and He gives MORE grace!**

When persecution comes in its varied forms so that you are wrongly imprisoned, friends and family forsake you, the threat of being parted from life or limb is real – **KNOW that God's grace IS SUFFICIENT and He gives MORE grace!**

Let me share a true story about a woman named Annie, whose constant companion went by the name Affliction. When she was three-years-old her loving mother passed away while giving birth to her sister. Her father and the two girls went to live with a widowed friend but they were not really welcome there. Annie's father allowed the girls to be adopted by a family who loved them very much; shortly thereafter, he passed away from a serious illness.

At the age of eight, she was brought to saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and before her teenage years developed a love for reading and writing - particularly poetry.

Shortly after high school she was diagnosed with crippling arthritis which steadily grew worse until she couldn't walk at all and even severely limited the use of her hands and fingers. In the midst of this both of her adopted parents died within a few months of each other. This left the twice-orphaned girls on their own again.

She would painfully shove a pen through her bent and crippled fingers. Held by swollen joints she wrote first without any thought that it might be a means of ministry or that it would bring income for support. Her verses provided a solace for her in the long hours of suffering. Her painful story continues with God's provision and times of pain and loss. But through it all she lived out Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 12:9 which I shared above.

Here's one of Annie Johnson Flint's poems that became a precious hymn of the faith and has blessed countless souls who have learned to trust God fully, reminding us that God's grace IS SUFFICIENT and that **He Giveth More Grace!**

*He giveth more grace when the burdens grow greater, He sendeth more strength when the labours increase; To added afflictions He addeth His mercy. To multiplied trials, His multiplied peace.*

*When we have exhausted our store of endurance. When our strength has failed ere the day is half done. When we reach the end of our hoarded resources Our Father's full giving is only begun.*

*Fear not that your need shall exceed His provision, Our God ever yearns His resources to share; Lean hard on the arm everlasting, availing; The Father, both you and your load will upbear.*

*His love has no limits, His grace has no measure, His power no boundary known unto men; For out of His infinite riches in Jesus He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again.*

Regardless of your present or future affliction, trust in the sufficiency of God's grace and humble yourself for more.