

Faith is the Victory that Overcomes the World!

By Bill Johnson



God is our refuge in times of trouble!

Many of you have joined in praying for Lisa VanHouten. Prayer has been offered up from throughout our community of believers. Lisa Van Houten my long-time friend, kindred spirit and colleague!

After years of knowing that one day she would need a kidney, a friend of this ministry has responded to our call for help for a kidney. A number of members of Lisa's family have faced the same need, as some in her family have been afflicted with polycystic kidney disease. Her father died when Lisa was seven and two siblings in earlier years have gone through the same travail – both graced by sacrificial kidney donors.

In early May I received a telephone call from a friend out-of-town calling to tell me that after talking with his family, prayer and deliberation, he desired to donate his kidney to Lisa.

I was not to say anything to Lisa or anyone about this until he had been tested and cleared by kidney specialists in Grand Rapids. My friend called twice giving prayer updates. Things looked good but there were two areas of potential concern that needed to be cleared.

In recent months, the call came! By God's grace he was approved as a kidney donor. The "all clear" was given to break the news

to Lisa. A kidney transplant is scheduled for December 4. Other than telling close family and friends, Lisa wanted to keep it quiet until it was determined that all signs were good.

When I received the call, I saw how personally God answers prayer. Lisa's donor made it clear. "It isn't about me! It's about God!"

Over these months, I have also been impressed with two who sought to come to Lisa's aid. Both made appropriate inquiries to medical authorities. One was dismissed due to age. Another, a close friend of this ministry, with great determination went through months of tests passing each one until failing to pass one of the final standards. I was thankful at the earnestness of both.

We have been blessed by Lisa's steadfast ways as she has shown God's grace, keeping her eyes upon God. We have seen God's working hand as He led our dear friend to give this amazing gift of life to Lisa. God's faithfulness was also evident as He upheld Lisa, despite a weakening body, lowered resistance to sickness, lessening energy and at the same time steadfastly caring for her aging mother at home, who ultimately passed away in recent months.

There is still a difficult road ahead for Lisa and our friend, the kidney donor.

Prayer requests:

Pray for the donor. The surgery for him is not an easy one. It will include two months of rest and restoration and total healing. He will be out of work. Please pray for his physical and financial well-being.

Pray for Lisa: Her surgery will also be difficult. Please pray that her body will not reject the kidney. Pray for her rest, recovery and restoration and total healing. Lisa, too, will be out of work for at least the next two months.

The following words from Puritan writer, George Swinnock are a call to prayer: *Every house is a house of prayer. Prayer is pouring out the soul to God in the name of Christ, crying 'Abba, Father!' A prayer in a moment can fly to the highest heavens. It is a sweet savour to God, a terror to the devil, and a shelter to a Christian. ... By prayer fire has been quenched, water divided, the mouths of lions stopped, iron gates opened, the windows of heaven opened, the course of nature overturned, diseases removed, health restored, sin subdued grace bestowed, kingdoms supported, enemies scattered, the blind restored, and devils cast out. Prayer is the midwife to bring mercies to the believer that they were conceived in the womb of promise. God commands his people if they are in any perplexity to call upon him in the day of trouble and he will hear.*

Personal Note from the President



Recently, at one of our events, I noted a couple that were looking at me as if they wanted to talk. I asked them their names and when they told me, I knew right away who they were. To be supported is one of the most special parts about being in ministry!

On another note, a little over a year ago I met with a woman who had worked with a number of Hospice offices in telling the story of Hospice's ministry and strengthening in financial development. She wanted me to tell her more about our history. This gave me the opportunity to pour through our archives that included newspaper articles, letter writings, newsletter headlines from back in 1985 and going forward. As I leafed through the pages, within minutes I was joyfully engaged in telling how God had been using us over these many years: encouraging local stores and major corporations to discontinue selling pornography, doing interviews on local stations as well as MSNBC, CNN, FoxNews and national radio broadcasts (like debating Alan Colmes of Hannity and Colmes), debates with the ACLU of Michigan and with a First Amendment professor at Wayne State University, passing Michigan's obscenity legislation which was signed into law by Governor John Engler, driving Howard Stern off from mainstream radio and being the primary ministry responsible for Abercrombie and Fitch discontinuing their production and sales of their mostly pornographic catalogue.

For a time, several months ago, I felt burdened to write a book about God's calling with the intention of describing and naming a variety of displays of God's handiwork in these spiritual battles that we have fought down through the many years in which we have been engaged. (1985-present). For several weeks, I began to tell the story; de-

scribing the stands, the opposition, the people engaged with us, the victories and the defeats. I was enjoying it immensely. Then, it just seemed that the pace of wickedness was heightening. What was news today was gone only to be replaced by a number of other very concerning headlines.

I noted books on my bookshelves that were so timely, but now they aren't any more. It gave me pause to think. Though I would really like to archive in an interesting way how God has led ... people are so busy. I have discontinued writing my book.

But I have not discontinued the fight. God's call upon my life was in regard to opposing pornography, obscenity and indecency. We warned, protested, exhorted, worked legislatively, boycotted, etc. in regard to placing ***no wicked thing before your eyes*** (Psalm 101:3a), urging families to set examples and to teach their young the difference between the holy and the profane. We've been warning for decades, through conferences, interviews, email alerts, newsletters, radio programs and any way we can **and now we're seeing what we've been warning of take place.**

You have stood with us. As we close out another year, we call you friend.

A further addition as we wrap up 2023. A friend of our ministry noted that I had listed in our last newsletter different media outlets that are not truth tellers but rather are "gas lighters" – joined together at the hip with the mass media news propagandizing their agenda – day in and day out. She asked, "I was hoping you would share where you can go to find truth."

I don't have a corner on the truth but I am grateful for the question. (1) The Bible. I go through the Bible every year. These daily readings deepen my understanding of God's will and help sharpen my understanding of what pleases God and what He hates. (2) I read devotionals largely from Puritans. C.H. Spurgeon's *Morning by Morning and Evening by Evening*; Spurgeon's *Cheque Book of the Bank of Faith*; F.B. Meyer's *Our Daily Walk*; *Voices from the Past*, Volume 1 and 2 – Puritan Devotional Readings; M.D. Perkins, *Dangerous*

Affirmation – the Threat of Gay Christianity; William Gurnall's *The Christian in Complete Armour* (Volumes 1-3).

The above is the spiritual sharpening and shaping side. Below is the news and political side. For those who don't use cell phones or use them much it will be a little more difficult. I listen to a few podcasts. Podcasts are nothing more than listening to individuals on their recorded program but you have to download an application on your phone to have access to it. Usually there is no cost. Here is what I listen to: **Frank Gaffney's Securing America**. Frank interviews people on their areas of expertise: Trevor Loudon, Kevin Freeman, Jim Simpson, Sam Faddis, and many others. There are updates on the border, Islamism, Israel, China, our military woes like wokeism, corruption; **Curtis Bowers** has a weekly broadcast called **Faith, Family and Freedom**. Curtis' broadcast disciples in a way that many broadcasts don't – combining talking about the threats facing us and measures you can take to be prepared. Albert Mohler has a podcast called: the Briefing. They deal with news and spiritual trends in a very spiritual/news-oriented fashion. www.albertmohler.com

Frank Gaffney also has a powerful weekly webinar called: **Committee on the Present Danger: China**. There is one a week and he has had over 120 of his 75-minute webinars. It is one of my favorites. It has highly regarded experts on a host of issues. It is so well done and if you miss a live webinar, they are saved and you just have to click on the link. <https://presentdangerchina.org/category/webinars/>

In the radio realm: On the Internet look up American Family Radio at www.afr.net. It is 24/7 political/spiritual talk. A daily email alert would be ours. Subscribe at info@americandecency.org. Also, I encourage you to subscribe to Gary Bauer's End of Day. They are exceptional.

Of the People, By the People, and For the People?

By Lisa Van Houten



“The government closest to the people governs best.” This principle, attributed to Thomas Jefferson, is foundational for government of the people, by the people, and for the people. Yet Democrats in power are wresting away the authority given to local government and the people who elected them. Here in Michigan, Democrats, in control of every branch of government, have been pushing through one bill after another to implement their leftist agenda. The most egregious were the repeals of the few remaining Michigan laws which had offered at least some protections regarding abortion (after last year’s passage of Proposal 3 which codified an unlimited “right” to abortion in Michigan’s constitution).

But Lansing Dems haven’t stopped there. A recent bill passed will strip local governments of their authority to pass zoning ordinances to block solar and wind energy projects in their jurisdiction, while also denying the rights of citizens to vote on these issues which impact them locally.

A sweeping set of bills pushed by Gov. Whitmer and passed by the Legislature will require Michigan utilities to draw 100% of their energy from state-approved “clean” energy sources by 2040. To meet that goal, it’s estimated an additional 209,000 additional acres of solar panels will be built across Michigan, on top of the 17,000 acres of solar panels already in use and the 117,000 acres under development. That’s 536 square miles of “pure Michigan” covered in ugly black panels. Central for the implementation of these mandates to eliminate fossil fuel use in Michigan, is to force wind turbines and solar panels upon rural areas - without local approval. As a Detroit News editorial stated: *“Faceless bureaucrats in Lansing rather than elected officials accountable to voters will decide whether rural communities will be covered with glass panels and windmills. Residents*

will have little say in the decision-making, and few avenues for appeal. ...The Legislature and governor are sending a message to local citizens that they can’t be trusted to act in the best interest of the planet, so the state is taking away their choices. With the stroke of the governor’s pen, the deference to local control that is part of Michigan’s governing tradition is wiped away.”

Local township officials have the right and the duty to implement zoning laws which reflect the views and the needs of their local taxpayers and property owners. **But this breathtaking power grab by the state will now allow Lansing politicians, who have no connection to these rural areas, to dictate zoning policies which will adversely impact local citizens.**

These massive, noisy wind turbines and fields of black solar panels won’t be placed in cities where most of these state bureaucrats live; these eyesores won’t affect their daily life. Yet even more concerning than having the beautiful vistas of Michigan’s countryside spoiled, will be the negative economic consequences and - despite the claim of “clean” energy - the harmful environmental impact upon rural areas. Farmers will lose tillable land and property values, where idyllic views are replaced by ugly turbines and solar panels, will plummet. As Sen. Ed McBroom, [R] of Vulcan, MI stated: *“So many of you constantly, persistently tell everyone how much you love the U.P. or other rural Michigan areas. Yet the very things that make you appreciate the economy, culture, natural and picturesque landscapes ... will be stripped away.”*

The main benefactor of the push for solar and wind energy is Communist China, which dominates the global solar and wind industry. That doesn’t even factor in the use of slave labor by China, the environmental harm caused by the mining of rare earth minerals, or the toxic materials used to manufacture solar panels. Solar panels create hundreds of times more toxic waste than nuclear power plants, some of which potentially seeps into the soil. Also, the manufacturing of solar panels uses the chemical nitrogen trifluoride (NF3), a greenhouse gas thousands of times more potent than carbon dioxide.

Those pushing “green” energy claim it’s to protect the environment, but they conveniently ignore the millions of birds killed by turbines and the destruction of local habitats – let alone the impact on humans. A PBS affiliate reported in 2018, *“where industrial wind turbine projects have recently been introduced, residents have reported symptoms such as nausea, sleep disorders, fatigue, and increased stress that they account to a low-frequency hum ...”*

In addition, solar and wind energy is notoriously unreliable, which California has discovered, leading to rolling blackouts. Only about 18% of sunlight absorbed by solar panels is actually converted into energy. Those of us in Michigan know how gloomy it is six months of the year – we live in one of the cloudiest states in the Union. In fact, on average Michigan has only 10 clear days from December – February. And as I write this, the current wind speed is a mere 6 miles an hour. Yet the brilliant minds in Lansing think the entire state can be powered by such inconsistent energy.

As we’ve often said, **it’s not about controlling the climate, but it’s about controlling us.** In our October newsletter we reported how the state is undermining local control of our elections. Now these same power-hungry tyrants are stripping local government of their lawful authority and our right to self-governance. But we can learn a lesson from the good citizens of one rural Michigan township. One of the bright spots nationwide of the recent off-year election took place in rural Green Charter Township where citizens voted out their township supervisor and the entire township board in a recall election after these officials blatantly ignored the overwhelming community concern and pushed forward a plan to allow for the building of the Gotion Chinese-affiliated battery plant in their area.

It’s vital that we not become despondent when it seems as if tyranny is prevailing. As the people of Green Charter Township demonstrated, we can still have an impact. **But far more importantly, we Christians, more than anyone, should not lose heart – we know Who is ultimately in control, and He is our refuge and strength.** (Psalm 46)

Is America Becoming a Police State?

By Steve Huston



American Decency recently showed Dinesh D’Souza’s latest documentary, *Police State*. It’s a powerful and well-done film, one that I would recommend everyone see and share with others. The title might give rise to apprehension in some of our readers, so let me clear that up before I tell you why this is such an important film.

There is a vast difference between being **anti-police** and being **anti-police state**. I am pro-police; I’m grateful for each policeman and federal agent who lays their life on the line, acting within their constitutional boundaries for the sake of justice and our well-being. To step outside of those liberty-protecting lines drawn by our forefathers, however, is to become lawless and a danger to all citizens.

Dinesh D’Souza well-describes this difference: *“There’s no incompatibility between being pro-police and anti-police state, because police states are inherently lawless. The weaponized institutions of government that are going after people are not doing it on the impartial or neutral basis of law; they’re doing it on the basis of targeting.”*

One of the greatest aspects of this film is that it helps conservatives to see that the various issues we are rallying behind and defending are all **spokes of the same wheel**. Whether we are on the front lines fighting the stolen election, abortion, border issues and child-trafficking, COVID mandates, January 6 political prisoners, moral decay in our schools and society, attacks on religious liberty, or any other conservative issue, the police state is putting us on lists, attempting to shame us into silence, and they don’t care what the Constitution – the law of the land – has to say about it. As one of the women in this film stated: *“If they’re coming for me, they’re coming for you.”*

This documentary is powerful, but instead of telling you what’s in it, I’m going to share with you, in Dinesh’s own words from different interviews, why it was produced and the importance of it.

In an interview with Epoch Times’ Crossroads’ Joshua Philipp, Dinesh defines our current situation as he sees it: *“Our problem isn’t cultural decline per se; it is emerging forms of tyranny, which is a whole different threat and a much more serious threat. It’s a threat that is a direct attack on the Bill of Rights; it’s a direct attack on the architecture of the founding. It is permanently an effort to change what America has been since the beginning.”*

He continued, *“I wanted the film to highlight the threat that **America is becoming an unfree society, like North Korea, like China, like the old Soviet Union.**”*

In a different interview he adds: *“When I look at unfree societies around the world... and I look at the characteristics of those societies, then I, with some shock, realize that those elements are to one degree or another now present in America. Free speech is under threat, religious liberty is under threat, you couldn’t freely assemble under COVID, we don’t have equal rights under the law, I’m afraid. So, I thought this is an important topic to explore in a movie.”*

Some may wonder what a police state is and how it can happen in America. Aren’t there inherent protections given in our Constitution?

Dinesh answers this important aspect, helping us to understand how the police state begins. It may not allay our fears, but it will help us to better understand how good people get caught up in doing wrong.

*“What we try to show in the movie, and I don’t know if this is explicitly said or implied, is that **a police state works by having strategically placed very bad people and then creating a bureaucratic incentive structure in which decent people – ordinary people – are motivated to do very bad things.**”* Dinesh goes on to explain how good, maybe even patriotic, people end up

being convinced or coerced to do these bad things.

Dinesh’s response to what’s the best-case scenario if *Police State* is successful: *“There are two streaks in the American character and there are also two streaks in human nature. There is a little bit in human nature that is tyrannical, that likes to lord it over other people; this is the kind of slave-owner mentality. It’s also the mentality of the person that comes up to you in a grocery store and starts screaming at you because you’re not wearing a mask. On the other hand, there’s another side of human nature that wants to be left alone, that wants to live your own life, believes in freedom. In American history, that second, love of freedom, is very strong. Because Americans don’t like to be told what to do; they want to be architects of their own destiny. And so, I want the film to awaken that aspect of the American character. I think if Americans realized this is what is happening to us – it’s camouflaged because it’s done in the name of good things – so the point of the film is to pull the mask off and show that this is naked brutality masquerading as rule of law, masquerading as saving democracy. And I think that if Americans see that, they will take the necessary steps... The first step is to recognize you’re the antelope, there’s a predator in the trees, I cannot graze calmly because the situation is dangerous.”*

This film cannot be purchased through Amazon or Wal Mart – they will not sell it. I urge you to purchase either the streaming or DVD of *Police State* by Dinesh D’Souza from www.Policestatefilm.net. One might even want to view it with other believers in sections, praying over the issues found within that portion viewed.

American Decency Frontline
Vol. XXXVII, Issue XI
Published monthly by
American Decency Association

Bill Johnson, President and Founder
bjohnson@americandecency.org

P.O. Box 202
Fremont MI 49412-0202
Phone: 231-924-4050

A Symbol of Unity

By Chris Johnson



In 1917, the city of Charlottesville, South Carolina saw fit to honor someone they considered to be a great man. In that year, a statue of Robert E. Lee on his horse, Traveller, was commissioned and would be installed in 1924, where it would stand until its removal in 2017.

Six years after its removal, in October of 2023, the removed statue was cut apart and melted into ingots. The way the destruction of the statue was carried out, it may be more accurate to say that Lee was burned in effigy. In the century between its commission and removal, the character of Robert E. Lee went from being almost universally admired to having such an admiration being considered by many to be shameful. According to the Encyclopedia Virginia, *“The Lee monument was received by the city as a symbol of loyalty to Virginia and its traditions...”* but the removal and destruction of the statue was symbolic as well.

From NPR’s write-up: *“They use a torch to score the head of the statue, in the pattern of a death mask. Lee’s face falls to floor with a loud clank.”*

“The symbolism is poignant for Andrea Douglas, executive director of the Jefferson School African American Cultural Center in Charlottesville, which is leading the project.”

“The act of myth-making that has occurred around Robert E. Lee, removing his face is emblematic of the kind of removal of that kind of myth,” Douglas says.”

Video of the bronze face glowing red as it

is melted down made its way across social media, the original soberness appearing as agony with the applied heat. What was the myth of Robert E. Lee that warranted such hatred?

Lee’s legacy as the Commander of the Confederate Army is, understandably, controversial. When southern states sought to secede in defense of the institution of slavery, it put the future we now inhabit in a precarious position for the sake of maintaining wealthy southerners’ legal authority for barbarity and injustice. Generals on both sides sent young men to kill - and be killed by - their own countrymen, but Lee did it on behalf of a rebel government which maintained the right to own and abuse human beings made in the Image of God.

But Lee himself wasn’t fighting in support of slavery, but of his state. Writing to a friend, Lee referred to slavery as a “moral evil.” In a letter to his sister, he wrote, *“With all my devotion to the Union and the feeling of loyalty and duty of an American citizen, I have not been able to make up my mind to raise my hand against my relatives, my children, my home. I have therefore resigned my commission in the Army, and save in defense of my native State, with the sincere hope that my poor services may never be needed, I hope I may never be called on to draw my sword...”*

But let’s consider what the National Park Service has to say about Lee’s influence throughout history on their page for Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial: *“Robert E. Lee is well known as a Confederate military general, but perhaps his greatest contribution to the United States was his effort to reunite the country following the American Civil War. In the opinions of his contemporaries and historians, Lee played a crucial role in restoring peace following the war.”*

Later, the article quotes Lee: *“He counseled his fellow Southerners that ‘it should be the object of all to avoid controversy, to allay passion, give full scope to reason and every kindly feeling. By doing this and encouraging our citizens to engage in the duties of life with all their heart & mind, with a determination not to be turned aside by*

thoughts of the past & fears of the future, our country will not only be restored in material prosperity, but will be advanced in science, in virtue, and in religion.’”

And still later in the article, *“So revered across the nation was Robert E. Lee that in 1925 the United States Congress ordered his home, Arlington House, be restored to its appearance before Civil War to honor him largely for his work to reunite the nation after the war. U.S. Representative Louis Cramton of Michigan (his own father a Union veteran) declared that ‘it is unprecedented in history for a nation to have gone through as great a struggle as we did in the Civil War’ and then to become ‘so absolutely reunited.’ He felt that ‘there was no man in the South who did more by his precept and example to help bring about that condition than did Robert E. Lee.’”*

In spite of his position as commander of a rebel army, Lee has been remembered as a symbol of national unity - a country divided coming back together.

NPR quotes Rev. Isaac Collins’ excited thoughts on the destruction of the statue: *“We still have a lot of work to do, but this statue that has cost us so much, so much violence, so much hurt, so much bloodshed - it’s gone. And it’s never going to be put back together the way it was.”*

Lee’s statue symbolized a sundered nation’s healing. Its destruction is a symbol of a type of unity too. Not of something separated coming back together, but of a new vision of society uniting *against* the old, healed vision.

The old vision was informed by the preaching of God’s Word and led by Christian men who sought to bring the joy of the Gospel to the world. The new society is led by idolatrous pagans whose counterfeit unity and freedom result only in the chaos and misery we see in every city it already rules.

May our nation rather unite once more in repentance of our idolatry and may the Lord have mercy!

Aborting America

By Steve Huston



Darkness may best be defined as an absence of light; cold may best be defined as an absence of heat; and perhaps the decline of a nation may best be defined as the absence of godliness and faithful, holy living. Nature cannot tolerate a vacuum and neither will societies; as a void is created, something will fill it. As America drifts further from her spiritual moorings, from the Constitutional protections put in place by our founders, and from the God who put her in place, it leaves a vacuum that humanism, Marxism, and any other host of man-made “-isms” rush in to fill. The hand of Providence pulls back, leaving only the destructive evils which fill the heart of man.

In thinking of the destructive force of this vacuum, my mind heads in two different, although related, directions.

First, the picture of vacuum-torn fetal parts floods my mind. Horror, sadness, and disgust quickly ensues as, in my mind’s eye, I see an arm, leg, and gelatinous pool of red which once was a living body, being formed in the image of God. I apologize for the graphic description, but this is the daily plight for thousands of children and, in another sense, this is what is happening to America. She is, and has been, being torn apart before our eyes – just as graphically – spiritually, morally, politically, ideologically. In essence, we are aborting America – one baby and one step away from God at a time.

In the recent November elections, America witnessed Ohio become the seventh state to vote in favor of murdering their children and other “reproductive decisions” since the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* last year. This change to their constitution effectively nullified a 2019 law banning abortion after a fetal heartbeat is detected. With the passage of this amendment, Democrats

are already in the process of getting similarly extreme pro-abortion referenda on the ballot in several swing states for 2024, including Arizona, Florida, Missouri and Nevada. **I urge all believers to be in prayer.**

What moved the Buckeye State, by a margin of 56% to 44%, to vote in favor of death, in opposition to God-ordained sanctity of life, and, according to Ken Blackwell, would allow sex changes on minor children without parents even knowing about it? Was it the \$40 million in deceptive ads (in-and-out-of-state funded) which branded the pro-life movement as extreme, when in reality, it was the constitutional amendment that was extreme? Perhaps it was that fact that children have grown up for almost fifty years believing that it was a right granted by the Supreme Court (no one likes to have their “rights” taken away), normalized in our public schools, and rarely spoken against in many of America’s pulpits with the exception of that one “Sanctity of Life” Sunday, if even then.

It may be a combination of those things, but, sadly, one can’t help but think that, according to the exit polls conducted by the Washington Post and reported by the Dissenter, 25 percent of white evangelicals played a role in this “seismic shift,” signaling “a disturbing shift in the moral landscape of the Church.” For a picture of how the “church” got here, I would point the reader to a magazine article entitled “Holy Abortion” in the December 2023 issue of *First Things*.

Secondly, my mind went to Psalm 12. It’s both a prayer and a call to stand for truth. I urge you to read the whole of it.

This psalm begins: “Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men.” That’s exactly what we are witnessing – from those in the church, in society at large, politically as well – on several fronts: abortion, “gay Christianity,” sanctity of the Word, etc. **The proponents for truth are decreasing in number while those in opposition to the truth are increasing because “the vilest men are exalted”** (v. 8).

Would it surprise you that even the GOP, those stalwarts for life, are attacking Sen. Tuberville (R-AL) as he stands Constitutionally for life?

Suzanne Bowdey, writing for the Washington Stand, states: “*After nine months of standing his ground on the military’s taxpayer-funded abortion policy, Tuberville was used to the barbs from the other side. He singlehandedly faced off against the White House, secretary of Defense, and Democrats without a second thought. But the one group he never thought he’d have to fend off was his own party. ‘Last time I looked, Republicans are pro-life,’ the coach said. But you wouldn’t know it from the growing chorus of senators urging Tuberville to stand down and let the White House openly flout the law.*”

Later she continues: “*Last Wednesday, the Republican tables started to turn when five frustrated senators tried to force the coach’s hand on more than 300 military promotions. For four and a half hours, Tuberville fought off the attacks from his own flank as Joni Ernst (R-Iowa), Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska), Mitt Romney (R-Utah), Todd Young (R-Ind.), and surprise joiner, Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), came at him on the Senate floor. But Tuberville wouldn’t be broken, even after 61 tries.*” **I urge you to pray for Sen. Tuberville.**

As the godly cease and the faithful fail; as darkness increases on many fronts; I urge you to cry out to the Lord for help. Might we pray that God would purge us of self that His light within us might burn brighter. May we cling with faithful belief to His promise: Psalm 12:5-7: **“For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, now will I arise, saith the Lord; I will set him in safety from him that puffeth at him. The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O Lord, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.”**

America will continue to be torn apart by the vacuum of godlessness or she will turn back to the Living God. **Will your light shine boldly for truth regardless the cost?**

A Man on a Mission

By Lisa Van Houten



“... that the living may know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will and sets over it the lowliest of men.” Daniel 4:17b

After weeks of political turmoil within the House GOP following the ouster of Speaker Kevin McCarthy, out of nowhere a little-known congressman from Louisiana was elected to the powerful position of Speaker of the House of Representatives – third in line to the presidency. In the midst of the GOP infighting, eight representatives sought the position of Speaker in a closed-door meeting. With a slim Republican majority, animosity raging between members, and former speaker Kevin McCarthy deceitfully working behind the scenes to undermine candidates with hopes of re-ascending to the position himself - it seemed as if there was no hope for a candidate to prevail. Then Mike Johnson spoke to the Republican caucus, as PJ Media reports: *“All eight gave short presentations, then responded to what one individual who witnessed the closed-door proceedings described as ‘an onslaught of questions’ ... Something about how Johnson responded to those questions stood out. The others talked mainly about themselves. Johnson talked about his legislative record, he talked about the ‘seven core principles of conservatism’ and he talked about what the Bible teaches. ... Within hours, the disunity began disappearing, so much so that by the time the House of Representatives assembled on Wednesday to vote, Republicans, in what some wise men see as a miraculous turn of events, voted unanimously to make him the new Speaker.”* The seven principles of conservatism he spoke about are: “individual freedom, rule of government, rule of law, peace through strength, fiscal responsibility, free markets, and human dignity.”

After Mike Johnson’s election to the Speak-

ership, you could hear the collective question across the country: “Who??” Virtually unknown in both liberal and conservative circles outside of the House, it didn’t take long to discover who Mike Johnson is. Johnson is a man who loves the Lord, loves his wife and children, and loves America. He is a constitutional attorney who has worked with Alliance Defending Freedom to protect religious liberty. In an interview with Sean Hannity, Johnson stated: *“Someone asked me today ... ‘What does Mike Johnson think about any issue under the sun?’ I said, ‘Well, go pick up a Bible off your shelf and read it – that’s my worldview.’ That’s what I believe and so I make no apologies for it.”* In his first official address to both his Republican and Democrat colleagues in the House, Johnson stated in part: *“... I believe that Scripture, the Bible is very clear that God is the One that raises up those in authority. He raised up each of you, all of us. ... I believe that each one of us has a huge responsibility today to use the gifts that God has given us to serve the extraordinary people of this great country — and they deserve it — and to ensure that our republic remains standing as the great beacon of light and hope and freedom in a world that desperately needs it.”*

When it became clear that Johnson is a committed Christian, the Left went berserk. While his Republican colleagues described him as “a tremendous man of God,” who “radiates the love of Christ,” a “servant leader,” and a “genuinely nice guy” - headline after headline in the liberal media painted Johnson as the reincarnation of either Hitler or the Ayatollah. Since then, they have tried every means possible to smear him. He’s called a “religious nutjob” and an “extremist.” He’s been attacked for everything from his pro-life views to his commitment to the Biblical definition of marriage. When the media unearthed the fact that Johnson and his wife Kelly have a covenant marriage, meaning they have a lifelong commitment and are opposed to no-fault divorce, their views on marriage were described as a “creepy obsession for controlling women.”

Johnson has consistently stood against the LGBT agenda, because the Bible does. So leftists have sought out every anti-LGBT

past statement Johnson has made, such as this one when he spoke against the legalization of gay “marriage” decades ago: *“When you tear down the taboos, the doors open up for everything. ... We are not trying to tie homosexuality to pedophilia, but when you tear down one barrier, others fall. ... Let’s stop here and draw the line here, because then it leads to sexual anarchy.”* Yet Johnson’s been proven right and that’s exactly what has happened.

As we know well in this ministry, pornography destroys. It rips apart marriages and victimizes children. Scripture admonishes us to set no wicked thing before our eyes. However, when it was discovered that Johnson actually walks the Christian walk by protecting himself and his family from porn, the rabid secular media mocked him for using the accountability app, Covenant Eyes.

The media’s favorite fearmongering description of Johnson is the new pejorative used to describe Christian conservatives as scary boogymen: “Christian Nationalist.” Labeling Christians who are involved in politics as “Christian Nationalists” is just a form of intimidation to keep Christian conservatives from applying their faith to politics. Kristin Du Mez, a professor at Calvin University (a “Christian” institution), piled on, criticizing Johnson: *“I don’t know how you take a close look at Johnson’s career, his positions, and his rhetoric & not call that Christian supremacy. And I don’t think there’s a Christian nationalism scale where his own words don’t place him firmly in that category.”* As commentator Joel Abbott replied, “This professor at a *Christian university* thinks living out your faith in your job ... is ‘supremacy.’ She uses the term as if God is up in heaven shaking His head at the thought of us working to make our nation look more like Him.” As Colossians 1 makes clear, all things - including thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—were created through Christ and for Christ.

In our post-Christian culture, believers who pursue holiness and purity, who live distinctive from the world, stand out like a sore thumb to unbelievers. Pray for Mike Johnson that he will continue to stand as a light in the darkness.

He Rules the World

By Chris Johnson



“He rules the world with truth and grace/And makes the nations prove/The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love...”

Why do we sing these words every Christmas? When we read the news, this verse of the carol seems to ring hollow. Just in the past few months, Michigan and Ohio have ensconced the murder of infants in our state constitutions. This has happened under Christ’s rule? Is Hamas’ terrorism in Israel proving the glories of His righteousness? Are the kids who’ve been convinced they need their organs mutilated in order to truly be themselves proving the wonders of His love?

Yet, the sentiment of this verse of Joy to the World is rooted in Isaiah’s prophecy in chapter 9, which we know so well from Handel’s Messiah: “For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end...”

1 Corinthians 15:25 picks up this theme: “For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.”

Here is where we find our hope as we read of victories for abortion advocates, terrorists, and those who hate humanity: Jesus reigns; His government is increasing; He is putting His enemies under His feet. His victory is inevitable.

Ligonier ministry’s Tabletalk magazine highlighted this point beautifully with the help of Matthew Henry in their study of Luke 17:22:

“Before the officers took Jesus into custody, He remarked that they could have arrested

Him peacefully in the daylight, for He could have easily been found teaching in the temple. They came at night because the hour belonged to them – it was appointed for their purposes – and because it was fitting for the power of darkness behind the events to operate in the literal darkness of night. Matthew Henry comments that we can actually draw encouragement from God’s enemies’ having an hour of ‘triumph’ when we are considering the church’s travails in this world. He notes three truths: ‘(1.) It is but an hour that is permitted for the triumph of our adversary, a short time, a limited time. (2.) It is their hour, which is appointed them, and in which they are permitted to try their strength, that omnipotence may be the more glorified in their fall. (3.) It is the power of darkness that [succeeds for a moment,] but darkness must give way to light, and the power of darkness be made to [submit] to the prince of light.’”

“Any apparent victory of the powers of darkness is only temporary, for the ultimate victory belongs to the resurrected Christ, who has conquered death and overcome the worst that the devil could throw at Him. No situation is ever truly hopeless for the people of God, for we serve the victorious Savior.”

As we sing the words of Joy to the World, and other Christmas carols which sing of, not only the cute little infant in the manger, but the King of Glory, the Bright Morning Star, the Son of David, the Seed of the Woman, the promised Messiah, let us remember we’re not just remembering something that happened a long time ago. We’re celebrating a victory the effects of which we’re only beginning to enjoy.

Jonathan Gibson has compiled an Advent liturgy book called “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” that I’m looking forward to going through with my family this season. He writes in the introduction,

“Although the longings, hopes, and expectations of the coming, conquering son are met in Jesus’ first coming, it does not change the reality that God’s people are a waiting people.”

“...In the Old Testament, believers wait for Jesus’ first coming. In the New Testament,

believers wait for His second coming. In both cases, God’s people live in the light of Christ’s advent.”

“...Since the days of the early church, Christians have observed a time in the church calendar for a focused concentration on the second coming of Christ, known as Advent-... as the centuries passed, the season became more directly connected to Christmas – a time to consider Christ’s second coming as Christians reflected on His first coming.”

This Advent and Christmas season, the news of the world is dark. But Christ brought hope at a dark time at His first coming – it’s why He’s called the Morning Star. His birth was the first glimpse of light, the light has grown over the millennia since, and our ultimate hope is in the glory of the full day that will be revealed at His final Advent.

Let Earth Receive Her King!

Help Us Finish Strong

God’s grace and mercy have been upon our ministry throughout this entire year.

There have been many concerns that unfolded both from around the world and closer to home, which we feel the effects of more immediately, issues like lawlessness, judicial tyranny, election fraud, gender confusion, sexual perversion, encroachment of Chinese influence, antisemitism, the growing stronghold of abortion, etc.

Still, you have prayerfully trusted God’s working in and through us and our ministry and believed that we look to God to lead us and use us. With your support, we continue as a light in the darkness seeking to be an instrument to be used as He sees fit!

Thank you for continuing to make it possible for us. Please continue standing with us as next year will require each of us looking to Jesus for yielding, serving and giving of ourselves.