

What will we do with Mercy

By Steve Huston



In not speaking of any particular candidate, but rather of one party's promise to unleash a tsunami of ultra-progressivism and an un-biblical agenda that would further divide and further push our nation to the brink of destruction, we saw the blatant face of evil rear its ugly head. Conservatives responded: 1. Work vigorously on election integrity. 2. Make it "too big to rig." 3. Many Christians not only hit the polls but "hit the floor with their knees" as well, crying for God to have mercy on an undeserving nation once again.

In response to the first two conservative actions: George Barna shows voters as: 72% professing Christians (56% of them voted for Trump); 60% professed non-Christians voted for Harris.

I want to mainly draw your attention to that third and conservative Christian response. There were churches and ministries (like ADA) across our nation who called upon God's people to gather and intercede with our Heavenly Father on behalf of the United States. How could we do anything else; there is truly nowhere else to turn. Charles Spurgeon was correct: "Prayer is the fore-runner of mercy! Turn to sacred history, and you will find that scarcely ever did a great mercy come to this world unheralded by supplication. When you had great deliverances out of sore troubles, and mighty helps in great dangers, you have been able to say, 'I sought the Lord, and He heard

me, and delivered me from all my fears!" Prayer is ALWAYS the preface to blessing."

The question is: **What will we do with this mercy shown to us?** Will we see it simply as a "reprieve" – to delay punishment or to give temporary relief? Or will we recognize it as a "mercy" – compassionate treatment or a disposition to be kind and forgiving? While both come from the hand of God, **if we do our duty**, a national reprieve can become extended by God's compassionate mercy upon us. To "do our duty" sounds a little strange in this context; let's see what God has to say about his mercy.

Psalm 103:17 assures us that "the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting," but His mercy is conditional; it's for a specific people. Who are those people? The rest of verse 17 and verse 18 describes who the recipients of such wonderful and everlasting mercy are: "**upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children; To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them.**"

We certainly have much to praise and thank God for, but we must not forget His mighty hand or His mercies or His rightful requirements over our lives. He is holy and expects His people to be holy. He has commanded a way in which we must live; it was given to us not as a fence to keep us from "good"

things, but as a guardrail to keep us from self-destruction. It's a way that brings full joy as opposed to mere temporal happiness from our happenstance.

If we forget the mercy God has shown us and we become apathetic in our responses to Him, then **be warned, mercy abused has dire consequences.** It will very likely lead to Psalm 106:15. "And he gave them their request; **but sent leanness into their soul.**" God tries the reins of a nation's heart – He tries OUR reins – and gives it their desire. Look at the preceding verses with a sober-mind and humility of heart. Verses 11-12 tell of Israel's complete salvation from the enemy. So, they believed God's words and sang his praise. BUT verses 13-14 tell the story of mercy abused: They soon forgot God's merciful work, they didn't look for His direction, and they lusted after the things of this world instead of chasing after God as their treasure. In response to their actions, **God gave them their desire, BUT HE SENT leanness into their soul.**

These are not words of warning I wanted to write, but they are truths we need to hear. We prayed for mercy and grace; God spared us from what we can only imagine. What will we do from here? Let us take great care to press on and into the words of Jeremiah in Lamentations 3:40. "Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the Lord." That is the way to continued mercy.

Personal Note from the President



Have you ever had moments where you said to yourself, "I have been vindicated!" Well, with the election of 2024, I had the opposite experience. My projections regarding the election went against my surmising. Though I was very confident that Trump would win with overwhelming numbers (in "too big to rig" numbers). In the 2020 election I knew, as many of you did, from the very early morning hours that the fraud was deep and widespread, with a Biden "puppet master" somewhere/somewhat. I recognized rightly that the "enemies within" included many of the political elite. Another factor was the lethargy of the American people who think: *"In America, things always work out in the end. We are America after all."*

In the many years of grassroots activism: the boycotts against Disney, Victoria's Secret and Abercrombie & Fitch and numerous others; the engagement legislatively in Lansing, including the many Senate and House hearings which we attended and testified at; encouraging others to participate, as we presented all across the state to church after church and service clubs; the letter writing campaigns; the many television and radio and newspaper interviews – however, I saw firsthand - even then - how few would take a stand with us as we stood against pornography, obscenity and indecency.

Long ago I drew the conclusion that when things got increasingly wicked in the populace, *"people will rise up when things get really wicked."* I asked myself: "Or will they?" I had not seen people rise to any extent through those years between 1985 and more recent years. I saw little evidence that people would stand up and engage! This was a long season where American

Decency Association was one of only a very, very few spiritual action organizations in the state.

At the same time, how dare I not see God's hand through a remnant (the people God raised up for us) - responding to our newsletter, bulletin inserts, and emails. How could I not recognize that there were people behind the scenes writing advertisers, leading to some 15,000 advertisers discontinuing advertising on the Howard Stern Show in over 25 markets throughout the country, leading to Stern discussing that he was going to sue us and ultimately - by God's grace - left mainstream radio as a result of our joint efforts? And again (on another front) how else were we able to pass obscenity legislation and have it signed into law by then Governor John Engler in 1992 without the faithful remnant responding to our need for letters to their state reps and senators - taking action - urging their government leaders to support the passage of the obscenity legislation that together with them - we worked on diligently for upwards of 5 years?

But that was then and now is now. I thought things have become so wicked that such victories seemingly DON'T HAPPEN as people are so desensitized, distracted, and seemingly dumbed down.

Yet, as this election approached, people saw Trump's commitment to lead this nation again. And then we saw all the controversy; hatred; all the suits against him; all the spiritual attacks upon him; and then that moment of treachery - the assassination attempt in Butler, Pa; the fiasco, the utter failure of the Secret Service to protect this hard to define, stalwart man. And many eyes were opened. How could this man in that hour, in that moment, rise up from the ground with blood rolling down his face, in that Providential moment, point to his crowd with words: FIGHT, FIGHT, FIGHT! And then, a second assassination attempt at a Florida golf course; again, with inept Secret Service, yet protected by the providence of God. Was that failure of our once regarded Secret Service yet another evidence of a nation in rapid decline? Is there any security in the land?

But then these questions also have risen within the conservative ranks, how can you vote for a man that was once a defender of the unborn, but now has clearly walked back from that position. Of course, I know there remains and will remain the great controversy (and there should be) surrounding Donald Trump, particularly in regards to his discarding a strong pro-life stance and being almost solely responsible for the shift away from the long-held pro-life standard of the National Republican Party.

Yet there he was as a 78-year-old man (just one year older than me) engaged in public rallies all across this country, day after day, despite being dragged before court hearings meant to destroy him, discourage him, beat him down, and degrade his character. And, the people kept showing up with growing enthusiasm and, the case could be made, love for this man who brought the message, "Make America Great Again." We have seen a dynamic uprising of unquestionable numbers. I also cannot deny what I have witnessed firsthand is the most overwhelming rise of Christians and non-Christians to engage. The political landscape has been radically altered.

Has that come by the brilliance of men and women like Donald Trump, Elon Musk, Robert F. Kennedy, Tulsi Gabbard, Lara Trump and the RNC, and groups such as Charlie Kirk's Turning Point Action? Or is it rather the Sovereignty of an Almighty God as He has raised up broken, damaged, sinful men and women to rally people, to knock on doors, make massive numbers of telephone calls, vote and, yes, pray. These efforts were made day in and day out – some in the name of Jesus and others in the name of Donald Trump and/or a combination of both.

Have we only (though still mercifully) experienced a man-driven revolution or the potential beginning stages of a spiritual revival? Will this turn out to be another short-term period of pseudo-relief as people return to living as fools - not in a foreign land, but in a land of their making, leading to the path of ultimate enslavement to the wiles of the devil and all that entails.

The Baby Bust

By Lisa Van Houten



Nearly 50 years ago, NASA launched Voyager 1, tasked with sending back pictures and data from our solar system and beyond. The intrepid spacecraft continues to make its way through space sending back information from the heavens. However, NASA also sent Voyager off with information about Earth to any supposed extraterrestrial life it may encounter. Called the Golden Record, this message includes sounds and images which depict life on our planet. The Golden Record includes images of a man and woman with a transparent view of a baby developing in the womb. Another photo shows a mother nursing a baby. These pictures communicate an inherent truth which was universally understood 50 years ago - the family is the building block of every society. Yet in nations around the globe, that picture of the family is looking increasingly alien.

In the U.S., the birthrate in every state has plummeted below the replacement level of 2.1 children per woman; however, we aren't alone in this troubling trend. While the U.S. birthrate is only 1.6, the native populations of all European countries have fallen even below that, which means people aren't having enough children to sustain the population. For example, Greece's birthrate is 1.4 and Italy's is a mere 1.3. Birthrates have also collapsed in non-Western countries such as Russia, China, Turkey, Qatar, Japan and South Korea - where the birthrate is 0.72, causing the president to declare it a national emergency.

One small Japanese town has only one child. Pitifully, the village put out child-size dolls, posed on swings and bikes, to try to foster the feeling of family. Twice as many Japanese are dying as are being born. That is unsustainable for any country. Falling birthrates will speed the decline of national cultures. In a number of decades, there could be few native Italians, for example. However, the birthrate for Muslim immi-

grants who have flooded Europe is 2.54; you can do the math.

The future consequences will be devastating both economically and socially. Fewer babies mean fewer workers. There will be a growing healthcare crisis, with not enough workers to care for the aging population, who have no children and grandchildren to help fill that need. In a heartbreaking scenario, Japan is trying to develop robot technology to care for the aged in nursing homes. Social Security, which once had four or five workers paying into the system per one retiree, now has dropped to nearly two to one. Equally devastating is the emotional and social harm caused when a society stops having babies. It's a fundamental fact that children make people happy, as studies prove that those with children are happier than their childless counterparts. The New York Times recently published an article entitled: "The Unspoken Grief of Never Becoming a Grandparent," showing the anguish of missing out on the joy of grandchildren.

So, what has led to this plummeting birthrate? A recent Pew Research survey found that 47% of Americans without children, aged 18-49, do not plan to ever have children. Of those, only 13% cited infertility or other medical concerns as a factor. It's heartbreaking for those who long for children, but circumstances have prevented it. However, the top reason given by those choosing not to have children was "**they just don't want to.**" Pew writes: "*Not having kids has made it easier for them to afford the things they want...*" TikTok videos show couples extolling their DINK (dual income, no kids) lifestyle - boasting of their lavish vacations and "pet children." Self-indulgence over self-sacrifice is the theme, and children require sacrifice. They also bring joy - and fill a void that no vacation or pet can ever fill.

Leftist ideology is also a contributing factor, as at least 32% of Democrats list climate change as a contributing factor in choosing not to have children. Climate activists claim that children are bad for the environment, such as Biden's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Director Tracy Stone-Manning who called children an "environmental haz-

ard." Yet research shows that as the population has increased throughout history, by God's provision, food production has also increased. As Elon Musk stated in 2022, "**Population collapse due to low birth rates is a much bigger risk to civilization than global warming,**" adding: "*America is trending towards extinction.*"

Our education system has also steeped young adults in cultural Marxism, which is rooted in the abolition of the nuclear family. Then there's the sexual revolution, which separated sex from marriage and reproduction. Feminist ideology often depicts motherhood as demeaning, where children are seen as an obstacle to personal autonomy. Yet, this quest for personal autonomy is fool's gold, as shown by the current epidemic rates of loneliness and depression. And the proverbial elephant in the room in any discussion of falling birthrates is the skyrocketing abortion rates in the last fifty years. Since 1973, there have been more than 63 million babies killed in their mother's womb. Imagine the positive impact those individuals would have had over the decades if they had been allowed to live. Just as fewer babies cause negative consequences to a nation, more babies bring positive impacts. More people mean more goods and services are needed, which means more jobs, which means a solvent Social Security - and that's just a few of the economic benefits. There's a reason we say babies are a blessing.

Yet the rejection of the Christian worldview, which teaches that children are a gift from God, is at the heart of the declining birthrate. As theologian Albert Mohler stated in his Daily Briefing, "*a worldview against having babies is the direct contradiction of and disobedience of the first command God gave to human beings, which is to be fruitful and to multiply and to fill the earth.*"

A culture that rejects God and His design, which worships self and pleasure, is on a calamitous path. **The Omnipotent God, Creator of the universe, chooses to reveal Himself as Father and those who are His own, He calls His children. That alone should show the immense value of family.**

Back With a Vengeance

By Chris Johnson



When Hollywood A-lister Zach Levi voiced his support of Donald Trump's reelection in October, he said it wasn't just the former president he was voting for: *"This team — this 'Avengers...' whatever you want to call it — they're going to get in there and actually do what Donald Trump said he was going to do the first time, which is drain the swamp."*

Levi was comparing the group of independent political voices who had united around Trump's candidacy to the group of super heroes who've dominated the cinemas over the last several decades, but as it's shaping up, "Avengers" may not be such a bad descriptor for the Trump administration in its own right.

In the weeks following the election, the Trump campaign hit the ground running, making it obvious that he had learned his lesson from the win he found himself unprepared for in 2016, which proved his political inexperience and hamstrung his prior administration from the outset.

This time, Trump is back... with a vengeance, which is just what many of his supporters — and his appointees, if they can make it through the Senate approval process — have in mind.

Imagine how Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. must feel, being given a leadership role in the government suspected of assassinating his father and uncle. After a lifetime of looking for answers in heavily redacted documents, access to those answers is now within reach. And, having been rejected by the leadership of his family's historic party loyalty, he's un beholden to play nice with the radical left in his new position of head of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Tulsi Gabbard - veteran, former Democrat

congresswoman from Hawaii, one-time expected Democrat National Committee president - went from being placed on an FAA watchlist by the previous administration (the day after she voiced support for Trump) to being tapped to lead the National Intelligence Agency.

Pete Hegseth had his orders to protect the Capitol during the Biden inauguration revoked during his time in the National Guard, due to a cross tattoo on his chest. Now he'll head up the Defense Department.

Elon Musk has been targeted by the Biden administration for his purchase of and free-speech stance at X, even in his unrelated, and liberal-friendly electric car company, Tesla and government contracted company, SpaceX. Now he's being given authority to oversee a "Department of Government Efficiency."

Of course, chief of the aggrieved is Trump himself, having been maligned, the victim of lawfare, spied on in his first campaign and then hampered by his own government in his first term, and ultimately deposed by 20 million voters who mysteriously "disappeared" in this past election. Trump is back. He's had four years to plan his return, diagnose the country's problem, and observe his opponents' failures.

Where last time he stumbled into power not knowing his true allies from those trying to use him, this time he's doing his best to fill his cabinet with loyalists, many of whom have a chip on their shoulders themselves.

It is in this spirit of vengeance that the American people chose Donald Trump for President. In the past decade, the curtain has been pulled back on how our spy agencies work, how the healthcare industry works, how the education system works, how military spending works, etc. and the American people are not impressed. Americans are sick of paying taxes which are spent for the benefit of other nations, while our own culture crumbles. We're tired of our health being exploited to launder kickbacks to lobbyists and grantees. We're fed up with shoveling money into schools that only succeed at teaching kids things that aren't true. We've had enough of starting wars for the sake of selling more war machines.

We're ready for our government to focus on creating the conditions for our families to thrive.

We're fed up, Trump's fed up, and his cabinet is fed up, but that doesn't mean they're guaranteed success. We're seeing the opposition roll out their familiar tactics to undermine the incoming administration already.

The side that proudly pushed every individual they could find that represented a letter in the LGBTTQQAAP+ acronym to the front of the administration suddenly want you to be outraged that the incoming Secretary of Defense had a one-night stand with a woman in the years before he began taking his Christian faith seriously.

We're supposed to accept the accusations from those who want us to pay for tweens' sex changes that the incoming Attorney General is disqualified by his alleged fling with a seventeen-year-old who lied about her age.

The side that just launched American missiles into Russia wants you to believe that Tulsi Gabbard is a Russian stooge because she wants to avoid their nuclear retaliation.

America, tragically, is not a Christian nation which is what we at the American Decency Association are working towards. In the meantime, we'll praise God for an administration of sinners, many saved by Grace, working to keep us free, safe, and prosperous, rather than keeping us as unhealthy tax cattle for a global empire.

While Trump gets to work on "MAGA," Christians in the administration and on the outside, by God's Grace, must work on MACA, "Make America Christian Again."

American Decency Frontline
Vol. XXXVIII, Issue XII
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

The Sleeper Issue that Woke a Giant

By Lisa Van Houten



In the recent presidential election, Democrats, pundits, and even many Republicans were stunned to learn that, among swing voters, the number one reason they broke for Donald Trump wasn't because of immigration or the economy, but the transgender agenda pushed by Kamala Harris and her party.

Trump has said, if he had discussed transgender ideology during the 2016 campaign, no one would have known what he was talking about. That's how fast this cultural tsunami has been forced down our throats by the leftists in control of society's levers of power. Yet the American people aren't buying this indoctrination which denies biology and common sense. Trump got an inkling of this undercurrent of opposition from the reaction he received during a 2023 speech where he vowed to cut federal funding for schools pushing transgender ideology. He marveled, *"Look at the hand you get for that! Bigger than, 'We're going to be energy independent!'"*

Polling has backed that up: both Republicans (86%) and Democrats (58%) oppose allowing minors to attempt to "change" their gender. Overall, 72% of Americans oppose mutilating transgender surgeries and puberty blockers for children. On what other issue do nearly three-quarters of Americans agree? In addition, only 13% think boys should be allowed in girls' sports, and only 19% think transgender propaganda should be taught in schools.

The Trump team, realizing the power of this concern, made it a major focus of their campaign, with ads such as: *"Kamala is for they/them. President Trump is for you."* The New York Times reported that these were Trump's most viewed and most effective ads, acknowledging that one specific ad, exposing Kamala Harris's radical transgender positions, *"shifted the race 2.7 per-*

centage points in Mr. Trump's favor after viewers watched it." And as Democrats incessantly beat the pro-abortion drum in an effort to reach suburban women, the Trump ads on the transgender issue were proven to be highly effective in winning moderate suburban women, as well as black and Latino men. Polling showed that the percentage of voters who oppose child sex changes increased by 10 points since August. Opposition to this radical ideology became the sleeper issue of the 2024 election.

Other Republicans – some of whom can be notoriously slow to take principled stands on what are considered cultural issues, but are actually a matter of what is morally right or wrong - stuck their finger in the wind and realized this was a winning issue. Down ballot candidates also successfully campaigned on the facts that children are irreversibly harmed by transgender "treatments;" parents, not bureaucrats, should decide what children are taught regarding sexuality; and that men don't belong in women's bathrooms or sports.

This election made clear that the majority of voters reject woke ideology. However, voters in the blue state of Delaware didn't seem to get the message, as they elected Tim McBride, who cosplays at being a woman and now goes by the name Sarah McBride, as the first "transgender" congressman to the House of Representatives. This could potentially cause actual female Congresswomen to be forced to share a restroom with a biological man, leading Republican Rep. Nancy Mace to introduce a House resolution requiring legislators and staffers to use bathrooms that align with their biological sex, stating that "allowing biological males into single-sex facilities, such as restrooms, locker rooms, and changing rooms designed for women, jeopardizes the safety and dignity of Members, officers, and employees of the House who are female." As Mace told a reporter: *"I'm a rape survivor. I have PTSD from the abuse I've suffered at the hands of a man, and I know how vulnerable women and girls are in private spaces."* Mace also introduced a bill which would ban men from using women's facilities on all federal property.

Of course, Mace was vilified by Democrats

who haven't learned from the thrashing the American people just gave them, precisely because of this woke garbage. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) claimed Mace's resolution was "not just bigotry" but "plain bullying." So, deviant men in makeup want to force women to participate in their delusion and we're the bullies? Democrat women, who just a few short years ago cried #MeToo in defense of female victims of sexual harassment and assault, are now not only betraying their own gender to defend perverted men, but would also force those same victims of assault to share intimate facilities with men.

Republicans, who just won a resounding victory partly due to this issue, should be emboldened to take strong and principled stands wherever the trans agenda rears its ugly head. However, when Speaker of the House Mike Johnson [R] was asked by a reporter - *"Is freshman-elect Sarah McBride a man or a woman?"* - Johnson deflected, stating he wasn't going to **"engage in silly debates about this."** What is "silly" about the Biblical truth and biological fact that one's gender is immutable? As a conservative and a Christian who's been vocal about his faith in the past, this should not have been a hard question for him to answer.

Every Christian from apostle Peter to yours truly has cowardly not taken opportunities to speak the truth. Thankfully, Mike Johnson, whether resulting from the mocking he received or his own conscience, soon came out and stated: ***"...let me be unequivocally clear. A man is a man and a woman is a woman. And a man cannot become a woman."*** He also later announced: *"All single-sex facilities in the Capitol and House Office Buildings — such as restrooms, changing rooms, and locker rooms — are reserved for individuals of that biological sex. ... Women deserve women's only spaces."*

Woke, transgender ideology isn't about privacy or politics. It's not even ultimately about gender; **it's about Truth.** It's about trying to force people to believe a lie and deny what God has written on every human heart since "male and female He created them." Thankfully, the American people are waking up and rejecting this lie.

What is a Doctor?

By Steve Huston



What is a Doctor? is the title of Dr. Simone Gold's new and outstanding documentary; she asks this important question about her profession as "doctors are not acting ethically or honorably" regarding various issues. Dr. Gold gained recognition during COVID as she stood boldly as a truth teller, particularly regarding masks, ivermectin, hydroxychloroquine, and standards of care. Now, with this new documentary, she addresses the treatment – MISreatment – of gender dysphoric youth ("transgenderism").

As I sat down to write this article, Frank Gaffney of "Securing America" had just interviewed Dr. Gold regarding this film, giving it a glowing recommendation. He notes that this particular documentary comes at a most vital time: just before the Supreme Court hears oral arguments about a Tennessee law that "protects children in that state from the physical mutilation and psychological trauma associated with so called 'gender affirming care.'" Frank continues: "To its eternal shame, the Biden administration has sided with parents who support such child abuse. Providentially, however, one of America's most brilliant and courageous Frontline Doctors, Simone Gold, has just released a powerful documentary called 'What is a Doctor?' It searingly exposes the truth about the medical practitioners, hospitals, and pharmaceutical industry that are profiting massively off of the lifetimes of health complications and suffering, to which they are condemning purported "trans" kids who are incapable of providing informed consent."

"I have seen it and I urge every American to do the same. Most especially, I pray that every member of the Supreme Court will take the time to view 'What is a Doctor?,' ideally before they hear the case next month, and for sure before they rule on it thereafter. If they do, my best bet is they will

decide nine to zero to protect Tennessee's and America's children from this horrific form of medical malpractice and torture."

Have you noticed the explosion of transgenderism, particularly among school-aged children in the last several years? Have you wondered why all of a sudden there's a politicized medical agenda surrounding this psychological disorder and how the medical community could willingly play a role in such insanity? Dr. Gold and several other doctors speak to this, abhorred by what is taking place and standing boldly against it, regardless the personal cost.

Gender Identity Disorder (renamed "gender dysphoria") was almost exclusively an issue with middle-age to older men who had been cross-dressing for years; it's always been known as a psychological condition. Now we see adolescent girls to young adult women who have had no issues, no discomfort with their biological sex while they were growing up, but now having been bombarded with social media messaging, other online influences, and suggestions from guidance counselors and doctors are convinced and driven to unbelievable harm through medical interventions (including mutilations) which leave them physically, psychologically, and socially scarred, often for life. This is "rapid onset gender dysphoria" and should be differentiated from the Gender Identity Disorder addressed earlier.

These children and teens are unable to give "informed consent" because they cannot understand the true meaning of what they are giving up when allowing these doctors to perform horrendous atrocities to their bodies. Even in looking at hormone blockers or cross-hormone therapy, do we know what role our God-given hormones play during our psychological and mental development during our prepubescent and teen years? We must never forget that "we are fearfully and wonderfully made."

Dr. Gold, in her interview with Frank Gaffney, states that physicians ought to be a beacon of reality instead of simply complying with the fantasy of these teens/young adults. "It is unreal, it is false to say to a patient in front of you, 'Yes, young lady, you can be-

come a male.' It is factually impossible. Even if you were to go on all of the cross-sex hormones and puberty blockers, and manipulate your body in a cosmetic way to appear more masculine, every cell in your body, young lady, would still be XX chromosome. Every brain cell, every heart cell, every nerve cell, every lung cell, it will still be XX. All the testosterone in the world will still hit XX cells in your brain. That is the role that physicians need to be telling the patients. We must treat them with respect and kindness and love and compassion. Having gender dysphoria is an extremely painful condition, however the answer is not to medically mutilate your healthy body. If you start going down that road, not only will you not accomplish what you're hoping to accomplish...you are opening yourself up to terrible medical consequences." She goes on to list off what some of these consequences are, both in this interview and in the documentary.

While not part of the film, we need to remember that man was created in the image of God and "male and female created he them." Then we must recognize that an attack on the image of God (abortion, physiological and psychological "supports" of transgenderism, etc.) is an attack on God. I am grateful for bold truth tellers in the medical community like Dr. Gold and those who joined her in this documentary, but let us also be bold in speaking the truth both medically and spiritually.

Much other important information is brought out in Dr. Gold's film. Go to whatisadoctor.org to watch this for free. **Caution:** There is a short section that speaks graphically when dealing with genital reconstruction.

Frontline Doctors urge you to:

1. Sign the petition to ban medical mutilation at whatisadoctor.org.
2. Contact your representatives, urging them to pass legislation banning medical mutilation.
3. Host a showing of this film for free.

Advent: From Loss to Victory

By Chris Johnson



Ever since reading an article by Molly Hemmingway extolling the wonder of the Advent season nearly a decade ago, December 1st through the 25th has been one of my favorite times of the year. I think for about every year since then, I've written as much in our December newsletter.

But December 1, 2023, the first day of the Advent season last year, was the worst day of my life, and it will forever change the way I experience the Advent season.

I woke in the early hours of the morning to sounds of distress from my wife, and the nightmare of every pregnant couple became our experience as our tiny little son was stillborn to my wife in her 18th week of pregnancy.

That evening, we buried our son in a little home-made casket quickly assembled by my skilled brother-in-law in our backyard.

We spent the next few weeks in a season of only slightly controlled chaos leaning on family, feeding on the outpouring of encouragement and love both from those close to us and from those from whom we never would have expected it, trying to help each other and our older children to process the loss of what we were all so excited for.

"He got to go straight to live with Jesus," we told them. He didn't have to go through the hard stuff in life that we all will.

It was that truth, and the truth of Romans 8:28, that "...for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose," that echoed in my head in the following weeks and months.

Someday, God will use our experience to encourage someone else who's struggling to trust in His goodness in a difficult moment of their life. Really, that's the reason I'm writing this now, perhaps now is that

time for someone reading this.

Within just a few weeks of the passing of our little guy, whom we posthumously named Kuyper, we were celebrating our family Christmas, and rather than turn to Luke to read the Christmas story, or to the Old Testament to read the prophecies of Christ's coming as we've done in the past, this time we turned to 1 Corinthians 15:25-26 and read, "For *he must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.*"

The real reason for Christmas can be easily lost in sentimentalism: Hallmark movies, Coca-Cola Santas, Currier and Ives prints, Jingle Bells, and the Grinch.

When Christ *is* celebrated, it's for his helpless state as an infant. To read most summations of the Christmas story is to read of a little baby boy born in poverty to a single mother who went on to save the world. And when boiled down to those elements, the Christmas story can resound with anyone in our time, Christian or not.

But that story, without the context of the rest of the Bible, doesn't explain why Christmas is so important to Christians. We celebrate Christmas because Jesus came here for a reason, and that reason was made painfully clear to me on December 1, 2023.

Most Christmas carols don't cover it, but one singer who is the front man for an Alternative Rock band, Dustin Kensrue, sang this on his Christmas album:

*"This is war like you ain't seen.
This winter's long, it's cold and mean.
With hangdog hearts we stood condemned,
But the tide turns now at Bethlehem.*

*This is war and born tonight,
The Word as flesh, the Lord of Light,
The Son of God, the low-born king;
Who demons fear, of whom angels sing.*

*This is war on sin and death;
The dark will take its final breath.
It shakes the earth, confounds all plans;
The mystery of God as man."*

If you are missing someone this Christmas season, and maybe it's even preventing you from celebrating the holiday, remember

this: our greatest enemy which separates us from our loved ones is Jesus' enemy too, and He will not rest until He has crushed that enemy.

We celebrate Christmas because Christ came to conquer sin and death. That's the reason for the season.

The story of my family's loss of Kuyper isn't over. Psalm 30:5 says, "*Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning,*" and on October 1st, 2024, Jaelle Joy was born to our family.

While she can't fill the hole that Kuyper left in our lives, she certainly does bring comfort and joy.

Our Advents from here on out will begin with the memory of the loss of our baby boy, and end in the celebration of the birth of Baby Jesus, whose birth leads us to ask with the Apostle Paul, "*O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?*"



What a Year

By Bill Johnson



What a year this has been! I hope you will take a glance at my [Personal Note](#) on page two and read my short verbiage on the support that allowed us to have victories over these many years. As we close out another year, despite all the demands upon you - including the many requests that politicians sent out that makes our heads spin, as well as the many requests that come from non-profit organizations seeking support - yet so many of you receiving this stand with us anyway! So, I think you will see what I was trying to say on page two, **“Where would we be without people like you!”**

And as you would know as we come to the end of another year, we’re seeking much needed year-end support to prepare us for 2025! This year we have a few rare and urgent surprises that are pulls on our finances. First, we had a pipe burst in the basement that was an unexpected expense of \$2,000. Secondly, we found that our donation maintenance software company of many years is going out of business - not giving us much notice. So, we will also need to have an expenditure for a program that will cost nearly \$8,000. We are not in despair, as we have seen God go before us many times, and we believe that God will provide, raising up those who graciously will stand in the gap, enabling us to cover such needs.

In the days ahead, we will be sending out our annual *Year in Review* in which we hope you will continue to see “We want to do God’s will.” We remain thankful for the fresh calling God has given us and that He chose us for such a work as this (for such a time as this) and, though we do not understand the whys and wherefores, we thank God that He leads.

Again, we thank and praise God for you - the remnant that He has provided us. Please continue to pray for us and support us as you so graciously and generously have done over these years, including this past year.

Christmas Memories

By Steve Huston



As we step into the Christmas season, we cannot help but recognize the immense grace and mercy that God has shown to all of mankind. The earth and all its inhabitants – cursed, in darkness, broken by sin, and helpless to do anything about it; yet by God’s abundant, tender mercies, “the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.” **That’s Christmas; that’s real hope!** It’s amazing grace that forgives, heals, and perpetuates itself in the lives of others, as the seed of the gospel is planted in their hearts.

My dad made sure we appreciated the gift of salvation through Jesus, the real meaning of Christmas. No present was opened until the most important “present was opened.” I fondly remember my dad sitting in his chair and calling us children to gather around him every Christmas morning; he would humbly read “the Christmas story” from Luke chapter two. As we grew older, he would stop to let us fill in the blanks. I’ve continued this tradition with my own children; I hope they will pass it on to my grandchildren as well.

What a blessing it would be to extend that tender Christmas morning moment to include the preceding weeks of Christmas – we can with [The Advent of Glory!](#) Well-loved Bible teacher R.C. Sproul, with his enduring insight and wisdom, has 24 brief Advent readings that explore the details of the nativity story and how they can be applied to our lives today. This devotional book helps the reader to slow down and reflect on the words of the Christmas story. Help your family and others grasp the awe of the incarnation of God’s gift to a wayward world.

Order your copy of [The Advent of Glory](#) from our response card to help you arrive at Christmas Day full of awe and wonder at the birth of Jesus.

Truth from the Puritans shared to feed us spiritually



“But let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God’s sight is very precious.”

~ 1 Peter 3:4

God does not prize the rich things in the world - gold, silver, land, possessions and crowns. What are these to God? He does not regard the nations of the world with all their pomp and glory, but a meek and quiet spirit is high in God’s esteem. Most of the words listed as fruit of the spirit (Gal. 5:22-23) are synonyms of meekness. These graces are near akin - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Passion and anger are fruits of the flesh, the fruit of the devil in the heart. The Lord looks upon the meek as the most brave and excellent spirits. He that is slow to wrath is better than the mighty (Prov. 16: 32). If you think you cannot do great service for God, consider ruling your spirit with this grace of meekness. It is a braver exploit, and more honorable in the sight of God, then if you were able to overcome a city! Do you desire to walk worthy of your calling? Walk in meekness (Eph. 1-2)! The meek are not given to wrangling as other men are; they love to be quiet and enjoy their estates with comfort here on the earth, though it is little. The meek are more attractive than others. If you hire a servant, wouldn’t you desire one that is of a meek and quiet spirit? If a man is seeking a wife, the first important quality is a meek spirit; without that, let her have whatever else she will, she is often rejected. If you are traveling, wouldn’t you rather stay in an inn where the host and servants are of a quiet spirit? Whatever wrongs a meek man has in this world, he yields his cause to God, and keeps his heart quiet, and this interests God in his cause. When you once have interested God in your cause, you are likely to do well enough! [Jeremiah Burroughs, [The Saints Happiness](#), pages 74 - 77]