

Lost Ground Is Being Taken But ...

By Bill Johnson



There on location in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda on January 20, 2025, we witnessed the swearing in of President Trump as our 47th President. He was surrounded by a core of his most contentious enemies from the Democratic Party, increasingly referred to by people like Trump as not only the opposition party but as espousers of time-honored communist ideology, i.e. DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion); wokeism; globalism as opposed to national sovereignty; climate change – eliminating fossil fuels.

Certainly, you get the picture! Then listen to the major propagators and defenders of their aggressive, mean-spirited worldview: MSNBC, CNN, ABC, NBC, CBS, New York Times, the Washington Post (the mainstream media). Together – they with the Democrats - have had their way for generations resulting in years of an altered social political landscape. The attempt to “remake America” was seen in the Clinton and Obama administrations and continued aggressively under the Biden/Harris presidency wreaking havoc on our country’s borders and institutions.

But, then, wonder of wonders. Here we are on Inauguration Day with the opposing parties seated circumspectly within a small circumference before a watching world of millions with thousands staring at them from their seats of prominence and in-

fluence – haltingly prepared to follow a gentlemanly protocol accepting the loser’s seat – vanquished and, yes, humiliated by their long-time opponents who now control not only the lectern and microphone but the levers of power.

To add insult to injury, the newly anointed President brashly and rightly called out not only the fallacies of the Democratic Party’s policies but detailed corruption and deceit brought to millions of Americans, which, as many have said, betrayed America.

But, equally noteworthy is this: These beleaguered and socialist political leaders not only showed up, but absorbed the harshness not only of the cold but more pointedly the bruising assault of words that accurately detailed their failings, and, yes, their corruption.

As we watched the various occasions where the Bidens and the Trumps stood together – and walked together - as they prepared to be transported from one ceremony to the next, politely submitting to the demands of the day so carefully choreographed long ago for these major times demanding high levels of character that many would wonder hours before, “Can they endure this without unleashing what’s brewing inside their hearts and minds?”

It was stated by commentators – (para-

phrased): Our nation’s system of government is on display despite it all, exhibiting why we remain the envy of the world - for our durability, demonstrating that despite vast differences, the United States of America still displays the health of a peaceful transference of power.

Perhaps the stakes were just too high for anyone of them to act out. For some, perhaps, there is yet a check on their conscience. Perhaps it was God’s grace – the mercy of God poured out upon our embattled nation.

Whatever, does it not serve as a powerful reminder that God is greater than all our sin? Let us not forget the years of expanding tyranny and where it was seemingly taking us into greater degrees of tyranny. And, yet, those days continue. Lost ground can and is now being taken, even the regaining of our borders. But there are so many battles for our lives and the lives of our children, families and neighbors. And they are being hotly contested. Already on this day, just three days after his inauguration, President Trump is boldly addressing international elitists - globalists at Davos. Calling them out for their agenda of a debauched world government influenced by the likes of Bill Gates, Klaus Schwab, and one world government proponents. We have dodged one bullet but we face many more both nationally and internationally.

Personal Note from the President



Oh, the joys of being engaged with the American Decency Association! However, I have to admit that the days are crazy, as you well know. Now, especially that President Trump has been inaugurated; he is truly on the move! It is amazing the vast amount of areas he is tackling.

As I continue in my 40th year of ministry, what a blessing to be led by and inspired by my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. And, to have had Donald Wildmon as my mentor in those foundational years. (Don went to be with the Lord on December 28, 2023.)

My sense of calling was strong in those early years, but I needed the affirmation of a core of people to go into fulltime ministry and since have been blessed by a solid increase of faithful brothers and sisters in Christ! Your support has been and is an amazing grace! Your notes and letters and prayers affirm us and help us fuel our continued ministry and opportunities.

One opportunity that I want to make you aware of is our plan to present you with our 40th year anniversary and appreciation dinner that we have tentatively scheduled for July 11. The location is yet to be determined; however, we are inclined to think it will be in Fremont. More details will be forthcoming.

There may be a core of you who remember coming to our 25th anniversary 15 years ago (2010) which featured several dear friends assisting us in ministry for that evening, including American Family Association's Buddy Smith who, with my daughter Jenny, sang a gospel song accompanied by Robert Azkoul, a very gifted pianist (and still is at 93 years old). Pam Stenzel was our featured speaker, giving a powerful presentation on the topic *Sex has a Price Tag* – a

message that she spoke far and wide at public and Christian schools nationally and internationally.

We had also created an hour-long video presenting a number of friends and ministry partners, such as the now deceased Donald Wildmon, president and founder of American Family Association and American Family Radio. It also included Art Ally, president of the Timothy Plan, an organization that I served on the board of for 19 years, until recently. The video also showed media interviews I took part in (MSNBC, CNN, Fox News, and numerous local interviews) regarding battles that we had fought and/or were fighting, including our successful efforts to drive Howard Stern off terrestrial radio and pressuring Abercrombie & Fitch to discontinue the production and distribution of their erotic clothing catalog.

Our multi-faceted and talented staff also, with assistance from friends, made and served the meal. I believe we had upwards of 250 people in attendance for that special night marking our 25th year of ministry.

Our hope is to once again ask you all to do what you can to be with us Friday, July 11th for a time of great celebration as we take an opportunity to thank you for making it all possible for us to answer the call that God has given to us! One of the joys of my life has been the front row seat and seeing how God raised up the people (board members, staff members, financial supporters, prayer supporters, my wife Jan and family) to stand side by side with me and one another in the day by day work that God has graciously given to us.

Please mark your calendar for Friday, July 11, 2025 in Fremont, MI (home of the American Decency Association). Appreciation Dinner: 5:30 – 7:30 PM. Speakers and musicians to be announced. Dinner: Free will offering.

In addition, mark your calendar for the showing of *Culture Warrior: Don Wildmon and the Battle for Decency*, Thursday, February 13, 2025, 2:00 PM – American Decency Association, 203 East Main Street, Fremont, MI.

I was honored to be interviewed for this documentary paying tribute to the groundbreaking ministry of Don Wildmon. Don Wildmon had me fly into Tupelo, MS at AFA headquarters (then named the National Federation for Decency) so that we could meet face to face. We had become a local chapter of the NFD back in 1986. In Fremont, we were fighting against pornography at local stores in our county communities, and we were having success. NFD changed their name to American Family Association in 1988. I had become NFD's (AFA) first named state director in 1987 and left my full-time teaching position in 1988. I have a long history with AFA with many great memories and friendships made and spiritual battles fought, including the picketing of the headquarters of K-Mart in Troy, MI on two separate occasions and AFA standing side by side with us in our successful campaign to drive shock jock Howard Stern from terrestrial radio.

Coming soon: American Decency Association to launch a weekly podcast tentatively entitled “Finally, a Decent Podcast.” Our podcast expects to be 30-40 minutes weekly as we begin, with the projection of expanding as we “get our feet under us.”

Lastly, I am working on our 2026 calendar that features hundreds of pictures taken from our inception back in 1985, including the early pioneers, our early board, volunteers, local prayer supporters, speakers that have served us in ministry (Trevor Loudon, Don Wildmon, Patrick Colbeck, Phil Haney, Buddy Smith, Steve Ensley, Frank Gaffney, Art Ally, Pam Stenzel, Kamal Saleem, Mat Staver, Gary Bauer, Kevin Freeman, David Kallman, Will Wagner, Pat Trueman, Jim Simpson, Dar VanderArk, Janet Porter, Stephen Black, Stephen Coughlin, M.D. Perkins, et al.).

Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy. To the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

Jude 25

Trump Presses Pause on TikTok Ban

By Chris Johnson



Longtime readers may recall the many times we've reported on the dangers of TikTok.

We've talked about how it exacerbates bad behavior in American youth. We've talked about how it sucks up every bit of data it can from users' devices, including biometrics and location data which they, of course, sell for targeted advertising. We've talked about how they've lied about whether or not they can access that data in China, where the app is owned, at least in part.

We were encouraged by efforts from President Trump to have the app banned in his first term, which is what made it so confusing to us when one of the first actions of his second term was to issue an executive order delaying the enforcement of a ban which took effect only the weekend before his inauguration (where TikTok CEO Shou Chew was in attendance).

Trump isn't the only giant on the right who's opposed to the ban, although he may be the only one with the power to stop it. Esteemed conservatives like Rand Paul, Thomas Massey, Mike Lee, and Tucker Carlson have spoken out against it too.

What are we missing here? Is TikTok no longer a potential Chinese threat?

Massey, Lee, Paul, and Tucker oppose the ban on the grounds of free speech purity. And they ask some good questions, like: "The people who've handed our country over to China are banning TikTok to protect you from China? Probably not," says Tucker Carlson.

Lee points out that the legislation, as written, gives "broad new powers to the Executive Branch at the expense of the Legislative Branch," and, he asks, "Why do all the domestic spying hawks - politicians fighting against FISA reform who want to continue unconstitutional surveillance of American citizens - support forcing the sale

of TikTok?"

"Simple," he answers, "they want your data for themselves."

Rand Paul points out that only a percentage of it is owned by the Chinese, every social media app hoovers up your data, and that it sets a dangerous precedent of the government deciding what sources American citizens can use for news and entertainment.

One thing that's not discussed by these men - all of whom I have great respect for - is the algorithm.

TikTok isn't just a social media app. Some would say it's not social media at all - it's not designed for interaction, but for publication, getting your content out there where others will see it.

Of course, the video content published in the US app is protected free speech, but the algorithm deciding which of that content you will actually see is influenced by China.

For instance, if two creators make videos about the Chinese-owned Goshen battery plant trying to set up in Northern Michigan, one saying that it's a foothold for the Chinese Communist Party in rural America and the other saying it's a great opportunity for this small town to create new jobs, who gets to decide which of those videos gets seen and by whom?

This strategy of using foreign influencers is well known to the Chinese. It has been called "borrowing mouths to speak" by the CCP, and Chinese President Xi Jinping explains its goal: "*Bringing together the Chinese and foreign is more than just simply catering [to the tastes] of foreigners. Rather, it is improving our ability to disseminate the Chinese way [of doing things], to disseminate the Chinese system, Chinese concepts, and Chinese culture in ways ... such that foreign audiences will be happy to accept it, in language that is easy for them to understand, so that Chinese concepts become a global lingua franca, and an international consensus.*"

That is a stated goal of the CCP, and it's hard to imagine their principles preventing them from using a tool as effective as TikTok at achieving it.

So why is Trump backing away from banning this app? All we have to go by is the words of his executive order, where he states: "*...I intend to consult with my advisors, including the heads of relevant departments and agencies on the national security concerns posed by TikTok, and to pursue a resolution that protects national security while saving a platform used by 170 million Americans. My Administration must also review sensitive intelligence related to those concerns and evaluate the sufficiency of mitigation measures TikTok has taken to date.*"

"The unfortunate timing of section 2(a) of the Act - one day before I took office as the 47th President of the United States - interferes with my ability to assess the national security and foreign policy implications of the Act's prohibitions before they take effect. This timing also interferes with my ability to negotiate a resolution to avoid an abrupt shutdown of the TikTok platform while addressing national security concerns. Accordingly, I am instructing the Attorney General not to take any action to enforce the Act for a period of 75 days from today to allow my Administration an opportunity to determine the appropriate course forward in an orderly way that protects national security while avoiding an abrupt shutdown of a communications platform used by millions of Americans..."

TikTok; it's Chinese parent company, ByteDance; the Chinese Communist Party; American users with First Amendment rights; access to users' data; ability to manipulate the algorithm - TikTok is a twisted web of interests, influences, rights, and threats. What Trump hopes to uncover in the next two months or so that hasn't already been laid bare is hard to imagine.

The TikTok ban is law, and this publication thinks that's a good thing, but it is on a 75-day delay as the administration gathers information and counter-intelligence.

Regardless of ownership, without radical changes to the algorithm, TikTok amplifies the most detrimental activities in American culture and it is time for it to go.

Restoring Duty, Honor, Country

By Lisa Van Houten



As President Trump once again takes on the role of Commander-in-Chief, he can look to our nation's first president as he seeks to rebuild the weakened and woke military left behind by the Biden administration. President/General George Washington understood the importance of peace through strength, as he stated in his first annual address to Congress, ***"To be prepared for war is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace."***

Over the years, the rag-tag Continental Army which Washington led, grew into the most powerful military in the world. But what happens when our military leadership - which swears an oath to defend the Constitution - instead implement policies which undermine the Constitution? We've seen the answer to that question as America's supreme fighting force has been weakened by leftist leadership pushing neo-Marxist ideology at every level of the military. Not only have the words "Duty, Honor, Country" been literally stripped from West Point's mission statement, but that ethos of duty, honor, country, which once permeated every branch of the service, has been replaced with DEI and Critical Race Theory.

Numerous shocking examples have made headlines, such as the U.S. Navy using drag queen sailors in enlistment efforts; taxpayer dollars funding numerous LGBT "Pride" events on military bases; or - one of the most shocking of all - a military training program actually labeling pro-life Americans as terrorists. Yet the problem is far more pervasive than just these examples. DEI has been pushed throughout the military, leading to lowered morale and a major recruiting crisis. The Army lost 22% of its force since 2011 and has the lowest number of troops since the 1930s. Hours spent indoctrinating soldiers in woke ideology

means less time training for combat and a decrease in readiness. And in the name of DEI, physical fitness standards have been lowered to attract more women to the service, while the Air Force is reducing the number of white male applicants in its officer training program in order to meet their "diversity quotas." **Having the most lethal fighting force is no longer the priority.** In addition, while the Pentagon focuses on ideology, China is focused on building up their military. For example, China's Navy is now larger than the U.S. Navy.

This is the state of the U.S. military that President Trump has inherited. However, President Trump has made clear that he will clean house at the Pentagon and rebuild our military. In fact, one of his administration's first steps in doing so was to fire U.S. Coast Guard Commandant Linda Lee Fagan, in part due to her "excess focus" on DEI. And since Trump was elected, there has been a surge in military recruitment.

In addition, Pete Hegseth, Trump's pick to head the Pentagon as Secretary of Defense, is zealous about restoring the military. Hegseth, an Army veteran, literally wrote a book on how woke ideology has infested the military, *The War on Warriors*. As Hegseth said during his Senate confirmation hearing: *"... when President Trump chose me for this position, the primary charge he gave me was—to bring the warrior culture back to the Department of Defense. He, like me, wants a Pentagon laser focused on warfighting, lethality, meritocracy, standards, and readiness.... My only special interest is—the warfighter. Deterring wars, and if called upon, winning wars."*

Hegseth faces a Herculean task. Top of the list will be an overhaul of the Pentagon, rooting out "woke" officers and military brass who pushed DEI. Hegseth vowed that: ***"First and foremost, up front, you have to tear out DEI and [critical race theory] initiatives, root and branch out of institutions."*** And that is why the Left has been so opposed to Hegseth's nomination - he is a threat to the rot infecting the highest levels of the military. The sole purpose of the U.S. military should be to prepare for war in order to preserve peace - not promoting leftist ideology.

Every Gift Counts



We serve a faithful God! We at American Decency found that to be true once again as we moved into December of this last year. We seek to walk by faith and not by sight!

Last year there were so many candidates running for office statewide, locally, and nationally as you well know. With all of the requests for money that you received, and we received, there are those times where we all feel overwhelmed as we go to the mailbox and find it loaded with requests. And we wonder where some of these individuals and organizations get our name. We know that some organizations sell their addresses! Not only troubling but incredibly annoying. We do NOT give out, sell or rent our mailing list to anyone or any organization.

So, in December as the month went on we were totally awed as the gifts came in one by one and two by two and sometimes 15 by 15. It was such an encouragement to see the incredible faithfulness and to experience the affirmation that each gift brought to us!

In closing, the year is long and the challenges will be great and your faithful, prayerful gifts are never taken for granted!

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Restoring Sanity on Day One

By Lisa Van Houten



A common theme from President Trump during his campaign was the phrase: “*On Day One I will...*” and, as I write this on day two of his administration, it’s hard to keep up with the list of Executive Orders (EO) he signed since his inauguration, keeping many of those promises. Whereas most presidents sign one or two EOs on the first day of their administration, President Trump signed 46, on a vast array of issues, putting our nation back on a path towards sanity. It’s like trying to drink from a fire hose to keep up with them all – restoring border security, commonsense energy policies, preventing government censorship of free speech.

Yet what received the loudest cheers and a standing ovation in Trump’s speech after taking the oath of office was this pledge: “*As of today, it will henceforth be the official policy of the United States government that there are only two genders: male and female.*” Just hours later President Trump made that official with one of his first Executive Orders, aptly titled: “*Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government.*” It reverses the Biden administration’s attempts to force Americans to go along with the lie that men can become women.

Specifically, it removes gender ideology from all government policies; protects the freedom of speech and prevents the coercion of Americans to use “preferred pronouns” in schools and workplaces; protects women’s spaces such as restrooms, locker rooms, and shelters; bans men who identify as “transgender” from being housed in women’s prisons; and reverses the policy of allowing people to change their sex on their passports or personnel records. Under the Biden administration, those who wanted to select a third gender on their passport, if they didn’t “identify” as male or female, could choose “X” as their gender.

Trump’s EO does something that Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson couldn’t do – define what is a woman (and man). Hopefully, she’ll take note. The EO makes this definition: “*‘Female’ means a person belonging, at conception, to the sex that produces the large reproductive cell [i.e., egg cell or ovum]. (e) ‘Male’ means a person belonging, at conception, to the sex that produces the small reproductive cell [i.e., the sperm cell].*”

The EO concludes: “*If federal policies promote such an obvious falsehood that men can become women, the government will forfeit all credibility. The government must maintain a commitment to recognizing biological reality to maintain the trust of the American people.*” The fact that the President of the United States needs to define what a woman is, shows the insanity and extremism of the Biden administration and how quickly it can be forced on a nation.

Restoring truth and common sense is a theme of many of his EOs, including the “Ending Radical And Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing,” which will root out the Marxist ideology of DEI which has permeated federal agencies and polices under Biden. As Trump’s EO states: “*The Biden Administration forced illegal and immoral discrimination programs, going by the name ‘diversity, equity, and inclusion’ (DEI), into virtually all aspects of the Federal Government, in areas ranging from airline safety to the military.*” Trump has vowed that his administration will be based on merit – putting qualifications over who checks the racial minority or LGBT box. How fitting that President Trump, having been inaugurated on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, is living up to King’s vision that Americans “will not be judged not by the color of their skin, but the content of their character.” Trump’s EO pledges: “*Federal employment practices, including Federal employee performance reviews, shall reward individual initiative, skills, performance, and hard work and shall not under any circumstances consider DEI or DEIA factors, goals, policies, mandates, or requirements.*”

Another of President Trump’s EOs couldn’t be more fitting for “**liberation day**” – the term Trump gave to his inauguration day.

Sending a message that the weaponization of the federal government against the American people will end, Trump commuted the sentence or pardoned 1,500 January 6 political prisoners. The Biden administration and the corrupt FBI/DOJ prosecuted and persecuted Americans who were exercising their rights to peacefully protest, after the same administration ignored the 2020 BLM protestors who burned cities and took over police stations with no consequences. In fact, Biden called those summer of 2020 riots a “historic movement for justice.” Yet J-6ers, who protested questionable election results at the Capitol on January 6, 2021 – many of whom never even entered the Capitol or just peacefully walked in and walked out – have received lengthy prison sentences, sometimes decades long. Others have languished in horrific prison conditions still awaiting trial after four years! These American citizens have been denied their constitutional rights, including the right to a speedy trial. Five J-6ers have committed suicide. “What they’ve done to these people is outrageous,” said President Trump.

Under the Biden administration, our Constitution was under direct assault and many of President Trump’s EOs are seeking to restore its authority, including withdrawing the U.S. from the World Health Organization (WHO). WHO is aligned with China and pushes a radical globalist agenda that would undermine American sovereignty, including putting Americans under the authority of WHO in regards to vaccine mandates, pandemic polices, and government surveillance. Pushing abortion is also a major goal of WHO; its policy states abortion “is fundamental to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals relating to good health and well-being...”

Thankfully, **by God’s grace,** President Trump is reversing the collision course set by the last administration. Leftist ideologies are being rejected and objective truth is being affirmed. However, one huge disappointment so far is that little has been done to affirm one of the most important truths – the sanctity of life. Pray that President Trump will lift up the humanity of the unborn and champion that cause as well.

I Have a Dream ...

By Steve Huston



We all have dreams, aspirations, a desire to see things differently than they are. Perhaps Martin Luther King Jr.'s most memorable speech is "I have a dream," rightly expressing a desire for the United States to cash the "promissory note... that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the 'unalienable Rights' of 'Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.'"

Like Martin Luther King Jr., Turkey's president, Recep Tayyip **Erdogan** has a dream; like King, it's a dream of unity, but, unlike King, it's NOT a dream of liberty for all. No, Erdogan, **has a dream of restoring the Ottoman caliphate.** "*A caliphate is the office or dominion of a caliph, a Muslim leader who rules over a territory.*" (Merriam-Webster) Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream was for all men to be treated equal; Erdogan's dream is for all men to be brought under submission to Islamic law. When we consider the fact that Erdogan has a desire to restore the Ottoman caliphate, that means he desires to grow in land mass, influence, and the exultation of Islamic law over all. Following are a few of his recent statements; what might this mean for the United States, particularly since he has his sights set on Syria and other nations?

Expansion: "*Every incident that has occurred in our region, especially in Syria, recently reminds us of this fact; **Turkey is bigger than Turkey.** As a nation, we cannot limit our horizon to 782,000 square kilometers.*"

President Erdogan made this statement as well, directly threatening the sovereignty of Israel's capitol: "**Jerusalem is our city.**" The Times of Israel reports this in context: "*In this city that we had to leave in tears during the First World War, it is still possible to come across traces of the Ottoman resistance. So Jerusalem is our city, a city*

from us. Our first qibla [direction of prayer in Islam] al-Aqsa and the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem are the symbolic mosques of our faith. In addition, this city is home to the holy places of Christianity and Judaism."

The Times of Israel also identifies the point of contention regarding Turkey, Israel, and the USA: "*The Ottoman Empire ruled over Jerusalem from 1516 to 1917. Modern Turkey, its successor state, has long stressed its enduring connection to the holy city, regularly condemning Israel's alleged efforts to "judaize" it and the US administration's December 2017 recognition of it as Israel's capital.*"

A Divine Calling: When a devout Muslim feels a direct call from their god (Allah), what choice do they have but to respond obediently? "*Just as a person cannot escape his destiny, Turkey and the Turkish nation cannot escape or hide from their destiny. As a nation, we have to see the mission that history has assigned to us and act accordingly. We see this, we do not turn a deaf ear to the calls.*" (Robert Spencer)

Erdogan feels compelled to continue regardless of what others think of his/Turkey's call from destiny: "*Those who ask, 'What is Turkey doing in Libya and Syria?' may not be able to comprehend this mission. Those who do not know how Turkey has changed may have difficulty understanding the course of events. We leave them alone with nonsense. No matter what we tell those who have abandoned their empathy with their nation, it is useless. **We will not waste time with them, we will focus on our goals.***" (Robert Spencer)

Perhaps of real concern for Israel and the United States, Erdogan turned to the scientists during his speech at the Scientific and Technological Research Council and Turkish Academy of Sciences Awards Ceremony and stated: "*I believe that you will also fulfill your responsibilities on this blessed journey.*" (Robert Spencer)

Frank Gaffney warned in a *Secure Freedom Minute* from 12-20-24: "*Turkey's Islamist proxies have seized most of Syria. Now it wants an end to U.S. and other inter-*

national sanctions on an al Qaeda-linked group controlling much of that long-suffering country. Those include a 10-million-dollar bounty on its leader, known as Abu Mohammed al-Jolani, for the murder of Americans, among others...

"*Acceding to the Turks' plans to have jihadists next dominate post-Assad Syria would help them create a neo-Ottoman empire there and far beyond. To that end, Turkey's president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, is preparing to exterminate Syria's Kurds and possibly others.*"

"*We must stand squarely against, not effectively greenlight, such further crimes against humanity.*"

Erdogan is a prime example of Saint Augustine's description of the lust for domination in his book *The City of God*: "*Therefore I cannot refrain from speaking about the city of this world, a city which aims at dominion, which holds nations in enslavement, **but is itself dominated by that very lust of domination.***"

As Erdogan is propelled forward by "destiny" and an overwhelming urge to quiet Christianity while bringing all infidels (anyone who doesn't claim Allah as god) under submission to Islamic law, it's easy to see how Turkey (NATO's #2 military) might have no qualms in clashing with America (NATO's #1 military) in an attempt to further its goal to reestablish the Ottoman caliphate. Turkey has repeatedly urged the United States to halt its support for the YPG (a leading component of the Syrian Democratic Forces, which is armed and supported by the United States) and has warned that Western support for the YPG in the name of fighting ISIS would no longer be tolerated by Ankara.

As we watch Turkey attempt to push its national/Islamic borders and as we witness various Islamic terrorist attacks here at home and around the world, it should be easy to recognize that we are seeing a kind of push for religious globalism – remember that Islam is more than a religion; it's an all-encompassing political system.

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I Have a Dream ...

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With China, Islam, and other groups like WEF (World Economic Forum) and branches of the UN dreaming to rule the world, it brings me to my own dream, one which coincides with the dream of many true believers: **the sure return of Christ and His making all things right.**

Until that day there will be many heartaches and sorrows, afflictions and persecutions, but as we find true freedom in Jesus and He makes our joy full, we will experience a freedom and peace that can be ours even in the midst of tyranny and chains.

As we draw close to that day, the heathen will rage and the people will imagine a vain thing; kings and rulers will attempt to stand against Christ, the anointed One. Those who are wise will submit to Jesus willingly as rightful ruler of the planet and people He has redeemed. In the meantime, as we share the gospel and people freely submit to the King of kings and the Lord of lords, finding true freedom, we will begin to see the closing of Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech come to fruition:

"...when we allow freedom [to] ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

There is no other God; there is no other King. ALL HAIL KING JESUS!

"Take heed that no man deceive you."

By Steve Huston



A word of exhortation and warning: **"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness."** 2 Tim. 2:15-16

I often urge people to not simply read the Bible, but to study it, meditate on it, and memorize it. I suggest that they study the actual words of God, not just the "study notes" found in the surrounding margins of the Biblical text of some "Study Bible." Though there are a handful of very excellent study Bibles, one must remember that the notes contained therein are still men's words; they are not part of the inspired text. Another danger to be aware of is that some "Study Bible" authors use their notes as an opportunity to push their way of thought upon the reader, twisting the Scripture to **their** desired end. This is an example of eisegesis as opposed to exegesis, which begins with the text and allows the inspired Word to shape the reader's thoughts, mind, and actions. The Holy Spirit should be our Guide and the 66 books of the Bible are its own best commentary.

When looking at Zondervan's "Upside-Down Kingdom Study Bible" (UDKSB), edited by Preston Sprinkle, his name alone should raise "red flags." As one pastor describes, *"The theological fidelity of Sprinkle's writings, podcasts, and conferences have all been called into serious question in the past few years because of his teachings that same-sex attraction is not sin, and that 'homosexual orientation' contains God-glorifying elements."*

One example of Sprinkles' eisegesis is found in the notes on Sexuality and Gender from Romans 1: *"Paul does not condemn same-sex attraction but same-sex sexual be-*

havior. (...) It's the act, not the attraction, that's in focus here." Not only is this an attack on God's Word, but on the individual souls who are taken in by this deceptive twisting of Scripture's plain meaning. What if one were to cling to their adulterous or pedophilic attractions; are these okay so long as one doesn't act on them? True believers are transformed and are called to identify with their Saviour, not their sin.

One Million Moms warned in their petition against this "Study Bible": *"...this could be called a DEI Bible. (DEI is an acronym for diversity, equity, and inclusion.)"*

Ken Ham, President of Answers in Genesis and staunch defender of the Bible warns: **"Stay away from this compromised woke study Bible!"**

Avery Foley, also from Answers in Genesis, reported, in part: *"Rather than showing how God's Word is unique, giving us a set of glasses through which to view the world that is 'upside down' to the world's way of thinking, the writers take the world's lenses of feminism, Marxism, evolution, and CRT and read the Bible through them."*

"That's why many of the notes I read were sprinkled with references to man-made climate change, terms like 'forced migration experiences,' and 'systemic injustice.' From what I saw, these terms weren't really defined, but all such terms are routinely used by 'woke' and progressive Christians the same way the world uses them, so I think it's safe to assume that the world's definition is how they're likewise being used here."

Ken Ham addresses the UDKSB's tagline – "Think deeply and love widely" – well. *"We think and love according to the standard set in God's Word! It must be our starting point and biblical truth: the lens through which we filter the world. This study Bible has it the other way around—in many cases, the world is the starting point and its wisdom the lens through which it filters the Word."*

Warn your church and your friends that the Upside-Down Kingdom Study Bible misinterprets Scripture in order to advance a progressive and Marxist agenda.

What the Inauguration Tells Us About Trump's Faith

By Chris Johnson



"In a beautiful Pennsylvania field, an assassin's bullet ripped through my ear, but I felt then and believe - even more so - now, that my life was saved for a reason. I was saved by God to make America great again."

So said Donald Trump in his inauguration speech as the 47th president of the United States.

It's hard to say what those words might mean to a man like Donald Trump, a man not known for his religious fervor, whose short career in public service has seen him surrounded by the zealous – from Mike Pence to Paula White.

From the "Evangelicals for Trump" rally, to the namedrop of Franklin Graham when Trump accepted the 2024 Republican nomination (he noted that he'd told Graham he would try not to swear so much). From the spontaneous outbursts of "Great is Thy Faithfulness" among his audience at Mar-a-Lago to all the people who've prayed over him at rallies and events, Trump's experiences with Christianity have been anything but organized. Yet, he's claimed to be a Christian, said we need more religious influence on our government, and surrounded himself with Christians in his inner circles.

Where exactly Donald Trump is with the Lord is impossible to say. For every positive sign we could think of, there's a crass word, a missed opportunity, a prideful statement, etc. to point to his being an unrepentant heathen – or a repentant heathen in need of much sanctification. Only God knows.

But for those who followed the inauguration on January 20th, it was evident that it had been coordinated by someone who took God's hand on the election very seriously.

The day began with a traditional private church service at St. John's Episcopal church. The tradition began with the inau-

guration of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and Trump's service – according to the rector there – was being modeled after that original service.

It included this prayer which was written for FDR by the rector in 1945: *"O LORD our Governor, whose glory is in all the world; We commend this nation to thy merciful care, that being guided by thy Providence, we may dwell secure in thy peace. Grant to thy servant, Franklin, the President of the United States, and to all in authority, wisdom and strength to know and to do thy will. Fill them with the love of truth and righteousness; and make them ever mindful of their calling to serve this people in thy fear; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.*

"Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage; We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favour and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honourable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

A truly beautiful prayer; we can only hope that it was prayed in sincerity.

Later, as the time for Trump and Vance to enter the Capitol Rotunda for the ceremony, the sounds of the patriotic brass band gave way to the simple melodies of two Christian hymns, played on the piano: "For the Beauty of the Earth" and "Great is Thy Faithfulness."

This was followed shortly by opening prayers from Cardinal Timothy Dolan and

the Rev. Franklin Graham. Dolan invoked the prayer of Solomon for wisdom as he began his reign of Israel and referred to the faith of America's legendary leaders.

Franklin Graham's prayer included the following words: *"We remember to keep our eyes fixed on You, and may our hearts be inclined to Your voice. We know that America can never be great again if we turn our backs on You. We ask for Your help."*

I am confident that the words of these prayers were submitted to Trump's staff before the ceremony, and apparently, given the thumbs up.

Finally, the ceremony closed with three more prayers by religious leaders: first, a rabbi, then Pastor Lorenzo Sewell, and finally Catholic priest Rev. Frank Mann. An Imam from Dearborn was apparently asked and then uninvited, potentially due to public words of support for Hamas.

These men also prayed for wisdom and unity and blessing for the incoming administration.

We can speculate about where Donald Trump is with the Lord. But what we can see clearly is that Trump, or those closest to him, chose to honor God in the inauguration ceremony. They primarily invited solid, Biblical, Christian voices to speak into this, one of the most important moments of his life, and I think Christians should draw encouragement from that.

There's probably no one in the country who's had more people pray for him than Donald Trump. I think he must be reminded of that every time he turns his head or touches his ear. Pastor Lorenzo Sewell, who gave one of the benediction prayers, calls it the "millimeter miracle."

There will be things that Christians wish Trump would say and do during the next four years, that he won't – whether out of ignorance, or different priorities, or political strategy. There will be things that he says and does that we know God would not have him to do. But we cannot doubt that he is where God would have him to be.

Keep praying for President Donald Trump.