

Contending For the Faith

By Steve Huston



“...[I]t was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.” Jude 3

As I sit down to write this article, my heart is burdened for the state of the church, for my beloved country and its citizens, and I am also burdened for the souls of those self-declared enemies of the Church and our nation – those who have been deceived by Satan dressed in the garb of a false god – the Islamists. While our prayers should certainly include those listed above, we should also be praying for ourselves and for one another in the same manner as Paul prayed for himself: “And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, **that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel**, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, **as I ought to speak**” (Eph. 6:19-20). Paul was a contender for the faith and he prayed for boldness to do so, knowing that in his own strength he could not.

Though Paul was a hero of the faith, his task of contending is the same call to those who belong to the Church, the Body of Christ, today. A few verses earlier in Ephesians, Paul wrote, “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities...” Sadly, many in the church today – if they were honest with themselves – would have to stop at, “for we wrestle not.” No contending, no wrestling, but a simple lukewarm complacency seems, largely, to describe the

contemporary western church. Throughout the ages, Christ has expected His people to contend for the faith, and as needed, He has raised up men to urge His Church to leave their beds of complacent ease to awake to righteousness and contend – to stand having done all to stand in this evil day.

Militant or “Chocolate Soldiers”?

Jude verse three urges us to “earnestly contend for the faith;” it’s a strong term that originally referred to a contest in a battle or a public game. It’s root word means “to stand over and fight in defense of something.” Remember, Paul urges us to “*endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ*” (2 Tim. 2:3). Throughout the Scriptures we are called to battle, being reminded that “*though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled*” (2 Cor. 10:3-6).

It is only real love for our Master, for Truth, and by God’s grace that soldiers of the cross will be strong enough to contend for the faith, sanctified by the Spirit to obedience to love our enemies, bless them that curse us, to do good to them that hate us, and to

pray for them who use us wrongly and persecute us. (Matt. 5:44) But to do so, we must take the faith seriously. It’s not just a lifestyle of “Churchiantiy;” our culture has moved on, pressing us to be faithful or feckless. True Christianity tells us that we are no longer our own – it is Christ living in us and through us. That means something: We have died to self, are risen in Him, and are meant to be – by God’s grace and to our Lord’s glory – holy overcomers

Are we militant in this Biblical sense; or are we “chocolate soldiers”? C.T. Studd, famous cricketer and missionary to China, India, and interior Africa, described Christians who lack true courage and commitment as “chocolate soldiers,” those who melt away under pressure. He rightly believed that true Christians should be heroic and willing to contend for the faith, despite the various challenges. What example are we showing to the generation which is coming after us – the hard life of a heroic soldier or one who avoids the conflicts for Christ?

The Battle Today

There are many battlefronts the Christian must be attentive to; we must be used where God will place us for such a time as this. We must stand in His power, wearing His armor, and unwaveringly stand steadfast and resolute, even as Phineas boldly stood for the holiness of God – yet remembering that the weapons of our warfare are not physical.

[Continued on Page 4]

Personal Note



Isaiah 4:8: *“The grass withers and the flower fades away but the word of God endures forever.”* Indeed!

I sensed a calling in 1976. I wanted to serve in His Name! My heart’s cry was against pornography and for warning untold numbers of the damaging impact of pornography; to call people to place no wicked thing before their eyes; and to pursue holiness without which no man shall see the Lord. Our God is a Holy God – calling us His people to be holy for He is Holy! I had to wait at least 11 years and I called out to God wondering if He would ever hear my heart cry. In 1985, He did!

I know you have heard me say this many times, but please stay with me. That still is the calling of my life. As one friend recently said: *“You were a national voice in those days.”* Another friend said recently to me: *“You have been so faithful and yet you have remained as you are; a small ministry. I just don’t understand why you have not grown much larger.”* What a sweet heart of a man (nearly 95 years old). I love him so! My former legislator friend said, *“You saw what was coming. You spoke out. Warned. Were considered radical by some (many?).”* And, look where we are at with pornography - plenteous in practically all spheres: advertisements, video clips on the internet, Rumble, Facebook et al. There is no shame! My former legislator friend reminded me of how he invited me to speak on the campus of Ferris State University to a large group of local government officials. Apparently, I had used a very graphic verbal image of what was becoming increasingly mainstreamed. Oh, did he hear from his fellow government officials after I left! I was merely trying to wake them up to what was coming and what needed to be contended with. But, to no avail! It is seemingly al-

ways too little too late. My friend said your projections were right. I interjected to him, *“No. Much worse than I would have projected; especially at a faster pace of degradation.”*

I remember a conversation that I had with Alan Sears, former executive director of the Attorney General’s Commission on Pornography as we were on the road to a hearing near Albion, MI (1989). He projected that if we weren’t able to curtail the production and distribution of pornography, we would one day be as a third world country creating an environment for overwhelming demonic invasions that would overwhelm untold numbers of families and communities. I never forgot that statement! Pornography desensitizes, degrades and destroys - not only individuals but nations! Exactly!

Here we are today with same-sex marriage, gender confusion, pedophilia, the abortion pill ... Images galore aggressively before our eyes (young and old). And, it is worsening seemingly with each year.

So in addition to the demonic rise of pornography – the demonic also has been elevated and deepened by way of Islam. This is another front that years ago we brought to your attention and to many others by way of guest speakers through the years (Kamal Saleem, Frank Gaffney, Dave Agema, Steve Coughlin, Phil Haney, Jim Simpson, Dick Manasseri, Will Wagner) since at least 2012. And, most recently with Elisabeth Sabaditsch-Wolff.

ADA’s Steve Huston writes superbly on the very front page of this newsletter on the need to contend with Islam; to oppose it, to rebuke it and its training centers, mosques.

As most everyone knows, Islam has been on the move particularly in Dearborn and Hamtramck, MI, in New York City under Mayor Zohran Mamdani, in Texas and in many other states. I don’t believe I am reporting anything new to you as news coverage nationwide is reporting the threat of Islam as never before.

In recent days (March 13-14), ADA featured Elisabeth Sabaditsch-Wolff, Dave Agema, and Phil and Sherry Bayne at the American Decency auditorium (Fremont

and in Grand Rapids at the GR church. Of all the events that we have had over the years dealing with Islam, this perhaps received the highest accolades of any that we have ever had. As Austrian Elisabeth Sabaditsch-Wolff commented to us, the event was so well rounded. First, with her outlining what she experienced in fighting the courts for the freedom of speech and repeatedly losing over a nine-year period – with every loss incrementally reinforcing the open door to Islam not only in Austria but in Europe. The second speaker was David Agema, with clarity and precision detailing what Sharia Law IS and boldly detailing how courage is needed in the midst of threatening times. The third was the speaking team of Phil and Sherry Bayne who, with creative genius armed with videos and pictures, shared accounts of the death and dying of persecuted Nigerian Christians: their travails, their faith, and yet their testimonies, too - moments before their deaths. Elisabeth stated that of all the speaking engagements that she has had in the states this was one of the most powerful of all! That’s how powerful and effective it was! WE NEED TO KNOW THE THREAT. OUR YOUNG PEOPLE NEED TO KNOW!! AND THEY PRESENTLY ARE DANGEROUSLY OBLIVIOUS!

In closing, we tentatively have set dates at the GR church **for a similar event to place before the young people of Grand Rapids the threat of Islam and to recognize what life will be like for them if we do not use our voices to tell others and to lobby our legislators of the need to stop the spread and deepening of Islam in our nation. To stand up!**

The link to presentations 1 and 2 (Elisabeth and Dave) can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/@TheAmericanDecency>. The third presentation by Phil and Sherry and their important ministry outreach, sadly, cannot be posted online in order to protect their facial identities as they travel into Nigeria and other third world countries. They have a ministry calling that must not be hindered. However, we can bring them back in person! May it be so. Help us pack out the GR church and our ADA auditorium in November! (Specific dates to be determined.)

When Worldviews Collide

By Lisa Van Houten



Austin; New York; Old Dominion Univ.; West Bloomfield, MI - four recent terrorist attacks within two weeks have two things in common – the perpetrators were motivated by Islamic ideology and all were “naturalized” U.S. citizens, or in the NYC attack, children of naturalized U.S. citizens.

The Austin shooter, who killed three, wore a shirt with the words “Property of Allah.” On March 7, two pro-ISIS men aged 18 and 19, shouted “Allahu akbar” and threw a homemade shrapnel bomb at a group peacefully protesting outside the mayoral mansion in NYC. After their arrest, one wrote: “All praise is due to Allah lord of all worlds! I pledge my allegiance to the Islamic State. Die in your rage kuffar!” “Kuffar” is an Arabic term that means “non-believers” or “infidels.” On March 12, Mohamed Jalloh targeted a ROTC group at Old Dominion, killing the instructor. Jalloh had been convicted in 2017 of providing support for ISIS. He was released from prison in 2024, but instead of having his citizenship revoked and deported, he was allowed to stay in the US. Also on March 12, Ayman Ghazali drove a truck filled with accelerants and fireworks into a Michigan synagogue, exchanging gunfire with security guards. Ghazali’s brother was a Hezbollah terrorist commander in Lebanon. Ghazali entered the U.S. in 2011 on an immigrant visa after marrying a U.S. citizen; he applied for naturalization in 2015 and was granted citizenship.

Such attacks prove that “naturalization” does not magically instill American values or allegiance to the US - as the NYC attackers pledged allegiance not to the United States, but to the Islamic State. We need a legal immigration system that actually vets those to whom we grant the privilege of American citizenship, rather than allowing enemies of America to enter our country. Many Republicans hold the same view as Ted Cruz who stated: “*My approach to im-*

migration: Legal? Good. Illegal? Bad.”

However, the view that all immigration is good as long as it’s done legally is what leads to jihadi attacks and chants of “Death to America!” on American soil. We cannot continue to have immigration without assimilation. Those entering the U.S. must also embrace the foundational principles of our nation. Citizenship needs be more than just filling out a few forms and memorizing a few facts about American government. The current citizenship test only requires immigrants to correctly answer 12 out of 20 basic questions such as, “Who vetoes bills?”

U.S. citizenship used to be so valued that when Winston Churchill was granted *honorary* citizenship in 1963, Congress seriously debated the matter. One congressman said: “*I recognize the good that Sir Winston Churchill has done for this world, but also I recognize the sacredness and the associated responsibility of citizenship in the United States of America.*” **Now, citizenship is no longer seen as an honor, nor a responsibility.** However, the Trump administration is returning to standards which require those seeking U.S. citizenship to meet a “Good Moral Character” standard. This entails “*a holistic assessment of an alien’s behavior, adherence to societal norms, and positive contributions...*” Immigrants also will be screened on whether they have “*endorsed, promoted, supported, or otherwise espoused the views of a terrorist organization or group, including those who support or promote anti-American ideologies or activities.*”

Such screenings could have prevented last month’s jihadi attacks. It’s common sense that those who don’t have allegiance to our nation or espouse anti-American ideologies should not be granted entrance. Yet Muslim immigrants are told by the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) not to assimilate and to maintain allegiance with their home country. Islamic ideology teaches that immigration is a form of civilization jihad – to conquer non-Muslim nations and establish Islamic law.

As Shawn Fleetwood writes at the Federalist: “*There is nothing ‘Islamophobic’ about highlighting the incompatibility of Islam and Western civilization. Nor is it wrong for*

Americans and other Westerners to demand that non-Westerners assimilate into the culture they fostered and created.” Yet political correctness wants us to believe that all cultures are morally equal, no matter how they may violate the fundamental principles of life and liberty. It’s not xenophobic to point out the difference between cultures which subjugate women and those which protect them. Every immigrant brings their worldview with them – for good or ill. Here’s just one example. In 2024, Somali immigrant Qalinele Dirie abducted a 12-year-old girl from her backyard and raped her. Last year, Dirie received the lightest possible sentence for this heinous crime after a mosque wrote a “community support” letter on his behalf, asking the judge for leniency. The letter from the mosque claimed this child-rapist was a “deeply good man.” Within the letter was this telling statement: Dirie had struggled with “**the challenge of starting over in a new culture.**” In essence, the mosque stated that raping a child is part of Dirie’s culture.

Dirie had been in America since 2006, but still hadn’t assimilated. Not only that, but he and his mosque have a diametrically opposite view from western civilization of what makes a “deeply good man.” Just as no mosque in America has publicly condemned the recent Islamic terror attacks, Dirie’s mosque did not condemn the rape of a child, because molesting children, child “brides,” are practiced in Islam. And as Robert Spencer writes: *The Qur’an allows Muslim men to take infidel women as sex slaves (4:3, 4:24, 23:1-6, 33:50, 70:30).* (Just look at the Islamic rape gangs in the UK.) This mosque aligned with its own cultural standards, rather than the moral standards of the nation which took them in.

As Christians, we desire that Muslims find the true Jesus - the Way, Truth, and Life. And while many Muslims in America are peaceful, Islamic ideology is not. We also see that peaceful Muslims hardly ever condemn the violence that occurs as a result of that ideology, which then takes root and spreads. **As a nation, we’re no longer bound together by a shared moral worldview, but are on a collision course between competing civilizations where only one can ultimately prevail.**

Contending For the Faith

(Continued from Page 1)



In a quote often misattributed to Luther, we see the importance of being where the heat of the battle is: *“If I profess, with the loudest voice and the clearest exposition, every portion of the truth of God except precisely that little point which the world and the devil are at that moment attacking, I am not confessing Christ, however boldly I may be professing Christianity. **Where the battle rages the loyalty of the soldier is proved;** and to be steady on all the battle-field besides is mere flight and disgrace to him if he flinches at that one point.”*

Where is the battle raging? Jude verse four helps us to understand: *“For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, **turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.**”*

Within our nation and around the world the battle rages as Islam, with calculated intent to overcome every infidel and turn the world into a caliphate, holds fast to a modern-day Baal **while “denying** the only Lord God (Jehovah), and **our Lord Jesus Christ.”** Sadly, and to our shame, it’s a silent battle as western civilization sits on pews of complacency and the pulpits are silent. Christians, fearful of being called Islamophobes, haters, and bigots, remain silent. Churches, hoping to give a veneer of relevance which is actually thinner than Islam’s religious patina that covers its political and tyrannical agenda, attempt to meld the two faiths when they should be contending for the true faith which was once and for all delivered to the saints. I strongly believe that if Don Wildmon were to have written his scathing article *And 300,000 Pulpits Were Silent* in our day, he would have included Islam along with the topics of abortion, media, and a church asleep at the wheel. He was correct,

“The fundamental problem with our nation can be traced to 300,000 silent pulpits.” However, the pulpits are not alone to blame; each of us have a responsibility to know the truth and to contend for the faith.

The Islamists today are comparable to the prophets and followers of Baal in biblical times – worshipping and serving an idol that masks a demonic entity. Let us proclaim boldly Jehovah’s own words spoken through the prophet Isaiah: *“Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; **I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.**” (44:6)*

As I shared in last month’s newsletter: John Calvin, writing in *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, addresses such heresy thusly: *“For even if many men once boasted that they worshiped...the Maker of heaven and earth, yet because they had no Mediator it was not possible for them truly to taste God’s mercy, and thus be persuaded that he was their Father...”*

“So today the Muslim Turks, although they proclaim at the top of their lungs that the Creator of heaven and earth is God, still, while repudiating Christ, substitute an idol in place of the true God.”

Their denial and attack on our Lord Jesus Christ should be met with truth and love, not with silence and hatred or complacent apathy. These are souls who have been created in the image of God and need to know that Jehovah’s grace is extended to them as well. We need to contend for the faith, teaching that the Biblical Jesus was crucified for their sin, was buried in a tomb, rose three days later, ascended into Heaven, and will return one day for His own, just as Scripture foretold and teaches – regardless of what the Muslims believe and the Qur’an teaches.

Where do we go from here?

It isn’t just that the church has neglected to stand against Islam; progressivism brought about this Islamic invasion. Michael Youssef, in his book *An Unholy Alliance*, describes: *“Across the West, an inexplicable*

partnership has emerged between secular progressivism and radical Islamism. Though their values are diametrically opposed, they have united around a shared enemy: the Judeo-Christian civilization that built the free world.” Let me add: *And 300,000 pulpits remained silent.*

Islam was seen as heresy during the times of the reformers; it remains heresy today. At that time, the reformers repented of their complacency and boldly moved to contend for the faith; we also must contend in the power of our Lord. Michael Youssef closes out his book with an action agenda for saving our civilization. Let me share his suggestions here: 1. “Be bold in your witness for the truth.” 2. “Graciously but firmly expose the irrationality of the left.” 3. “Protect young minds from indoctrination.” 4. “Treat the news with healthy skepticism.” 5. “Hold the government accountable.” And finally, he reminds us: 6. “You are not alone.”

Dear Reader, I urge you to remember that this is spiritual warfare; take your faith seriously, diligently passing the torch of holiness and true faith on to your children, even in the face of tremendous treachery and danger. You can give them no greater gift; stir up within them a contending spirit of love for our Lord.

I can think of no better way to close this article than with Jude’s closing words of encouragement for the battle at hand: *“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 Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.”*

American Decency Frontline
Vol. XL, Issue IV
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

Democrats ICE Out DHS

By Chris Johnson



Nothing reveals a political party's priorities like what they're willing to shut down the government over.

Democrats in Congress are doing their utmost to squelch the efforts of the president's administration to accomplish the priorities of the American people. President Trump ran on mass deportations. He won handily and has massively grown the workforce and budget of Immigration and Customs Enforcement to carry out that goal.

The response by the Democrats has been to hold all of ICE's parent department, the Department of Human Services, hostage until their aggressive deportation efforts are scaled back.

However, ICE itself is mostly immune from the pain. The Big Beautiful Bill granted them \$75 billion on top of their annual \$10 billion budget. So, while it's ICE that's raised the Democrats' ire, it's the other vital agencies which are suffering their wrath. For weeks now, employees of DHS have been working without pay, including the Secret Service, the Coast Guard, and FEMA.

These federal employees have been left out in the cold by the Democrats in Congress who are opposed to ICE's responsibility of rounding up and deporting the illegal aliens who've snuck into the country – even when the focus of the deportation efforts has been on illegals with a known history of violence and criminality.

While the partial shutdown isn't as visible as the full shutdown several months ago over the Obamacare subsidies (Democrats were also shilling for immigrants to receive federal benefits in this shutdown), the affects of this conflict are being felt – especially for travelers.

The most noticeable affect has inarguably been on the Transportation Security Agency (TSA). After several weeks without pay,

hundreds of TSA employees have called it quits, leaving airports in the lurch. Travelers have reported waiting for over four hours in security lines, which obviously causes missed flights and connections, and causes mayhem in terminals.

Frustratingly for other passengers, lawmakers have largely been able to bypass the chaos in security lines, although Delta Airlines recently halted their fast-tracking services for legislators until they get the shutdown lifted.

Trump has eased some of the strain on TSA by redirecting ICE personnel to major airports, to fulfill support roles like verifying IDs, controlling traffic in queuing areas, and guarding exit lanes.

Yet, while ICE can help ease the pain in the airports, they can't be everywhere. When they're scanning IDs, they're not deporting illegals, which is unfortunate. And, thank God that there hasn't been a natural disaster which would require all hands-on deck at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or targeted political violence which would require an increase of activity from the Secret Service.

Yet the risks are mounting. FEMA's disaster relief fund is being strained by routine operations, leaving less cushion if a major hurricane or wildfire strikes as the season approaches. The Coast Guard has cut back on non-essential training and maintenance, while the Secret Service has paused ongoing protective reforms in response to the assassination attempts on Trump. Every additional day of this standoff opens up new vulnerabilities in critical homeland security functions — all because Democrats insist on shielding criminal illegal aliens from accountability.

Democrats are willing to pause the paychecks of over 100,000 vital federal employees and put the citizens of this country at risk from foreign criminals, political violence, and natural disasters for the sake of protecting illegal immigrants with no respect for American laws or culture.

For funding to resume, they demand that ICE agents wear name tags AND be banned from hiding their faces via masks or balaclavas, revealing their faces to often gang-

connected, violent criminals they're specifically targeting. This is their demand in spite of the fact that many of the criminals they're targeting are parts of criminal networks infamous for violent retribution.

They also demand that agents be required to obtain a judicial warrant rather than the administrative warrant which is currently used. This would dramatically decrease the amount of illegals who could be targeted for deportation as well as slowing down the process. It would essentially treat the illegals as citizens in the eyes of the law.

Schools, hospitals, and "sensitive" locations would be off limits for illegals to be arrested for deportation.

And they would require that the use of agents doing random, warrantless canvassing for illegals, for instance where day workers often congregate, be ended.

In other words, Democrats want to defang the agency, put the agents at risk, and provide safe houses for the criminals the agents are targeting.

Their party's near-unanimous resistance to voter ID legislation among their office holders suggests their motivation. Democrat legislators have gone to the mat for those whom they view as their constituents – at the cost of their actual constituents – several times just in the last few months.

Just months ago, Democrats triggered a 43-day full shutdown largely to protect enhanced Obamacare subsidies that Republicans argued would extend benefits to non-citizens. Now they're doing it again over immigration enforcement. The pattern is clear: when given the choice between securing America's borders and protecting their political base, Democrats will always choose the latter — even if it means putting American lives, travel, and national security at unnecessary risk.

ICE's mission is vital to the survival of the United States *as* the United States. We cannot afford to have the department hamstrung so that the Democrat party can continue to patronize their supporters who incessantly drive them further and further to the left.

A Famine for Hearing the Word of the Lord

By Lisa Van Houten



And Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the secretary, "I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the Lord." ... Then Shaphan the secretary told the king, "Hilkiah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read it before the king. When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his clothes. And the king commanded, ... "Go, inquire of the Lord for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found. For great is the wrath of the Lord that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us." (from II Kings 22)

Whenever I read this compelling account of King Josiah, I picture it in my mind: a dusty scroll of Scripture - forgotten for generations - discovered as the temple is being repaired; a king hearing God's Law read for the first time and weeping in repentance as he realized how he and the people had sinned and turned away from God.

Millions of Americans today also have no knowledge of God's Word, which once was so engrained in the life of previous generations. A Gallup poll finds that 24% of U.S. adults have no religious affiliation – the highest percentage ever recorded. In the late 1940s only 2% of Americans had no religious affiliation. In addition, only 47% of Americans now describe religion as "very important" to them personally. While in the 1950s and '60s, that figure was 70-75%. The news only looks bleaker when the data is broken down by age groups: of adults under the age of 30, the number of those with no religious affiliation goes up to 35%.

Another survey by the Barna Group paints an ever more sobering picture of the state of Christianity in America. The Barna study reveals the number of Americans who have a Christian worldview – in other words, having beliefs and a lifestyle which align

with Scripture. The results found that **only 4% of Americans possess "religious beliefs and worldview-related behaviors ... consistent with biblical principles, beliefs, and behavior."** Even more troubling, among Gen Z (those aged 14-29) a mere 1% have a biblical worldview. We're on the verge of a total disappearance of biblical values within that generation.

Despite a surge of interest in Christianity, Bible-reading, and church attendance following Charlie Kirk's assassination, there is no sign it has improved a biblical worldview among younger generations.

With the rapid decline of Christianity with each generation, George Barna warns: *"Make no mistake about it, we are losing American society and all that it has historically represented because we have succumbed to the influence of the culture instead of the exhortations and promises of God. Entertainment and media messages as well as public policies and errant public education have distorted the thinking and behavior of our young people."*

And, disturbingly, it's not much better within the Church. The study shows that 53% of self-identified Christians do not believe that salvation comes through a personal confession of sin and acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior. And even among evangelical Christians, only 11% think and live biblically. That's a massive gap between having faith in Christ and living out that faith.

The bottom line is: The vast majority of Americans not only don't attend church, but also know little about God or what His Word says.

Calvin Coolidge presciently warned: *"The foundations of our society and our government rest so much on the teachings of the Bible that it would be difficult to support them if faith in these teachings would cease to be practically universal in our country."* This is exactly what we're seeing today – as the spiritual underpinnings of the American people are rapidly eroding, so are the foundations of every aspect of our nation – family, government, culture, education.

Just as in Josiah's day, we need a rediscovery of God's Word in our nation.

As America celebrates the 250th anniversary of our founding, a dynamic event will be taking place April 18-25 to point the American people back to God's Word. It's called **"America Reads the Bible"** and will feature more than 400 Christian leaders, elected officials, and others who will read the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation. (The event will be held in Washington DC at the Museum of the Bible and will also be livestreamed by Great American Pure Flix). "America Reads the Bible" describes the event as *"a sacred opportunity to call our nation back to its spiritual foundations. Through a public, continuous reading of the entire Bible in our nation's capital by our national leaders from all spheres of influence, we believe God can spark revival in individual hearts and inspire Americans to carry the Word forward in their lives and communities into the next 250 years of our national story."*

In Josiah's day: *"The king went up to the house of the Lord, and with him ... all the people, both small and great. And he read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant that had been found in the house of the Lord. And the king stood by the pillar and made a covenant before the Lord, to walk after the Lord and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people joined in the covenant."* **Oh, may the Lord do it once again!**

While the numbers mentioned above are bleak, **what can God do with the 4% of Americans who love God's Word and live by it? How will He use the 1% of Gen Z to reach out to the 99%?**

As Christians we are not to despair, but to proclaim the gospel of Christ and live lives of faithfulness, holiness, and love.

"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." (Matthew 9:37b-38)

Chuck Norris: The Quintessential Man

By Steve Huston



I asked my daughter to pick out her favorite Chuck Norris joke, seeing she loves to spend a lot of time reading them to herself and to our family. Although many are her “favorite,” she picked this one: “Chuck Norris won a staring contest with his own reflection” or “Chuck Norris doesn’t do pushups, he pushes the earth down” or... The internet is “Chuck -full” of such jokes about this action-packed hero, martial artist, actor, man’s man, and best of all, God’s man.

What do you think endeared Chuck Norris to so many people? I believe that it was because he exemplified the qualities of Biblical manhood. While many feminists and others shriek, “toxic manhood!”, what they are really bristling against are strong men who stand firm and speak out in truth, men who won’t be cornered by culture or bullied into backing down because they’re fearful of what others might think. While it’s true that only Jesus filled the perfect balance of “grace and truth” that Biblical manhood demands, by all accounts, Chuck Norris filled the bill better than most.

Physically he was a strong and capable man, yet spiritually he was meek, never forgetting his humble and broken beginnings. His family called him “a devoted husband, loving father, and heart of their family.” Part of being a strong man is helping others to grow and succeed, there are many who point to Mr. Norris with gratitude for his coming alongside them with encouragement and help. He was also known for being incredibly generous, both with his finances and his time.

He wasn’t afraid to speak out, giving glory to God and declaring his faith in God’s Word and Christ, his Saviour. The following quote attributed to Mr. Norris makes my point:

“But here’s what I really think about the theory of evolution: It’s not real. It is not the way we got here. In fact, the life you see on this planet is really just a list of creatures God has allowed to live. We are not creations of random chance. We are not accidents. There is a God, a Creator, who made you and me. We were made in His image, which separates us from all other creatures.

“By the way, without him, I don’t have any power. But with Him, the Bible tells me, I really can do all things—and so can you.”

Let me introduce this next section with one more joke about this iconic figure: “Chuck Norris died 20 years ago. Death just hasn’t built up the courage to tell him yet.”

All joking aside, let me tell you the facts: Death was not afraid of Chuck Norris; Death was afraid of the Christ who bought Chuck Norris with His blood and lived within him, strengthened him, and now has taken him home where they will spend eternity together. I can almost see Chuck in my mind, stand on his tomb defiantly taunting Death, quoting the Apostle Paul. ***“O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*** (1 Cor. 15:55-57)

If the legendary Chuck Norris can die – and he did on March 19, 2026 – then, should the Lord tarry, each one of us – you and I – will face death, just like Chuck Norris did. That’s no surprise; Hebrews 9:27 teaches us: *“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”* The only way any of us, Chuck Norris included, can be ready for death and happy to meet our Creator in judgment is to follow Peter’s exhortation in Acts 3:19. *“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.”*

When I used to be on Facebook many years ago and a popular actor or person would die, someone would invariably post “RIP.” If that actor or person hadn’t made a profession of faith or their lifestyle and words would make one think that their eternal des-

tinuation would not be one of rest, I would point to the fact that there is only rest in Christ, without Him their current state is worse than whatever physical or emotional pain they were enduring on earth. More often than not, I would receive a nasty comment in return, even from those who professed Christ.

Eighteen days earlier than Norris’ passing, Philadelphia abortionist Kermit Gosnell stepped from an earthly prison into an eternal one of hell fire and brimstone where the worm dieth not, from which there will never be any escape. This man, with the blood of so many innocents on his hands, will also stand before his Creator. Regardless the justifications, rationalizations, or excuses he may have used here upon earth, they will do him no good in the high court of Heaven. Without Jesus as the Mediator between the Holy God and himself, there is no calling upon the mercy of the court – that can only be done this side of eternity and mercy is found only in the blood of Jesus. Therefore, unless, prior to death, Gosnell repented of his sin and called on the name of Jesus, he cowered as Death took him and now he has fallen into the hands of the living God, which is a fearful thing. (Heb. 10:31)

March 23, 2026, 43-year-old Leonid Radvinsky, owner of the OnlyFans porn platform, died after a long battle with cancer. Although he was worth an estimated \$4.7 billion, I would not want to be in his shoes as he stands before the Judge of all the earth.

As we think upon the death of a real man, Chuck Norris, or about the death of a mass murderer like Gosnell or one who seemed to have it all like Radvinsky, be reminded THAT WILL BE YOU one day. Are you ready? It matters not how large or “small” your sin is, if you have not repented of your sin and aren’t trusting in Christ for salvation, you have no hope; you will fall into the hands of the living God. But, regardless of how evil or wicked you’ve been, you can call on the name of Jesus and be saved. Acts 4:12 promises, *“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”*

Caiaphas' Prophecy

By Chris Johnson



When reading through the Easter story in the Gospel of John, there's always one passage that stops me in my tracks.

It's found in John 11:45-53; after Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead, *"Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done."*

The response of the Jewish leadership was to gather a council. If this happened in our day, our talk shows and podcasters would denounce this kind of gathering as the kind that happens in a "smoke-filled room."

In other words, this was, in fact not theory, the beginning of a conspiracy. The Jewish leaders' concerns were political.

Shortly after Christ was born, Rome had dealt violently with a tax-revolt among the Jews which still left resentment in the population. The Jewish faith also had a unique understanding with Rome that they would not be required to worship the gods of the empire or the emperor, as the Jewish faith was monotheistic. Israel had a shaky relationship with the empire.

Meanwhile, Jesus was winning the hearts and minds of the people with his messages and miracles - signs of His Divinity.

Rome also doubtless was aware that Israel was awaiting a messiah whom they believed would lead them to a political golden age of dominance over, not just the region, but the world. Those kinds of ambitions are dangerous to a colonizing government.

"If we let him go on like this," the Jewish council said, *"everyone will believe in him."* It was not just that they were jealous of the attention Jesus was getting, they were afraid that if Jesus was recognized by the people of Israel as their expected messiah the people would revolt and, *"the Romans*

will come and take away both our place and our nation..."

They had legitimate concerns. Within 40 years of the events of that secret council, Rome would do just that, decimating the city of Jerusalem and leaving "not one stone left upon another," as they burned even the temple and scraped the gold from between the blocks.

But Caiaphas, the high priest, had a solution.

"You know nothing at all. Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish."

It's not just that Jesus said offensive things to the Jewish leaders and threatened their power. It's not just that they were jealous and wanted him dead. They *knew* they were sacrificing Him. And remember, all of this was in reaction to Christ's raising of Lazarus. They saw the signs that showed that Jesus was no ordinary man, yet they ignored the obvious signs Christ was revealing His divinity, fearing man more than they feared God.

Jesus Himself prophesied about this in His parable of the vineyard owner found in Matthew 21:33-43, *"When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?"* They said to him, *"He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons."*

What's remarkable about this parable is that the tenants, the Jewish leaders, recognized the heir for who He was and they killed Him anyway.

Going back to High Priest Caiaphas' plan to sacrifice Jesus to the Romans, we come to the most shocking line in the passage. Caiaphas having said that it would be better for Jesus to die for Israel than that all of Israel perish, John tells us, *"He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad."*

There is an ongoing debate about who is responsible for the death of Christ, and the answer has many layers. Some want to blame the Jews - citing the crowd's cries of "crucify Him!" as Pontius Pilate debated how to deal with this wildly popular Rabbi whom the Jewish leaders hated. Others blame the Romans for executing a Man they knew to be innocent.

Of course, we know as the Getty's hymn, In Christ Alone, states so poetically, *"it was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished."* And we know that Christ gave Himself up willingly, *like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth... He was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people...* (Isa. 53:7-8)

The Jewish leaders of the day are certainly guilty of their conspiracy to sacrifice an innocent Man to appease the Romans. Pilate is certainly guilty of executing an innocent Man to appease the Jews. And it is all of us who are guilty of committing the sins that made Christ's sacrifice necessary to appease a Holy and perfectly Just God.

But it was God who sent His Son to die for the sins of His people. God told Caiaphas that Jesus must die "for the nation" and "also to gather into one the Children of God."

For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. (Rom. 5:19b)

Thank God for His plan of redemption, His sovereignty which carried it through, and His sacrifice of His Son for the sins of His people.