Frontline

American Decency Association

November 2026 Vol. XL Issue XI

# *How Should We Then Live?*

**By Pastor John Byl**




The theme of this newsletter is *How Shall We Then Live?* It is a takeaway (and a very apt one for today!) from Francis Shaeffer's book – How Shall We Then Live? The Rise and Decline of Western Thought and Culture, released in 1976. In many respects, Francis Schaeffer was miles ahead of the Protestant contemporaries of his time in regard to the trajectory of Western civilization and the church's response to it.

What Francis Schaeffer witnessed in his time was the erosion of moral absolutes. Christianity was being replaced by secular humanism; a predominately Christian worldview was being radically and rapidly overrun by a secular worldview. What gave rise to this?

As culture shifted away from Biblical truth as well as the Bible being the sole authority of all matters of faith and practice, moral values, as taught clearly in Scripture, were being replaced with moral relativism, determined mainly by individual subjectivism rather than objective truth. The results have been and continue to be devasting – abortion, the rise of the LGBTQ+ movement, Antifa, DEI, gender mutilation, the phenomenal rise of sex and slave trafficking, rebellion and riots as we witness in France and as we have witnessed here in America over the past 10 years, voter and financial fraud, fake news, defamation of political opponents who hold to an ideological Christian worldview contrary to a secular worldview – these and many others have plagued our society as a result of abandoning the Bible as our sole authority in all matters of faith and practice.

As we witness these things in our country and throughout the world theater, we understand the environment conducive for the Man of Lawlessness, of whom Paul writes in 2 Thessalonians 2, is drawing nearer – the Rebellion, the great falling away. Presently, this Man of Lawlessness has been restrained by Christ through the Church's witness as salt and light, but the time is coming wherein this restraint will be lifted (2 Thess. 2:7), and the Lawless One will wear out the Church (cf. Dan. 7:25; Rev. 13:5), and he will oppose and exalt "himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God," (2 Thess. 2:4; Dan. 11:36 – 39; Rev. 13:1 – 8). But his time is limited (Rev. Dan. 7:25; 13:5); for, the Lord Jesus will kill him with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of His coming," (2 Thess. 2:8).

Francis Shaeffer, in the opening words of his book How Shall We Then Live, writes "There is a flow to history and culture." We are to understand the times and know which way our present culture is flowing and how we are to now live in that culture – there are two ways, only one of which determines whether we are alive or not. Are we swimming against our current culture or are we floating along with it? Dead fish swim with the current. Live fish swim against it. God calls you and me to swim against it. What does this look like?

First, God calls us to be men and women of faith, who live in expectation of Christ's coming and conquering of all His and our enemies. Second, God calls us to be men and women of prayer. Third, God calls us to be men and women of action, to use our talents and be good stewards of what He has given us, which includes taking responsibility to choose men and women who will lead our nation according to God's Word and turn the tide of secular humanism.

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The above article was written by Pastor John Byl. He is the newly installed pastor at Bethel Reformed Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Fremont, MI – which also is the home church of Jan and I, as well as ADA staff members Chris and his family, and Lisa. Regular readers of Frontline know that it is very rare for us to have articles written by anyone other than our staff. Always striving to set a strong tone for the newsletter, we don't quickly relinquish the importance of the front page; especially for such a time as this.

However, ADA's Steve Huston, after hearing how we are blessed to have a pastor who is not afraid to bring salt and light topics into his sermons as he preaches the whole counsel of God (sadly, a rarity today), and then after himself meeting and having an encouraging conversation with Pastor Byl himself, Steve suggested that we to ask Pastor Byl to minister to our readers on "How should we then live?" as we head into the election and beyond. May this article be an encouragement to you.

# Personal Note



*"The most consequential event I have ever seen."* Those were the words of Lance Elliott Griffin. He said those words at our event at GR Church in Grand Rapids last March after watching the presentation of a couple from Indiana, Phil and Sherry Bayne.

Many of you don't know who Lance Elliott Griffin is, but many who are "movers and shakers" of a particularly activist brand do. During the primary season Lance could be seen showing up wherever there was an event featuring a political rally for local state representative or senator, governor, or whatever. North, south, east or west - he was all over the state promoting the organization he supported known as 10X votes - whose goal is to encourage each conservative voter to find up to 10 people who seldom to never vote and encourage them to see the importance of their vote and stand up and help get out a strong vote. The point is he had and has seen a lot of events and a multitude of programs. He is recognized as discerning and influential as he stands for American freedom and honest elections.

I am thankful to say we claim being the ones behind that event (the most consequential event that he had seen) both in Fremont at the ADA building and in Grand Rapids at the GR Church!

As a result of not only Lance's powerful affirmation, but because of the shed tears that accompanied the event as it came to a close, we are bringing the couple back again – Phil and Sherry Bayne, coupled with another firebrand, Dede Laugesen. I'll explain what I mean by firebrand. Dede is a called-out servant of God with high intensity, sincerity, and long-term faithfulness!

The Baynes came to us by recommendation from former noted state representative Tom Hooker and his wife Pam. With such a high-quality recommendation by the Hookers and their friend, Dave Agema, former fighter pilot and former state rep, we jumped at the opportunity! Here's the deal.

When Sherry was a young child, she lived with her missionary parents in Nigeria. For many years they lived amidst the Nigerians sharing Christ, teaching, preaching, making disciples, loving and caring for them in a much more primitive world than today. Though Sherry's parents have been with the Lord for some time, Sherry never forgot the needs and concerns of the Nigerian Christians, particularly in these days when Nigeria is so often in the news due to the massive persecution of these now long-embattled believers.

Phil and Sherry ventured back in 2007 during a summer week (for the first time) which featured a Bible conference. A large tent was built to offer some protection from the intense sun and the rains. At one point in the midst of the conference, Sherry was asked to come to the podium placed at the very front of the assembly of over 4,000 people. When Sherry was introduced, the Nigerians responded in one accord with thunderous clapping and great words of love and thanksgiving for the work of her parents and not forgetting them in their current ongoing trials and tribulations.

Their ties deepened with one another and they returned again in recent years, despite the growing tensions and the increases in persecution. When they returned to Indiana, they began to regularly receive correspondences from new found friends in Nigeria. They regularly receive pictures and videos displaying persecutions, funerals. The Baynes state that the horror of the videos is not uncommon. One video shows Nigerian Christians burying hundreds of their martyred brothers and sisters in Christ in mass graves, yet, singing songs of love and praise to God.

Phil and Sherry tell and show a story that few are able to with carefully selected slides and videos and accounts of a people that love Christ in ways that could put us to shame. One treasured quote from Phil Bayne was: "They go to church because they are persecuted. We, in America, don't go to church because we are not."

Dede Laugesen is the president of Save the Persecuted Christians. Dede has a testimony that reveals a calling as a woman whose life has prepared her to stand up and stand in the gap for the persecuted, the beaten, the forgotten, the tortured, the beheaded. Need I say more in that regard? Her own story is noteworthy and her voice and heart is one of an overcomer in Christ, whose burden and vision is one that needs to be shared and multiplied. It is a very large world out there and the number of persecuted Christians is upwards of millions. Dede's love for Christ and His beleaguered children is contagious – not resulting in despair, but desiring to, at the least, help her and her fellow colleagues reach out to the lost. As Dede speaks with insight and compassion for the persecuted church, she also exposes the Red-Green Alliance - the convergence of far-left ideology and Islamism - as a single force targeting Christians worldwide. Dede shows how that same alliance is now propagandizing Western youth to accept communism and Islam while targeting Christianity.

If you are in any position to come to one of these events, I can't imagine why you wouldn't. Here are the details. Note that Dede will be speaking at both events; the Baynes will be speaking Friday, November 6 only.

**<u>Here are the details.</u>**

**Date: Thursday, November 5, 2026**
**Time: 6:30 PM**
**Speaker: Dede Laugesen**
**Location: American Decency Assoc.**
**203 E Main Street**
**Fremont, MI 49412**

**Date: Friday, November 6, 2026**
**Time: 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM**
**Speakers: Dede Laugesen**
**Phil & Sherry Baynes**
**Location: GR Church**
**4525 Stauffer Ave SE**
**Grand Rapids, MI 49508**

# Will America Become France?

## By Lisa Van Houten



During the month of October, anarchy erupted across France. More than half a million people engaged in violent riots – looting and destroying businesses, assaulting citizens trying to protect their property, setting fire to historic landmarks - such as the 143-year-old town hall in Limoges known for its architectural beauty. Yet the destruction wasn't completely random; Jewish-owned shops were burned and vandalized while Muslim-owned shops on the same street were left alone. More than 1,000 French police officers were injured and over 2,400 people were arrested in one weekend alone.

The leftwing media continues to cover for their fellow leftists by spinning the story as "student-led protests." Reporters have actually described the riots as "mostly peaceful" and as "scuffles … between police and small groups of protestors" – as video of these "scuffles" show cities ablaze.

This was not a demonstration or student protest. It was organized violence by a joint force of black-clad Marxists and Islamists, whose allegiance was revealed by the communist and Palestinian flags they waved. This is the Red-Green Alliance, an unholy marriage of radical leftists/Marxists and Islamists. On paper it seems like an unlikely merger, but what they share is a joint enemy – Western civilization rooted in Christianity and the constitutional form of government it birthed. This is why these rioters deface, topple, and burn historic statues, buildings, and churches– they represent that culture.

French President Emmanuel Macron went on French television and bemoaned the destruction, stating: *"Looking at these images, we have all asked ourselves: What was going through their minds? How can French people do this to France?"* Yet what Macron and leaders like him across Europe willfully ignore is that it is they who did this to their own nations. A large number of the insurgents aren't truly "French" and have no allegiance to the country. All of Europe is suffering the consequences of suicidal immigration policies which allowed for the massive flood of Islamic migrants from the Middle East and Africa who have no interest in assimilating to French culture. Rather, for many, their goal is to overthrow European civilization. As Mohamed Akram Adlouni, a leader with the Muslim Brotherhood, wrote in a 1991 memorandum, their mission was to use immigration/civilization jihad as a means of *"eliminating and destroying the Western civilization from within."*

J.D. Vance gave this warning: *"Western liberals imported the third world into France and other countries in the name of diversity and compassion. They ignored fundamental questions of assimilation and compatibility. … I pray that France, a beautiful country of amazing people, will stop this madness before more of its landmarks burn. And I hope Americans are paying attention. This is the future congressional Democrats seek for your country."*

What's happening in France, and much of Europe, should be a wake-up call to the United States. We're already on the same path. We've seen the Marxist march through our educational institutions, brainwashing American students. In addition, one only has to look to places like Minnesota and Dearborn to see the impact of the mass infiltration of unvetted migrants who have no interest in assimilating to Western values. And then there's the troubling personification of the Red-Green Alliance in candidates/politicians such as Abdul El-Sayed and Zohran Mamdani - Islamists who also seek to implement socialist/communist policies. "The Red-Green Alliance is the most dangerous partnership in American politics, and the radical left is proud to be part of it," stated Mike Davis, founder of The Article III Project. "Communists want your country. Islamists want your faith. They hate America, and they've figured out they're stronger when they march together."

Which is why we now see transgender flags flying next to "Free Palestine" flags. Secular leftists who oppose any hint of religious influence in society partner with Islamists whose goal is to implement Sharia law in the United States. LGBT radicals align with Muslims whose home country would stone them to death. It's a modern-day version of the ancient proverb, the "enemy of my enemy is my friend." And their shared enemy is the Christian worldview upon which our nation was founded and the inalienable rights which flowed from it.

However, this alliance of opposing ideologies is using the very system they seek to destroy to advance their agenda. As Kelsey Reinhardt writes for the Daily Signal: *"Both movements are expert at weaponizing the freedoms of liberal societies against those societies themselves. The radical Left has spent decades using Western institutions—courts, universities, media, corporate HR departments–to advance an agenda of a cultural revolution … Islamism, in its political form, pursues a parallel strategy. Analysts describe it as "jihad by democracy": using Western legal systems, financial influence, and political organizing to infiltrate institutions, elevate sympathetic figures, and gradually reshape the landscape …"*

They rely on our silence, our "tolerance." Yet accepting ideologies that seek the destruction of our nation and our values is not tolerance, but surrender. History is replete with civilizations that have fallen. We'd be foolish to think it couldn't happen to America. However, the Red-Green Alliance is not the only threat. Each generation must preserve the inheritance we've received and pass it on to the next. Yet, not only have we failed to do so, millions of Americans no longer understand that the liberty they enjoy must go hand-in-hand with virtue. God is the source of the blessings of liberty, but He has been cut off from the public square and from the private lives of millions of Americans. When the tree is severed from the Root it will ultimately wither and fall.

When our nation was in the midst of a different kind of worldview battle, Abraham Lincoln laid out the choice before America: *"We shall nobly save or meanly lose the last best hope of earth."* The only way to nobly save what we've been given is to return to the One who gave it us.

# Silence or Violence? A Better Way

## By Steve Huston




With titles like the *Strong Men of God Will Save America* (YouTube video) and *Strong Men Will Save the American Church* (Federalist article), we understand that there's a growing demand for men to throw off the shackles of apathy and self-gratification, walk in Christ's robes of righteousness, and become the soldiers of the cross and leaders in their families, churches, and society that our Heavenly Master calls them to be.

This isn't only a contemporary problem; it's one that has stemmed ever since sin came into the world. In Gen Men, D. Eric Schansberg, describes the struggles that men have had from the beginning of time, starting with Adam and Cain: "*Adam's problem is passivity; Cain's problem is activity. Adam's failure is a 'sin of omission'—a failure to do the right thing; Cain's failure is a 'sin of commission'—doing the wrong thing.*" Adam's sin of silence was lethal and Cain's sinful toxicity was murderously destructive; there must be a better way – enter Seth, the third man in Genesis. He was a strong man of faith, obediently submissive to Father God's will, regardless of personal, temporal cost. Hebrews 11:4 describes him by his faith working itself out in righteous action, which led to "God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh." This is the example set before us of true manliness, "strong Christianity," and the one who lives a life of real leadership. This is perhaps America's greatest grassroots need today.

We need men and churches today who will call sin, sin; publicly denounce the deception that is swallowing our children whole; use their voices like watchmen on the wall, warning against false gods and anti-biblical philosophies which threaten to overtake our nation, our families, and our churches. We need men who are leaders, who have put on the full armor of God and stand on the promises that "the gates of hell shall not prevail," instead of men who are willing to comfortably sit on the premises and hope everything will just turn out okay. Such men should cringe at the silence and passivity of an "Adam," reject the toxicity of a "Cain," boldly speak as an "Elijah," telling the "Ahab" government and society that we are not the troublers of "Israel," but they are because they have rejected the Word and way of God. These things must always be done with the Truth and Tone of Christ – full of grace and truth.

With such limited space, we can't delve into all the facets of strong, biblical manhood, but we can look at our perfect and divine example – Jesus Christ, see the reasons for His strength, and do our best, by His grace and the Spirit's power, to follow Him. Unless men and women take on the godly standards set before us in the life of Christ and as outlined in Ephesians 5 and 6, America will end up in the dustbin of history. I do NOT believe that will happen; there's a move of God within this land, but men must move forward with this torch of faith, not just sit by its fire warming their hands.

The key to Jesus' leadership within His family (the disciples), society, and the church was His experiential relationship with the Father; it was always the Father's plan and Jesus obediently followed it all the way to its glorious end. He wasn't sidetracked by the opinions of others, hijacked by the temptations of Satan, or dissuaded by the attacks of the church; He knew the Father's will and faithfully pressed on.

Strong men will face three categories of temptations that will try to hinder them from fulfilling their leadership goals and duties: 1. Self (doubt, need for acceptance, etc.) 2. Other's opinions/attacks (from the world, church, family) 3. Satan (temptation to shortcuts, an easier way, etc.) If Jesus, the strongest man, didn't escape temptation, neither will we. BUT since Jesus didn't succumb to temptation, by God's grace, the blood of Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit, neither MUST we succumb.

With Jesus as our example, what characterizes His unique and successful leadership? What should we, as men, do to better fulfill our God-designed and assigned purpose? We, like Jesus, must regularly withdraw to pray and we must be in the Word. Jesus boldly and unapologetically did the Father's will; humble submission to the Father and to one another in the Lord is not optional. In discipling others, Jesus gave the Father all the credit for any growth and understanding (Jn. 16:17); we must do likewise, even such growth that takes place within ourselves. Always yield completely to the Father's will. (Matt. 26:39) Watch for God's leading and opening, rather than setting your own agenda.

God is looking for men of all ages to walk so intimately with Him, that when He reveals His will, they will immediately say, "Yes!" Instead of adjusting to the culture around them or the pressures of lesser authorities, they will continually adjust to God. By way of example, God told Elijah to go hide himself, then in the following chapter He told the prophet to go show himself. Such tuning in to God requires us to not be distracted by the world and its static.

Allow me to close with a paragraph from Henry and Richard Blackaby's book Spiritual Leadership:

"*If Christians round the world were to suddenly renounce their personal agendas, their life goals and aspirations, and begin responding in radical obedience to everything God showed them, the world would be turned upside down*."

Men, let us reclaim our God-given inheritance by laying down our lives for our God, our families, our churches, and our nations. And if necessary, may it be a literal laying down of our lives – All to the Glory of God and His Kingdom.

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# Politics Ain't What It Used to Be

## By Chris Johnson



As you receive this newsletter, we are within days of the midterms and one of the most crucial elections in the nation is about to happen right here in our home-state of Michigan.

We are faced with the choice of whether our state will be represented in the U.S. Senate by one of the most radical leftists in politics or by two. As Michigan voters have deliberated over whether to vote for the Democrat Socialists of America-endorsed Abdul El-Sayed, in spite of his dual citizenship with Egypt, his family's ties to terrorist organizations, his recent history of supporting the defunding of police and abolishing ICE, and his support of tax-payer funded "gender-affirming care," including for minors, our *sitting* senator who was elected in 2024, Elissa Slotkin, reminded us we already have a militant, anti-American leftist representing us in the upper chamber.

At an event at the University of Chicago, Slotkin laid out her strategy for countering her political opponents on the right: "I want to look at these signature cases and not just focus on the president but on the people who enabled him. I want young people coming out of school to say, 'should I go work for the Trump administration? That sounds fun, I might get an opportunity…' I want them to be like, 'O no. That might be buying myself a ton of problems that I don't want and so let me avoid participating in that…' I want that deterrent message."

In other words, constructing ridiculous charges that couldn't stick against a former president wasn't enough. She wants his aides and his administration to get the same treatment, to the point that anyone who thinks about working for the next right-wing president's administration will be too afraid of the consequences to ever accept a position.

Slotkin isn't just denouncing the actions of a president, but the will of the voters who elected him, some of whom, apparently, also voted for her, if Michigan's voting system can be trusted (it can't). She's legitimizing the radical politics of Abdul and his supporters, while deeming the preferences of Trump voters beyond the pale.

And the aftermath of the first Trump administration demonstrates that her "deterrent message" is not an empty threat. The leftists which swamp the American justice system at every level were only too eager to make every possible attempt to cause Trump's legal team and prominent supporters maximum financial and legal pain. Most notably, there were the prosecutions of over 1,000 peaceful January 6 protestors, some of whom suffered horrific and unconstitutional treatment in prison even after their sentences were commuted.

Most tragic of all were those whose lives and reputations were so affected that they saw no other way to deal with it than to take their own lives, like Matthew Perna and Mark Aungst. At the very least, every protestor – the majority of whom were there out of legitimate concern regarding the integrity of the 2020 election – suffered a damaged reputation.

Then there was the action against Trump's legal team. In Fulton County, Georgia, Trump was indicted on RICO charges, along with several of his lawyers, including Rudy Giuliani, John Eastman, and Sidney Powell.

Again, their careers were destroyed, their reputations ruined, Powell was fined and placed on probation, Eastman was disbarred, and Giuliani was sued into bankruptcy before Prosecutor Fani Willis was removed from the case due to ethics violations and the case was finally dismissed in 2025.

Not content to just go after MAGA activists and agents, as Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley revealed last month, Biden's militarized anti-MAGA Justice Department, by way of Special Counsel Jack Smith, obtained detailed sales records of who purchased iconic "Make America Great Again" hats or other merchandise or made donations to the Trump campaign.

Against this backdrop, Elissa Slotkin's remarks regarding her desire to make examples of "signature cases" for how public servants who represent right-wing voters ought to be treated are not an empty threat, but an expression of a desire to double down on the oppressive, anti-American tactics we have all been relieved to shrug off since 2024.

As Senator Slotkin has so bluntly demonstrated, elections are no longer simply about who you think has better ideas. They're now about whether people who think like you will get to keep their jobs, or face prosecution for promoting the wrong administration or movement. Under the Obama administration, conservative organizations couldn't receive tax-exempt status. Under Biden, parents at school board meetings were investigated for speaking out against ridiculous, top-down state policies that put their kids at risk.

The first thing Democrat Virginia Governor Abigail Spanberger did upon taking office after barely squeaking out a win in that formerly red state was request resignations from Republican appointed board members at the University of Virginia and push for redistricting in her state to gerrymander Republican representation out of existence.

The nature of politics has changed in America, and if the right's response continues to be to simply cry "foul," we're missing the point. There is no ref. Maybe some smart conservative lawyer can make a bullet proof argument to the Supreme Court that all of this is unconstitutional. The left will just pack the courts with leftist judges – the only kind of judges America currently knows how to make – until they can get what they want. Or they can just wait. In two decades "qualified" nominees to the Supreme Court will have all been trained in DEI by communist professors.

We're not playing checkers while the left plays chess. We're not bringing a knife to a gun fight. We're playing checkers while the left is pointing a gun at us. Republican politicians and voters have to come to terms with the game we're playing and play to win.

# Fighting for Life in a Culture of Death

## By Lisa Van Houten




For decades pro-lifers have been the Charlie Brown to the GOP's Lucy. As we continue to try to move the pro-life cause down the field to the ultimate goal of ending the murderous practice of abortion, Republican politicians who claim to stand for the unborn rip the football away, moving us further away from becoming a nation that truly upholds the right to life. For example, how many times have GOP leaders promised us they would end funding for Planned Parenthood, only to have them vote for it once again.

When President Trump was elected in 2016, he kept his promise to pro-life voters by putting in place numerous pro-life policies and judicial appointments. Trump himself boasted that his first term was the most pro-life administration ever. That's why it's so incredibly disheartening to now see his administration abandon the pro-life cause regarding the biggest abortion issue of our day - mifepristone. Approximately two-thirds of all abortions are now done by this do-it-yourself abortion drug. For reasons no one can understand, the Trump administration continues to punt, leaving in place Biden-era policies that stripped away any oversight or restrictions of mifepristone. Over a year ago, after pressure from the pro-life movement, the administration finally announced it would complete a safety review of mifepristone, but the FDA has continued to drag its feet, now stating they would not be submitting its report until March of 2027. Many pro-lifers fear that the FDA and the Trump administration will continue these delay tactics until the end of his term.

Meanwhile, 730,000 babies are being killed yearly via mifepristone; women are lied to about its adverse side effects, causing one out of ten to end up in ER with potentially life-threatening complications; and abusive men are giving the drug to unsuspecting girlfriends/wives and victims of sexual abuse. No other drug is treated like this – prescribed with no ID or medical exam. And, as Dr. Christina Francis of the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists, states: *"There have been multiple drugs that have been removed from the market for far lower complication rates than we know mifepristone has."*

In addition, pro-life state laws are being trampled upon. Imagine the uproar if red states ignored gun-control laws in blue states and mailed guns to anyone within that state, no questions asked. Yet that is exactly what is happening as blue states enable the sale of abortifacient drugs in states where they are prohibited. Pro-abortion states have enacted shield laws that give anonymity to abortion pill providers. As Republican Attorney General Liz Murrill of Louisiana stated: *"[They're] filling the prescription bottle and sending it into our state with no name on it, no pharmacy on it, no recipient name. … They shield the doctor, they shield the pharmacist … They are doing it because they disapprove of the laws that our state has passed. And so, they want to flood our state with those pills illegally."*

However, much of this could be averted by a stroke of the pen from the Trump administration's Food and Drug Administration and the enforcement by the Department of Justice of the Comstock Act, which outlaws the mailing of abortifacients. An easy first step would be to simply revert to the requirement of in-person doctor appointments – which was in place even under the Obama administration. This would eliminate the shipping of mifepristone across state lines and prevent the drug from being obtained without identification. It's truly inconceivable that the Trump administration hasn't at least taken this one simple action that not only would save countless unborn babies, but would also protect women.

With the astronomical use of mifepristone, there is also another troubling concern. In July 2026, Students for Life of America published a peer reviewed study confirming remnants of abortion drugs are found in drinking water. As the report stated: *"Past research has shown that steroid hormones and other endocrine-disrupting compounds (EDCs) are present in environmental water… Water samples were collected from sites upstream and downstream of water treatment facilities, and from municipal tap water, from each of 3 American cities. There were significant levels of mifepristone (up to 0.041 µgram/l) in the water of all but one of the nine sampling classes. Because of the plethora of effects of progesterone, this contaminant could affect the physiology of aquatic animals; and human health, including fertility, pregnancy and fetal development."*

Recently, the EPA launched a study to "strengthen the nation's understanding of potential pollutants in drinking water." You would think pro-environmental Democrats would be thrilled; however, nothing is more important to the left than allowing abortion to continue unrestricted. Every Senate Democrat signed a letter to EPA administrator Lee Zeldin berating the study, stating: *"…this study opens the door to new attacks on safe and accessible reproductive health care …"* They'd rather compromise the health and safety of their constituents, than have it come to light that abortion drug residue could be in our drinking water.

Yet the fight for the unborn is far deeper than striving for pro-life laws and policies, as important as that is. There is a darkness that has settled over our culture as God's law and moral truth is rejected in favor of personal autonomy. As more than one million mothers choose to kill their unborn babies every year, we've become a nation where it's not only defended, but barbarically celebrated. Such as this woman who posted on social media: *"I got an abortion with each boy, told my husband I had a miscarriage… No boys coming out of this mama."* (Followed by a laughing emoji.) Her post got over 36 thousand likes.

When sinful humanity enthrones itself as the measure of morality in defiance of Almighty God, even the destruction of innocent life is celebrated as virtue. Yet God offers forgiveness, no matter how grievous the sin. No repentant sinner who comes to Christ in faith is beyond His mercy. Ultimately, it is only through transformed hearts that the evil of abortion will end.

# Socialism: An Anti-Biblical Worldview

## By Steve Huston




It's hard to believe that in just a few short days we will not only have a socialist on the ballot, but that he actually has a possibility of winning – I never thought I would see that day. Have we, as Americans, lost our minds? **It's time to come to our senses.** Only in coming back to the Word of God and to God Himself, will we achieve that.

We've seen through examples and heard warnings from those who have come before us of the ills of socialism:

Venezuela – once the richest, most prosperous country in South America – is the poster-child for socialism's economic and other related failures: Now, it's among the poorest, with its horrible healthcare, failing infrastructure, and all but nonexistent personal freedoms.

The warnings of man's inhumanity to man via socialism are replete throughout history: "Democracy and socialism have nothing in common but one word, equality. But notice the difference: while democracy seeks equality in liberty, socialism seeks equality in restraint and servitude." (Alexis de Tocqueville) "Socialism is a philosophy of failure, the creed of ignorance, and the gospel of envy, its inherent virtue is the equal sharing of misery." (Winston Churchill) "*Socialism only works in two places: Heaven where they don't need it and hell where they already have it.*" (former president Ronald Reagan)

But we only need to look to the Bible and understand its warnings to know that socialism is not for any God-fearing people.

The first great command of the Bible is to love God with ALL that you are; socialism does not allow for this and history proves it. As Franklin Graham wrote: "*Communism – like socialism – is godless, even anti-God. The socialists have always been the enemy of the church. They hate God because they want to be the final authority, not God. Allegiance to the atheistic state is commanded and supersedes worship and devotion to the one, true God. Religion is a clear and present danger to the all-powerful state and must be suppressed, so in almost every socialist country, churches are marginalized and even persecuted.*"

The second great command is like unto the first; love your neighbor as yourself. The very tenets of socialism (based on envy and greed) don't allow this. Instead of sharing with one's neighbor out of love for God and man, it is "legalized" plunder of those who work hard, stealing from one's neighbor and his family.

In the first chapter of Proverbs, Solomon urges us to fear the Lord, for that is the beginning of wisdom. Then he warns against following those who espouse socialist principles: *Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching, for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck. My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent. If they say, "Come with us, let us lie in wait for blood; let us ambush the innocent without reason; like Sheol let us swallow them alive, and whole, like those who go down to the pit; we shall find all precious goods, we shall fill our houses with plunder; throw in your lot among us; we will all have one purse"— my son, do not walk in the way with them; hold back your foot from their paths, for their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed blood. For in vain is a net spread in the sight of any bird, but these men lie in wait for their own blood; they set an ambush for their own lives. Such are the ways of everyone who is greedy for unjust gain; it takes away the life of its possessors.* (vs. 8-19 ESV)

Directly following these verses Wisdom calls out, urging the simple to follow her way, giving the consequences of rejecting her counsel, and ending with these words of promise: "*For the simple are killed by their turning away, and the complacency of fools destroys them; but whoever listens to me will dwell secure and will be at ease, without dread of disaster.*"

Socialism is deceptive, promising to fulfill the lusts of men, but leaving them empty and in a worse condition than they started. **Will America heed Wisdom's call?**

The problem with socialism/communism is not so much one of politics and economics as it is of a nation's relationship with God. In his book WITNESS, Whittaker Chambers drives home the point:

"*There has never been a society or a nation without God. But history is cluttered with the wreckage of nations that became indifferent to God, and died. ... **The crisis of the Western world exists to the degree in which it is indifferent to God.** It exists to the degree in which the Western world actually shared Communism's materialist vision, is so dazzled by the logic of the materialist interpretation of history, politics and economics, that it fails to grasp that, for it, the only possible answer to the Communist challenge: Faith in God or Faith in Man? is the challenge: Faith in God.*

*Economics is not the central problem of this century. It is a relative problem which can be solved in relative ways. Faith is the central problem of this age. The Western world does not know it, but it already possesses the answer to this problem—but only provided that its faith in God and the freedom He enjoins is as great as Communism's faith in Man.*"

Regardless the outcome of this election, our nation and the individuals of it must not trust in government, "chariots or horses," we must come back to a real, living relationship with God; that faith must be passed on to those who come after us. For evil will continue its march against those who stand, whether it be Islamism, humanism, socialism, or any manmade "-ism" that comes along.

Might we all take heed to the Apostle Paul's warning found in Colossians 2:8. "**Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.**" Go, vote, live, and be a witness to Truth.

# Thoughts on Elections, Thanksgiving, and Reconquista

## By Chris Johnson



It is an odd feeling to be writing a newsletter at this time of year. We're putting these articles together about 10 days before it lands in your mailbox, which, this month, is probably a day or two before the election. Also, this month, three weeks after the election we celebrate Thanksgiving.

So, while the election is still over a week away from us as we write, and the holiday over a month away, for our readers, they are right on your doorstep.

Yet, even you, future reader, if you read this right when you get it, don't know whether the election outcomes will be listed among the blessings spoken of this Thanksgiving.

Of course, the Lord says to "give thanks in all circumstances," but still we're all waiting with baited breath to find out how easy that instruction will be to follow, more anxiously even, you as you read perhaps, than I as I write.

The differences between the pathways represented by the candidates are laid out starkly in this newsletter. How can we not be concerned that our fellow citizens will fall for the political trap which will veer us leftward towards socialism and Sharia law?

Yet, the trouble with having the choice of who to cast our vote for is that it gives us an over-appreciation of the level of control which we truly wield over our own fates. It becomes too easy to forget that good rulers fundamentally aren't the result of a wise voting public, although that can be how God provides them. Wise rulers are a blessing from the Almighty.

After all, "every good and perfect gift comes from the Father above" (James 1:17) and "there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God." (Romans 13:1)

Often among the politically engaged there is so much time and energy and emotion poured into election cycles that when the results finally come in and, win or lose, the push is finally over, it can feel as if there's a loss of purpose. If our candidates lose, we may experience feelings of despair, but even if they win it can make you wonder what could take the place of that goal you've been working toward for months.

What better way to wrap up that political season than with a season focused on the blessings that our God has poured out on us and to trust His plans on what He has in store for us?

No matter how these elections turn out, there is so much to be thankful for. We live at a time when we can find fellowship and encouragement with believers all over the world through our technology. We in the United States have creature comforts and material blessings unimaginable to humanity for most of history and even around the world today. There is so much Biblical and theological knowledge at our fingertips. The average lifespan is higher than ever before and is expected to increase as medical technology continues to advance. No one is starving to death in the United States. Our churches aren't being raided by machete wielding tribesmen – not yet anyway.

Not the least thing to be grateful for is the fact that we won't have to watch another political advertisement for about the next 15 months.

We've still got time to fight the evil we see on the horizon. Maybe it's closer than it was before in some ways, maybe this election will push it back in some ways, but either way it's not time for us to hang up our spurs. That time won't come until Christ returns with final victory.

We can also be thankful for the examples of Christians who have gone before us – Christians like Pelayo. Allow me to share a short lesson from history.

When Muslims swept through what we know today as Spain in the early 700s, Pelayo, a Visigothic nobleman, fled to the mountains in the north of the Iberian Peninsula and established the small Christian kingdom of Asturias. Asturias eventually produced the legendary Christian war lord, el Cid, who launched the push to take back Spain from the Muslims known as the Reconquista – the Reconquest.

The effort took over 700 years. When Christopher Columbus set sail from Spain he wrote this in his journal: "Whereas, Most Christian, High, Excellent, and Powerful Princes, King and Queen of Spain and of the Islands of the Sea, our Sovereigns, this present year 1492, after your Highnesses had terminated the war with the Moors (Muslims) reigning in Europe, the same having been brought to an end in the great city of Granada…

"Your Highnesses, as Catholic Christians, and princes who love and promote the holy Christian faith, and are enemies of the doctrine of Mahomet, and of all idolatry and heresy, determined to send me, Christopher Columbus, to the above-mentioned countries of India, to see the said princes, people, and territories, and to learn their disposition and the proper method of converting them to our holy faith…"

In the very year that the Spanish Reconquista was culminated and the Muslim power was pushed out of Spain, that now-fully Christian kingdom of Spain sent Columbus to search for a more efficient route to the Indies for the purpose of bringing their rulers the Christian faith.

We serve the same God who blessed that centuries-long, seemingly impossible effort to push Islam out of medieval Spain and who used that constant struggle to move the great Columbus to providentially, if mistakenly, discover this continent which opened the door to the arrival of the Pilgrims and the colonists a century later which we remember so fondly at Thanksgiving.

If we are on His side we cannot lose, though we cannot know whether we will overcome through defense or reconquest. His victory is sure.

It is our prayer, for the sake of our children and grandchildren, that the United States of America never need a Reconquista; but in the meantime, let us build and fight as if we are in one.