

# The DEFENDER - May 2014



“... defending the faith once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3)

A monthly publication of the  
IN DEFENSE OF TRUTH radio broadcast.



## From the Director's Desk: Racism, Hate Crimes, and other non sequiturs

First things first. Let's get the big word in the title out of the way. A non sequitur is an inference or a conclusion that doesn't follow from the premises or evidence. It's a statement, often given as fact, that simply doesn't follow logically from what precedes it. I bring this to your attention because the terms racism and hate crimes are being tossed about in ways today that are branding people unjustly and unfairly.

Let me give you a few personal examples. I was recently accused of being racist against the Jewish people because I made a comment on the radio, stating that Jews have long rejected God and His Messiah. Somehow that statement of truth, based on many passages in both the Old and New Testaments, was misconstrued as me showing prejudice against an entire ethnic group. My intent was to state a fact, not cast aspersions. The apostle Paul made it a point in **Romans 10:21** to say that Israel rejected God because they were disobedient and contrary. Did this make Paul a racist? No. Partly because Paul himself was a Jew, but more importantly because he was speaking the truth. He also was quick to say in **Romans 11** that God would not cast away His people, but would maintain a remnant of Israelites for Himself forever. I wholeheartedly agree, and have repeatedly said as much.

It's popular now to also talk about hate crimes, which have an element of prejudice attached to them as well. If a white person kills a black person, it's often portrayed as an act of discrimination. But people are driven to evil for many reasons. The aforementioned crime is murder, not hatred. We can hate a lot of things, but if we never act it out, our crime is not against humanity. But evil in our hearts is a sin against God, which may be the bigger crime. Jesus said the man who lusts after a woman in his heart has already committed the sin of adultery. Yet God apparently doesn't have the last word when it comes to our culture today. Take the currently politically correct practice of homosexuality. Even though God is clear in scripture that it's a sin, if I refuse to perform a same-sex wedding or speak out against it from the pulpit, I may one day end up in jail, branded as an intolerant, bigoted, hate-monger.

The 1st Amendment gives us the right to speak freely, as well as practice our faith. But the thought police are doing their best to quell those freedoms. What they don't recognize, apparently, is the strong hold that sin has on people. As long as there are folks like Donald Sterling and Louis Farrakhan in the world, there will be racism and hate. But for the grace of God, it could be you or I, because we all fall short of His glory.

Peter and John gave us our marching orders in Acts 5:29. When human authority rejects God's authority, it becomes twisted and loses its right to demand compliance. At that point the apostles said we ought to obey God rather than men. He's the judge to whom we will ultimately answer. As Christians we need to preach the truth of Jesus Christ, as that is what will ultimately give mankind true freedom. It is Jesus who freed us from the guilt of sin. And when people are truly free, no matter their race, they will recognize Him as King of kings and Lord of lords. That's when racism and hate will disappear. There can be no utopia here on earth, where man makes the rules. Only in heaven above, where God reigns supreme, can we find true and lasting peace.

*Rev. David Lewis*

# **America's Debt to Christianity**

## **Part I – Providence and the Puritans**

**By Robert Luthardt, Sr.**

“If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do? (Ps. 11:3). America’s original settlers, the Pilgrims and other Puritans that followed them, believed they had a scriptural answer to that question in the hopes of, and promises to, Father Abraham; hopes that they embraced: “For he looked for a city whose builder and maker is God” (Rom. 4:1; Heb. 11:10). The Pilgrims were of a strict separatist branch of the Puritan Christians in England that came to America as an educated, biblically-literate people. They willingly acceded to Christ’s teaching, “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set upon a hill cannot be hid” (Matt. 5:14). Some of the Puritan settlers adopted the idea that they may be Providence’s very founders of that city cited in Hebrews (Heb. 13:14).

Once the scriptures had become available in printed form in the English language, the laity could finally prove for a certainty that God’s commandments and Christ’s sacraments were given as points of obedience for a people saved solely by the grace of God and were no longer to be abused as imperatives in a salvation scheme of works-based righteousness. Furthermore, they could rejoice that as born-again believers they were mercifully adopted by God into His own family by grace alone (John 1:12-13, 3:6-8; Ep. 1:4-7, 2:8-10). Now they saw it their duty to their loving heavenly Father to strive for purity in their lives. Being faithful in this regard, they were ridiculed as “Puritans” and as non-conformists; they were even considered outlaws.

One English émigré to America was the university educated Rev. John Winthrop who delivered a sermon aboard the *Arabella*, which included a now classic line: “For we must consider that we shall be like a city upon a hill, the eyes of all are on us.” In his farewell radio address to the nation, President Ronald Reagan concluded with, “I often recalled one group of early settlers ... crossing the Atlantic ... when their leader, a minister, noted that ... with God’s help they might found a new world, a city upon a hill, a light to nations.”

But of what importance is it for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Americans to know how 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Century Christians gained victory over spiritual darkness and political tyranny? An 18<sup>th</sup> Century historian, James Heron D.D., noted that the conflict between a revived evangelical Christianity, based solely upon biblical precepts and what the proliferating Puritan party considered to be a stagnated medieval religion of ceremonial abnormalities, must collide. The English version of the Inquisition had been operational since the beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup> Century when John Wycliffe’s remains (he was an evangelist and a reformer) were exhumed and burned at the stake 40 years after his death. His main “crime” was circulating handwritten copies of the scriptures in English and sending evangelists called “Lollards” to the common people.

Throughout all Europe, literacy was on the rise and the laity in England now had Bibles, but also books of history that reminded them of other atrocities, such as John Huss burned at the stake in Bohemia in 1415, Savonarola in Italy tortured and then burned in 1498, and whole groups of non-conforming Christians, such as the Waldensians and Albigenes, being put to the

sword—men, women and children. Small wonder that Bible-honoring Christians sought a “city whose builder and maker was God”—outside of Europe’s rigidity.

More than ever, Christians recognized that despotic Kings and Governors and vice-ridden exalted clerics had made Bible-oriented believers their avowed enemies. Especially so with the Puritans who tolerated no disorder in themselves or any other person no matter their rank. All are subject to the “King of Kings” (1 Tim. 6:15; Rev. 17:14). Historically, the old Scottish Covenanters’ rallying cry was, “No King but Jesus.” All are subordinated to Christ’s rule for He alone can change hearts of stone and transform children of disobedience into children of God (Jer. 17:9-10; Luke 8:15; Ep. 2:2-3, 1:4-7).

The Puritans were led by university educated scholars that had access to Erasmus’ Latin/Greek New Testament and the theological writings of many reformers, including Luther and Calvin. Thusly armed, they became more vocal over time, preaching against the loose-living, non-preaching clergy who were, more often than not, illiterate.

Highly educated scholars, like William Tyndale, advocated for a printed version of the New Testament in English. He sought everywhere for a license in England but was denied. In frustration he scolded William Bell, a local Archdeacon who opposed him with, “If the Lord allows, I will one day see that the plowboy knows more theology than thou doest.” Tyndale traveled to the Continent and facilitated the printing of thousands of New Testaments in English and then smuggled them into England. For this “crime” Tyndale was burned at the stake in 1536. His last earthly utterance was, “Lord, open the King of England’s eyes.” Though Henry VIII had sought Tyndale’s death, two years later he ordered the “Great Bible,” in English (Tyndale’s translation) to be chained and available in every church.

Tyndale’s mission and martyrdom was just 84 years before the Pilgrims set foot in America in 1620 and was for them well known, widely acknowledged, recent history. Every man and woman knew well how much was owed to William Tyndale. Christ had taught that unregenerate rulers would kill His followers in the name of God (John 16:2). They were also aware of the Providence of God when just decades earlier He had spared England by sending a massive storm that decimated the Spanish Armada in 1588. The evil, bigoted King Philip II of Spain had received blessings from the Pope to invade England and violently depose Queen Elizabeth I and impose Catholicism on the entire nation. A series of incidents prevented this evil, but the foremost was the storm God allowed that decimated the Armada of men, ships and provisions. The Puritans believed Christ’s words that the gates of Hell cannot prevail against Christ’s Church, His true Body on earth (Matt. 16:18; Rom. 12:5; Col. 1:24)

For 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Century Christians in England, Scotland and American Colonies, the constantly growing quest for freedom fostered universal education as well as spreading the gospel of Christ. As the foundation of Christian liberty was being gradually restored, so also was the way being prepared for that “city of light on a hill” to be discovered and populated.

Our country’s earliest founding Charters and Covenants contained the expressions of Bible-honoring, God-fearing Christians. In America’s 17<sup>th</sup> Century settlements, Bible knowledge and general education were highly prized, and when God’s commandments and Christ’s teachings

became one with mother's admonitions, the citadels of Satanic influence fell more surely than Jericho's walls. If the hand that rocks the cradle does indeed rule the world, then the child that hears the scriptures read and hears the hymns sung, has the Adamic heart cleansed of deceitfulness and wickedness and, when old, will not depart from the way (Ep. 2:1; Pr. 22:6) and will be continually blessed by a thirst for righteousness (Matt. 5:6).

What can the righteous do? First to pray with fervency and then to strive to restore the destroyed foundation by following Christ's command to "preach the gospel" (Mark 16:15). The Pilgrims and Puritans did just that, and Americans have reaped the blessings ever since. As we petition God on our knees we should still remember to:

"Keep looking up."

### **Moment of Truth broadcast on May 5, 2014**

On his recent trip to Malaysia, President Barack Hussein Obama toured the National Mosque in Kuala Lumpur. While there, he asked the mosque's Imam to pray for him. For someone who claims to be a Christian, that's a rather odd request. Christians pray to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; the Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Muslims do not. It's also been reported that our feckless president frequently replied to the Muslim cleric by saying InsyAllah, which is Malay for "Allah willing." Muslims don't pray to the same god that Christians and Jews do. Allah is not a synonym for Jehovah. Imam Ismail Muhammad asked Mr. Obama to end the worldwide oppression of Muslims. Why didn't the president use that opportunity to address the oppression of Christians? Jesus said that as His followers we would suffer persecution. In John 15 He said "the world will hate you because it hated Me first." The Bible also tells us that the day will come when all will bow the knee to Jesus as King of kings and Lord of lords. So which is it, Mr. President? Are you a Christian or are you a Muslim? God is waiting patiently for your answer.

### **Moment of Truth broadcast on May 6, 2014**

It's been almost 70 years since the end of WWII and the liberation of the Nazi death camps. But there's an alarming ignorance and even apathy in America today, among young people in particular, who don't know enough about the history and horrors of the holocaust. In a day and age when acts of racism and hatred are front and center in our country, often overlooked is the most discriminated group of people in all recorded history--the Jews. Anti-semitism never really goes away, it just ebbs and flows. Right now it's flowing, with no small help from our own State Department. People today aren't learning the lessons of what can happen when evil rises and no one takes decisive action to stop it. Fortunately God is still on His throne and the prophet Ezekiel tells us that the time will come when He will show the world that He is Israel's God and they are His people. If you haven't yet placed your trust in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, do so now. The day is fast approaching when it will be too late.

## Today ..... God's Gift

By Nancy Long

Psalm 118:24 -- "*This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.*"

Psalm 118:1 -- "*O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good: because His mercy endureth forever.*"

Psalm 107:8 -- "*O that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men.*"

Jeremiah 29:11 -- "*For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.*"

Philippians 3:1a -- "*Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord.*"

Philippians 4:4 -- "*Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.*"

We are blessed, more than we could ever ask or even think, through the Lord's enabling to awaken us to see the dawning of a brand new day!! How many of us, though, go to sleep at night assuming, taking it for granted perhaps, that the next twenty-four hours will be stretched out before us, just as it's always been? Grab it ..... take it, that's our mentality ..... run with it ..... often without even thanking the Lord for it, or being grateful for the opportunities it may provide. There's usually not much thought, if any, in fact, that this day could very well be our last.

***This is the day which the Lord has made***, and if you're reading this article, God, the Master Designer, has purposed for you to be in it. "*The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord*" (Psalm 37:24). Each new day is a blessing .... each new day is His gift ..... each new day is a joy to behold!!

In the very first book of the Bible, God explains:

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

*And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.*

*And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.*

*And God saw the light, that it was good:*

*and God divided the light from the darkness.*

*And God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night.*

*And the evening and the morning were the first day" (Genesis 1:1-5).*

Our God is an awesome God!! **He** has made this thing we call "time". Today is not just "another day". There's nothing ho-hum, boring, dull, mediocre, or ordinary about it ..... for ***"This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."*** Rejoice, give thanks, show gratitude , and praise the Lord continually, for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to (and in) the children of men (Psalm 107:8).

What we do with this treasured gift of "today" is our choice. First and foremost, though, I believe, we are instructed to ***"rejoice and be glad in it."*** I see no qualifiers here. It's my understanding that the exhortation is to rejoice, and be thankful in everything (1 Thess. 5:18a) ..... if your bank account is full, or empty ..... if your health is good, or if you've just been given the most devastating news of your life ..... if you've recently been hired, or fired ..... if your relationship's are in good shape, or falling apart ..... You understand where I'm going here. Problems or no problems .....

***"This is the day which the Lord has made;  
we will rejoice and be glad in it." .....***

The sunshine of life, as well as its storms, are working together for our good, and God's glory (Romans 8:28). This is a promise in which we are to rest, find comfort ..... and find peace. *"I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content"* (Phil. 4:11). *"The joy of the Lord is your strength"* (Nehemiah 8:10b). Praise the Lord, from Whom all blessings flow. Seek His face. Glorify His name in thought, word, and deed, and rejoice in the truth that ALL of life is His Divine handiwork!!

***"This is the day which the Lord has made;  
we will rejoice and be glad in it."***



## **Parable for Godly Mothers**

*The young mother set her foot on the path of life. "Is the way long," she asked? And her guide said, "Yes, and the way is hard. And you will be old before you reach the end of it. But the end will be better than the beginning."*

*But the young mother was happy and she would not believe that anything could be better than these years. So she played with her children and gathered flowers for them along the way, and the sun shone on them and life was good, and the young mother cried, "Nothing will be lovelier than this."*

*Then night came, and the storm, and the path was dark and the children shook with fear and cold, and the mother drew them close and covered them with her mantle and the children said, "Mother we are not afraid for you are near and no harm can come." And the mother said, "This is better than the brightest of day, for I have taught my children courage."*

*And the morning came, and there was a hill ahead, and the children climbed and grew weary and the mother was weary, but at all times she said to the children, "A little patience and we are there." So the children climbed, and when they had reached the top, they said, "We could not have done it without you Mother." And the mother, when she lay down that night, looked up at the stars and said, "This day is better than the last, for my children have learned fortitude in the face of difficulty. Yesterday I gave them courage. Today I have given them strength."*

*And the next day came strange clouds, which darkened the earth – clouds of war and hate and evil, and the children grouped and stumbled, and the mother said, "Look up! Life up your eyes to the Light!" And the children looked up and saw above the clouds an Everlasting Glory, and it guided them beyond the darkness. And that night the mother said, "This is the best day of all, for I have shown my children God."*

*And the days went on, and the months and the years, and the mother grew old, and she was small and bent. But her children were strong and tall and walked with courage. And when the way was hard, they helped their mother; and when the way was rough they lifted her, for she was as light as a feather; and at last they came to a hill, and beyond the hill they could see a shining road and golden gates flung wide.*

*And the mother said, "I have reached the end of my journey. And now I know that the end is better than the beginning, for my children can walk alone, and their children after them."*

*And the children said, "You will always walk with us Mother, even when you have gone through the gates."*

*And they stood and watched her as she went on alone, and the gates closed after her. And they said, "We cannot see her, but she is with us. A mother like ours is more than a memory – she is a living presence."*

*Our mission through the broadcast of In Defense of Truth and the publication of The Defender newsletter is to earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3). Our vision today is just as strong as it was back in 1963 when Dr. John Dekker began this outreach. We pray that you will continue to stand with us as we hold true to God's holy Word.*

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on WCBM AM 680 in Baltimore.

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### **WRITE TO US!**

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### **Upcoming Events!**

If you are in or around the Baltimore area, we'd love to have you join us for these upcoming events!

On **Wednesday, May 21st, from 6-8 PM**, we will be hosting a Missionary Dinner for the Durands, from Chile. The dinner is **free**, but we will need your **R.S.V.P. (410.661.9419)**.