

The DEFENDER - November 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: Still Thankful

The easiest thing in the world to do is complain. The reason it's so easy is because there's so much to complain about. Add to that the fact that we all have an opinion on just about everything and it's open season for whining, grouching, carping, and grumbling. A lot of it is justified, however. There are many people in leadership positions today, both here in America as well as internationally, who abuse their power and make bad decisions, which end up affecting millions, if not billions, of people around the world.

The point I'd like to make this month, however, is that in spite of all that's wrong in the world today, I'm still grateful for all that's still right. God is still sovereign and sitting on His throne. He is still omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent. Have you ever really thought about what that means? That God is all-knowing, always present, and all-powerful? In short, that means that God is in total charge of the universe, which He providentially controls and governs, for many reasons, not the least of which is our benefit. And I'm eternally grateful for that. As hymn writer Henry Alford penned, "God our Maker doth provide, for our wants to be supplied." Our knowledge, when compared to His, can only be described as insignificant. Even though our current knowledge base more than doubles each year, we can't scratch the surface of God's omniscience. As He said to Job, "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me if you understand" (Job 38:1).

I want to be in the love and care of the One who "created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). His power and His might are so strong that He raised Himself from the dead. And it's that same power that quickened me from my spiritual slumber and forgave my sins, that I might spend eternity in heaven above when my life on earth is done. It's that same power that gives me the assurance that my loved ones who died trusting in Christ as their Savior are with Him now, and I will see them again one day. For that I am forever thankful.

And certainly not least, I give thanks continually that my Lord and my God is always with me. Jesus said that He would "never leave me nor forsake me" (Hebrews 13:5). That may be the greatest comfort of all as we go through these uncertain times. To know that "greater is He who is in me than is he who is in the world" (1 John 4:4).

During these end times, people will grow weary, stumble, and fall. But those who rely on the Lord for their strength will be renewed (Isaiah 40:31). Thank you Lord, for all you do. Still.

Rev. David Lewis

Politically Incorrect Christianity

Part I – The Heathen Rage

By Robert Luthardt, Sr.

The radical secularist charge that religion (most particularly Christianity) is the cause of all the world's ills is patently false. Millions more lives have been snuffed out by the evils perpetrated by socialists and atheistic fanatics since 1917 than from all crimes done in the name of Christianity for two millennia. Over 170 million innocents have been murdered by socialists (Hitler) and atheists (Stalin, Mao, Pol Pot, Kim Jong Il, et al.). This does not include those who perished in the wars they initiated. Peaceful Christians were made enemies of the State.

Must history repeat itself, this time in America, a majority Christian nation, where unprecedented freedoms were birthed by adherents of Biblical principles? This because we allow malevolent critics of Christianity to thrive unopposed? Popular culture, driven by "Madhatten and Hollyweird," is filled not only with gross violence and pornography, but with constant scurrilous attacks upon Christianity. Village atheists, socialists, and secularists have established curricula for public schools and universities and unbelievably even some seminaries.

There is little originality in their attacks upon Jesus Christ and God's Word. They merely re-gurgitate time-worn distortions made and remade for the last 1900 years and call it enlightenment and reason. Their ragings are centuries old as King David revealed (Ps. 2:1-4).

At the very dawn of the Christian era, the Romans, who were already belligerent toward the Jewish people, considered the separatist Christian sect and their scriptures to be barbaric and primitive; a thing to be crushed and forgotten. In one of history's great ironies, God's purpose was furthered by the Romans genocidal campaign against the Jews and the destruction of their homeland (66-70 A.D.). They expedited the spread of Christianity by scattering Christ's followers when Jerusalem fell.

In less than 300 years, the mighty conquerors were themselves conquered by lowly Christians. The 20th and 21st century's raging heathen insist that THEY have "discovered" flaws in Christian evidences through science, archaeology and "superior scholarship." Their prideful "superiority" is an easily burst bubble before verifiable history that shows similar claims were made and defeated over the last 20 centuries by polemicists, such as Celsus and the Roman philosopher Porphyry. Of course the age of these defeated ancient criticisms does not alone prove them false, but it does dim the luster of the claims of originality by the new atheists, such as Christopher Hitchens, Sam Harris, Richard Dawkins, et al., who call themselves "The Brights" on one website. The arrogance and ignorance of modern atheists radically distinguishes them from the scholarly wit of deeper-thinking intellectuals, such as Frederich Nietzsche or David Hume, who exercised a greater understanding of the basic principles of philosophy and the rudiments of logic.

Understanding the Biblical doctrine of God's inspiration is a great advantage to honest searchers and believers (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21). These apologetic writings are convincing to

those guided by God the Holy Spirit, including those who were once “fools” (Ps. 14:1, 53:1). Light and love from God in the new birth cancels the doom of eternal damnation through God’s gift of faith that yields sonship and salvation (John 1:12-13; Ep. 1:4-5, 2:1-10; 2 Pet. 3:15-18).

Scripture does not teach that God “dictated” His Word to men (as Mohammed claimed for the Koran), and even though written by fallible men, inerrancy is authentically affirmed for God’s Word. Proper interpretation of ancient writings requires patient study and analysis considering time and place and the world views of those used by God to reveal His will to mankind and is only accurately accomplished by open-minded honest scholars. Exacting biblical exegesis is not found in 30 second sound-bites from liberal/left media polemicists.

The Bible is encyclopedic in ancient wisdom and was written over a period of 1500 years, in three different ancient languages, by over 40 different penmen, most of whom never knew each other. These writings cannot be casually read like a newspaper. This collection of Divinely inspired, moral foundations was indispensable in founding Western Civilization. But for some academic, political and media elites, the Bible is derided as a source of evil; a cornucopia of superstition leading to suffering. Many modern critics are dogmatic, inflexible totalitarian ideologues who can be referred to as radical secularistic fundamentalists. Whereas in the past, anti-Christian rants were confined to isolated individuals, by the 1960’s-1970’s secular dogmatists had gained control (by design?) of much of media as well as academic and governmental institutions.

To cite one example, Robert Reich, former U.S. Labor Secretary (Clinton Admin.) publically ranted, “The greatest danger we face in the 21st century is not terrorism, not disease or poverty or famine; but religious belief by those who declare blind allegiance ... to a higher authority.” Still, loyalty to God’s Word is preferable to radical reliance on the Communist Manifesto or Mein Kampf or Mao’s Red Book or the editorial pages of the New York Times. From the “Enlightenment” to these modern minions of Marxist socialism and atheism, millions have been murdered.

A real danger for Christians are the new pop-atheists, such as Richard Dawkins who seconded Reich’s vitriol. All these cheered the recent Washington Post editorial that claimed that religious people were “largely poor, uneducated and easy to command.” For these “educated elites” all religions are the same, equally dangerous and capable of terrorism, as with Islam. An evangelical pastor is as dangerous as Osama Bin Laden; only the evil of their methods are different. The shallowness of liberalism is proof that being a fool is no bar to a university degree (Ps. 14:1, 53:1).

Men have committed crimes while waving a Christian banner but did so in violation of Christ’s teachings. No system is rightly judged by those apostate or superficial adherents who transgress that system’s most basic and important tenets. The deviant reactions in Western civilization that fostered terrorism, such as in the French Revolution and the horrors of the 20th century: National Socialism (Hitler’s Wars and holocaust) the even greater carnage from International Socialism (Stalin and Mao) were in part reactions to dead, spiritless, liberalized

Christianity. The utopian promises of Marx, Lenin, Hitler and other atheist and socialist despots have shed more innocent blood than all the wars of the previous one-thousand years.

There have been periods in history where the lawless, masquerading as Christians, committed acts of cruelty and murder, such as in the Spanish Inquisition that ran from the 1470's to the 1830's. There were also "witch hunts" primarily during the Dark Ages, and thousands of lives were lost to this deviancy. Yet these dim in the blaze of the deliberate, systematic mass-murders by orthodox secular fundamentalists, fascists and atheists dutifully following the tenets of Marxism. The teachings of their religion called for the liquidation from the State of Jews, Christians and their Bibles. The human carnage that required the opening of mass graves from 1917 until today only abated in Western Europe when the USSR unraveled in the 1980's. The slaughter of Christians and Jews is unabated elsewhere as in Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Syria, China, North Korea, Indonesia, etc.

Refining the art of the "Big Lie," invented by Stalinists and adopted by the Nazis in the early 20th century, New Atheists, such as Richard Dawkins, have made outrageous claims such as, "There is not the smallest evidence that atheism influences people to do bad things." Lenin, Stalin and Mao murdered millions on the Marxian altar of radical atheism. When "God is dead" so are His commandments against false witness and murder.

As Christian Americans, we serve our Lord when we counter the Historical Revisionism that robs our children of the truth in the founding of America and the very real danger from radical secularism's anti-Christian campaigns, such as with the Anti-Christian Lawyers Union (ACLU). We must insist that the public square remain open and available for the sharing of Christ's gospel to the lost.

Keep looking up.

Principal Source: "The Politically Incorrect Guide to the Bible." Author: Robert J. Hutchenson. Publisher: Regnery, Washington, DC 20001 (1 Massachusetts Ave, NW), www.Regnery.com.



In Everything Give Thanks

By Nancy Long

1 Chron. 23:30 -- *"And to stand every morning to **thank and praise** the Lord, and likewise at even."*

Psalm 69:30 -- *I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify Him with **thanksgiving**."*

Psalm 92:1 -- *"It is a good thing to **give thanks** unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto Thy name, O most high."*

Psalm 95:2a -- *"Let us come before His presence with **thanksgiving**"*

Psalm 100:4 -- *"Enter into His gates with **thanksgiving**, and into His courts with praise: **be thankful** unto Him, and bless His name."*

Psalm 107:1 -- *"O **give thanks** unto the Lord, for He is good: for His mercy endureth forever."*

2 Cor. 9:15 -- *"**Thanks** be unto God for His unspeakable gift."*

Eph. 5:20 -- *"**Giving thanks always** for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

Col. 3:15 -- *"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body, and **be ye thankful**."*

Col. 3:17 -- *"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, **giving thanks** to God and the Father by Him."*

1 Thess. 5:18 -- *"In every thing **give thanks**: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."*

Expressing gratitude, giving utterance to thankfulness, is something Scripture clearly exhorts us to do. I've listed several verses above, but there's so many more the Bible is replete with them. Those of us who name the name of Christ, and who have been born again, are being admonished in these Words from God, to give thanks unto the Lord continually, in **all** things, at **all** times. Why though? For what reason are we directed to harvest a grateful and appreciative heart? Why is it so important? Why is it so imperative and necessary? To me, the obvious answer is that it's God's desire in Christ Jesus regarding us, and it has been purposed and determined by Him not only for the well being and profit of His children, but also for His glory (Rom. 8:28).

It's easy to be happy in times of plenty. Cheerful speech rolls off our tongues, it seems, when all is well with the world. When we're comfortable, safe, and warm, it's simple to express words of appreciation, praise, and joy. What, though, about those tough times? Jesus told us we'd have troubling days, you know "*In the world ye shall have tribulation*" (John 16:33a).

Then what about those days, weeks, months perhaps, when one doesn't "**feel**" grateful? What about those times when there's been a job loss, no money is coming in, and there is a family full of mouths to feed? What about those unplanned times of sickness? Maybe there's been an accident in which long term hospitalization is required or maybe a rebellious child, "**your**" child your hands are tied you have no control what about that? Possibly there's recently been the tragic experience of the death of a loved one, which is so final so very final. Are we, even then, to "*stand every morning and every evening and thank and praise the Lord*? Are we to "*praise the name of God with a song, and magnify Him with thanksgiving*" (1 Chron. 23:30 and Psalm 69:30)?

Those struggling seasons **will** come we've been warned, and aloneness will attempt to surround and envelop but we must cling to the rest of that verse in John 16:33b, "*be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*" Another promise on which we can stand, trust and be assured, "*I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee*" (Heb. 13:5b). God, the omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, almighty, sovereign One the One who has created all things, sustains all things, and has providentially purposed all things to be loves us with an everlasting love, and is working "**all things**" out for our good and His glory (Rom. 8:28)! Trust His heart and His timing!!

We humans are not "naturally" inclined toward "feelings" of praise and gratitude and thanksgiving especially when circumstances are not lining up exactly as planned; hence the directives in the aforementioned Scriptures. Our fleshly tendencies are, by our very nature, to "*think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think*" (Rom. 12:3b). Consequently we must **choose** and make a **conscious** decision to exhibit these attributes, and with the help of the Holy Spirit, we **can** do all things through Christ's strength (Phil. 4:13).

A thankful heart happens not by chance. It is intentionally cultivated and sown, and over time, little by little, it **will** reap the benefits. Contrary to popular belief, **being** thankful has nothing to do with **feeling** thankful. True gratitude is a matter of believing and recognizing that God indeed is sovereign. It's the assurance of knowing that my life and yours, as well as the situations He provides, are in His hands, and in His control, as He works all things together to conform us to the image of Jesus Christ.

Hear me, my Defender friends Does this not excite you? Aren't these truths amazingly wonderful?!?!?

God has clearly instructed us Christians: "***In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you***" (1 Thess. 5:18) not "**for**" everything, but "**in**" everything!!

Gratitude from the depths of the heart is the ability to see the grace of God each moment of each day, no matter what the path of life escorts in.

Happy Thanksgiving!!



GEORGE H. W. BUSH, 1990, THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION



The historic observance of a day of thanksgiving at Plymouth, in 1621, was one of many occasions on which our ancestors paused to acknowledge their dependence on the mercy and favor of Divine Providence.... Our "errand in the wilderness," begun more than 350 years ago, is not yet complete.... We seek lasting solutions to the problems facing our nation and pray for a society "with liberty and justice for all," I call upon the American people to...gather together in homes and places of worship on that day of thanks to affirm by their prayers and their gratitude the many blessings God has bestowed upon us.

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.

The Defender is available, free of charge, on audio CD.
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airing Monday through Friday during morning drive time
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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 church.

Adult Sunday School	10:15 AM
Sunday Morning Worship	11:00 AM

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Let us know if you would like one.