

The DEFENDER - May 2015

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

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IN DEFENSE OF TRUTH radio broadcast.



From the Director's Desk: Taking it to the Streets

As I write this, people are taking to the streets and rioting and looting in my hometown of Baltimore, Maryland. Some say it's a result of police brutality. Others say it's a result of institutional racism. I'm not buying any of it. At least not to any great degree. Yes, there are a few bad cops out there, just as there are some bad preachers. Every profession has its share of incompetents. There's also racism in America today. On both sides! That should not come as a shock to anyone. But I submit to you that what is happening in Baltimore right now is a consequence of systemic liberalism. It's what happens when you continue to elect socialist progressive liberals to public office. The Bible calls it reaping what you sow. The citizens of Baltimore who claim that they've been oppressed by the "system" need to look in the mirror. They're the ones who continue to elect the liberal Democrats year after year after year. I'm not necessarily picking on the Democrats, but Baltimore (and Maryland) have been one party political machines for decades. Until we're given a choice, there's only one place to look. The system which they claim is out to get them was put in place by them in the first place. I guess what Rev. Jeremiah Wright said (although for different reasons) was correct. The chickens are coming home to roost. Lawlessness is not restricted to just Syria and Iraq. And terrorism is not limited to radical Muslims.

We have a vacuum of leadership in America. And where there's a vacuum there will be opportunists moving in to fill the void. In this case, those who fill the void generally aren't wearing white hats and riding in on white horses. So where are the leaders? Where's the authority? Who's in charge here? I know the unbelievers out there are tired of hearing about the removal of God from the public square but that's where all of this started. Dr. John Dekker, who started In Defense of Truth 52 years ago, said liberalism began when people started taking liberties with God's Word. From there it was a fairly quick progression to taking prayer out of schools and the Ten Commandments out of our courtrooms. Because of legalized abortion there is no longer sanctity to life and now the Supreme Court of the land is going to rule whether or not marriage is between one man and one woman, as the Word of God states.

Where is the authority in our country today? Two thousand years ago the Christians in the city of Corinth were boasting about the wisdom of their leaders and teachers. Their pride made them value the messenger more than the message. But the apostle Paul said to them in 1 Corinthians 3:18 "if any one among you seems to be wise in this world let him become a fool that he may be wise." We're not to put our trust in anyone but God. We're to assert Him and proclaim Him. We start with Him because He's the ultimate and final authority. And how do we know this? Because God, in the Person of Jesus Christ, defeated death, the final enemy. While Jesus was here He never said He would fix our problems on earth. Instead, He said He would provide a way to heaven for us. When He arose from the dead, bringing Himself back to life to overcome death, He showed us who the ultimate authority is. Life on earth is temporary. But eternity lasts forever. One day we all are going to die. Isn't it comforting to know that we don't have to rely on any government programs to get us to the Promised Land? Because of the authority of Jesus Christ we can have the most glorious and just future imaginable. Now that's something worth taking to the streets!

Rev. David Lewis

The Woman Who Rides the Beast

Part III - The Emergence of the Antichrist

By Robert Luthardt, Sr.

A glimpse of the coming of the Antichrist and the degree of his ruthlessness and power is represented in the lives of history's dictators and there are many. The 20th Century produced three of the most evil. Mao Tse Tung, Josef Stalin and Adolph Hitler, who slaughtered millions (mostly their own people). Two were professed Marxist-atheists. Hitler added religion to his brand of socialism.

In the early days of the rise of Nazism, the adherents actually (and falsely) claimed to be Christians. Historian Peter Viereck published his book, "Meta Politics: The roots of the Nazi mind" during the beginning years of Nazism in Germany. Viereck's work was an early insightful critique of Hitler's book "Mein Kampf" (My Battle) that led many to speculate that Hitler was the Antichrist. Nazism, Viereck noted, was effectively a revival of ancient paganistic occultism as founded in Nordic myths. These myths even had an Edenic garden called Hyperboria. As the legend goes, an Aryan race was spawned in Hyperboria by gods visiting the earth. Nazi propagandists used this mythology, epitomized by the ancient symbol of the swastika, to capture the minds of Germany's youth who came to view Hitler as a messiah. There are found in film archives depictions of German children praying, praising and singing before messiah-like pictures of Adolph Hitler.

Hitler was known to be enamored with the Germanic mysticism of Guido von List and Jorg Lanz. He surrounded himself with astrologers and mystics such as Rudolph Hess (Deputy Fuhrer) and Heinrich Himmler. Hitler came to believe he was the incarnation of the Stark von Oben, sent by providence to create a thousand year Reich. The most sinister emanation of this militaristic racial religion was the establishment of a racial aristocracy of a black-clad killing machine, Hitler's fanatical bodyguards called the SS.

This past history is indicative of the danger facing America. It is alarming that America's government schools have banned God, prayer and the Bible from even being mentioned. Scripture reading and prayer have been replaced with pornographic sex education, Earth Day celebrations and Spring and Winter breaks to replace Easter and Christmas. One commandment is allowed: toleration of all diverse viewpoints and deviant lifestyles and speaking against these is politically incorrect hate speech subject to punishment by the Human Rights Commission. There is one sin, any mention of Jesus Christ or His teachings. By the time the coming New World Order is in full operation as a political and religious fusion (represented by the woman astride the beast) an Inquisition such as plagued the remnant church of Jesus Christ in medieval times will be in effect. This evil will have the blessing of apostatized Christianity (Revelation 17).

Our Lord cautioned His disciples to prepare for hatred from all nations "for My name's sake" (Mark 13:14).

John was told that the woman who rides the beast is a city where the end times false religion will emanate. This city cannot be ancient Babylon in Iraq which was demolished and

abandoned 2300 years ago. The False Prophet, who will be headquartered in this city, will proclaim that there is no salvation from any other source or any other city. At some point, the Antichrist will alight there and demand worship as God such as occurred in ancient Rome when the Caesars declared themselves to be deity.

One of the Lord's clearest and plainest commands throughout scripture forbids worship to anyone or anything but God Himself. All false worship, including the slightest deviations from His Word, God regards as damning sin. The Lord's own chosen nation repeatedly fell into God's disfavor and was punished by God for either ignoring His commands or for insincere and improper worship. The woman who rides is therefore excoriated by God when He labels her the "mother of harlots and abominations" (Ezekiel 16:36-42; Revelation 17:5).

The false concept of images made of Jesus or of a saint are merely revered as objects of artistic value will flourish in the last days. Artistic appreciation is irrelevant when God clearly forbids ANY such productions, period. Merely harboring the thought or plan to erect an image is a breaking of the commandments. Antichrist will produce and display an image of himself and demand worship (Lev. 26:1; Deut. 27:15; Rev. 13:14-15, 14:9-11).

At the time John received the visitation from the Lord on Patmos, religious and political power were unified in the Roman Empire and also in Israel which was then a theocracy. For John at that time the vision of a scarlet-clad harlot toasting Satan with a golden cup filled with the Christian blood of martyrs must have been revolting. Even today the contemplation of the existence of a counterfeit Christian church with apostates at the helm is deplorable and detestable.

It was Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn who recorded in his book, "The Gulag Archipelago," which was an exposition of the horrors of the illegal interment of innocents during Stalin's reign of terror, that atheistic communism was a voracious dragon devouring a whole nation. Jonah-like, Solzhenitsyn proved undigestable and he was freed from Russia. His greatest lament was that after the usual purging of leadership, KGB agents were installed as leaders in the Russian Orthodox Church. He made the charge, "A spectacle not seen in 1900 years, atheists running the church." He said the darkness engulfed Russia because "we had forgotten God."

Sadly, we observe in America an expanding cadre of Christian leaders taking unwarranted liberties with unambiguous commands of God especially in areas of morality. Christians are plainly and clearly commanded to disassociate from apostates and to leave denominations that have departed from the faith (II Cor. 6:14-18; Rev. 18:4).

Just as in early centuries, true believers set themselves apart by refusing to worship self-declared gods such as Roman Emperors and any man-made images. Christians who refused state-sponsored religious rituals were deemed to be a seditious element and disloyal to the ruling regime. As alleged antisocial elements, Christians were tortured and slaughtered as traitors. But rather than extirpating the fledging movement, "the blood of the martyrs became the seed of the Church."

Persecuted Christianity was all that John knew and he himself was an exile to the barren isle of Patmos for his witness to the words and life of Jesus Christ. The emperor Constantine effectively ended the persecution in 300 AD when he proclaimed he was a Christian. Historians are

not unanimous on the veracity of that claim. God alone knows. We do know that over time pagan deities and their observances were renamed and became “Christian” holy days and saint worship. “Adoration” of saints replaced the old deities and Mary was elevated to a degree of veneration worthy of a goddess. The ancient practice of burning incense, processions with carved images, pilgrimages to shrines and other practices prevalent in pagan worship crept into visible Christianity.

In language that cannot be misinterpreted, the Bible foretells that Antichrist will declare himself to be God. The entire world – Marxists, Maoists, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, atheists, professing Christians, all faiths – will accept his astonishing claim. The secret of his power will be his new religion that will pose as both spiritual and scientific. This new pseudo-scientific religion will promise to lead all mankind into realization of its own “deity.” This is the basic lie of the serpent in the Garden. Perhaps Antichrist will exhibit some psychic power or perform a false miracle that turns nominal professing “Christians” from giving glory to God alone.

Worldwide delusion will one day be so pervasive and the seduction so great that even the elect would be deceived were that possible (Mark 13:22).

As Christians let us not be fearful, which God condemns, but joyful in looking for, in anticipation of, that blessed hope and glorious appearing of Jesus Christ our Lord and our Savior (Rev. 21:8; Titus 2:13).

Keep looking up.

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Does Jesus Care?

By Nancy Long

*"Does Jesus care when my heart is pained,
Too deeply for mirth or song;
As the burdens press, and the cares distress,
And the way grows weary and long?*

*Does Jesus care when my way is dark
With a nameless dread and fear?
As the daylight fades into deep night shades,
Does He care enough to be near?*

*Does Jesus care when I've tried and failed
To resist some temptation strong;
When for my deep grief I find no relief,
Tho my tears flow all the night long?*

*Does Jesus care when I've said goodbye
To the dearest on earth to me?
And my sad heart aches till it nearly breaks -
Is it aught to Him? **Does He see?***

Chorus

*Oh, Yes, He cares; I know He cares,
His heart is touched with my grief;
When the days are weary, the long nights dreary;
I know my Savior cares."*

The words to this hymn were written by an American Methodist minister by the name of Frank E. Graff, who lived around the turn of the last century. Joseph Lincoln Hall later composed the music.

Even though this hymn is rarely sung anymore, the question in the title, **"Does Jesus Care?"** quite probably is spoken by at least one person, and most likely more somewhere in the world, each and every day.

We here at the Cub Hill Bible Presbyterian Church, last month, attended a memorial service for a beautiful little girl, who was just over 4 years old. She was in this world running, playing, happy, healthy, and energetic one day, and just four days later, she was ushered into eternity. **Does Jesus care??** Her family, as one would expect, is grieving, shocked, confused, and can't understand. **Does Jesus care?** Other loved

ones, friends, and neighbors aren't able to find adequate words to console, or even to make sense of it all. **Does Jesus care?** Is God really present, much less intimately concerned or involved, at these times when there are so many aching and hurting hearts, and ever so many who are carrying such deep, deep pain? **Does Jesus care?** Often the weight of agonizing pain and suffering that accompanies life here on this earth, and also those uncontrollable tears, are just too heavy to bear alone. **Where is God? Is He there? Is He here? Does He really, really care?**

Much of the time, questions and doubts arise about what we thought we knew about God especially when something happens that's totally out of our human control, and makes not a bit of human sense.

I've written these words before, but I believe they can't be heard too much. Nothing not one thing, speaks more directly, and truthfully, and certainly gives more comfort, consolation, spiritual solace and peace, than God's Word.

1 Peter 5:7 -- "Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you,"

**Psalms 55:22 -- Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee:
He shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.**

Matt. 6:25-34 -- "Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; not yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall He not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

Matt. 28:20b - "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."

Hebrews 13:5b -- "..... I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

Does Jesus care? This question mouthed by many throughout history, has been answered in God's Holy Word, the Bible. Do we not see it? Do we not want to see it, simply because we desire things to be "our" way? We humans are the created ones God is the Creator. God has made everything in the universe, and is, as well, sustaining it all. God's ways and thoughts are higher than ours, clearly beyond our understanding (Isaiah 55:9). Why do we continue to try and figure it out?

Humanly we will never, never, ever understand or comprehend the ways of God because He is God and we are not. He is the Potter we are the clay. He is molding and shaping we are here only to accept His gentle, or sometimes not so gentle, fashioning, as He continues to chip away at our character, forming us into the beautiful image of Christ.

"This world is not our home we're just passing through", so goes the song. Nothing tangible in this life belongs to any of us. We are allowed to touch, to grasp and to love but only for as long as our Lord knows it's working together for our ultimate good (Rom. 8:28). Everything, as well as everyone we hold valuable or cherish, must be let go in God's time. ***"Hold everything in your hands lightly, otherwise it hurts when God pries your fingers open"*** (Corrie Ten Boom -- Holocaust survivor).

Job 1:21 -- "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord".

Prov. 3:5-6 -- "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding, In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct thy paths"

Psalms 34:8 -- "O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in Him"

I began this article with a question, **"Does Jesus care?"** I am praying for all of you who are reading, that you have been given the faith to believe, and to agree with confidence:

***"O, yes, He cares; I know He cares, His heart is touched with my grief;
When the days are weary, the long nights dreary,
I know my Savior cares."***

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.
Please contact us if you would like to receive a copy by mail.

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WRBS AM 1230 - Sunday at 6:30 a.m.

Listen Online: <http://www.InDefenseOfTruth.org/broadcast> for details.

We are now on internet radio: www.evangelismradio.com (various times).

Listen also to IDOT's "Moment of Truth"

airing Monday through Friday during morning drive time
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!

Adult Sunday School	10:15 AM
Sunday Morning Worship	11:00 AM
Tuesday Bible Study	1:30 PM
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 PM