

The DEFENDER - August 2015

“... 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: To God Be The Glory

It's all about Him. We like to think this life is about us, but it's not. John the Baptist, in speaking of Jesus, said, "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30). It's no different today. But whereas John was willing to do what he said, we Christians (especially American Christians), find it very difficult to humble ourselves. We battle pride on a daily basis. And often lose. And on those occasions when we are able to set it aside, we're quick to tell someone about it.

What's going on in the world today is all part of God's great plan of redemption. His sovereign will is providentially ruling the universe and all that is in it. As much as we here in America like to believe that the US of A is the apple of God's eye, that simply is not true. The last I looked, that description was meant for the Lord's people Israel (Zechariah 2:8). Christians in America like to point to 2 Chronicles 7:14 as being our national salvation. It's not. God was addressing Solomon, King of Israel, in that verse, telling him that if the **Hebrew** people would humble themselves and pray, and seek the Lord while turning from their wicked ways, **then** God would forgive their sin and heal their land. It's a great verse, no doubt, but not meant for America. God's promises are for Israel. Having said that, we in America (who have been blessed **mightily** by God), would also do well to humble ourselves and turn from our wicked ways. We need to lead the way in speaking out against the sins of abortion (and the sale of murdered baby body parts) as well as same sex marriage. Up until now, only the Roman Catholic Church has had a major presence in opposing the pro-death crowd. And at the end of the day, only those Christians who care more about the truth, and not their tax-exempt status or political correctness, will stand for marriage being **only** between one man and one woman.

The end is coming and God's focus will continue to be on the most precious piece of real estate in His creation: Israel. King David exhorts us to pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6). As the enemies of the Jews continue to call for their annihilation God will continue to keep His hedge about them. All the rhetoric and WMD in the world cannot and will not keep God from His purposes of saving His people (see the coming Battle of Gog and Magog in Ezekiel 38-39). God has spoken of His intentions through His prophets of old (Jeremiah 32:38, Ezekiel 37:27); they (Israel) will be My people and I will be their God.

God's will **will** be done. Our challenge is to lay aside **our** will in favor of His. If you need an example to follow, read Luke 22:39-46. We should want nothing more than to be in the will of God in this life, and in the presence of God in the next. He has a plan for each of us, one which glorifies Him and benefits us. What more can we say, but to God be the glory!

Rev. David Lewis

The End of the World

Part 1 – Last Days Signs

By Robert Luthardt, Sr.

“The disciples came unto Him privately saying ... what shall be the sign of thy coming, and the END of the world?” (Matt. 24:3).

Jesus prefaced His response by first issuing a warning to them, “take heed that no man deceive you” because, “many false prophets shall rise and shall deceive many.” Jesus further reinforced this with, “and there shall arise false CHRISTS...” (vs. 11, 24).

The Apostle Paul was likewise very specific when he wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly that in the ‘LATTER TIMES,’ some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to SEDUCING SPIRITS and doctrines of devils...” (1 Tim. 4:1; Acts 20:29-30). Now we find in “Christian” bookstores “channeled messages” from authors who claim to actually hear “Jesus” dictating to them (i.e., “God Calling,” “Jesus Calling,” et.al.; Deut. 18:11; Lev. 19:31, 20:6; Acts 16:16-18).

Jesus gave His disciples many signs and said, “When YOU SEE all these things, know that it is NEAR, even at the doors” (Matt. 24:33). While Jesus did say, “of that day and hour knoweth no man” (vs. 36), He nevertheless followed that with yet more signs (vs. 37-41) and then gave His explicit command, “WATCH therefore...” (vs. 42) and “be ye also READY” (vs. 44) and “Blessed is that servant, whom his lord, when he COMETH, shall find so doing” (vs. 46). Later, after giving them the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, He commanded them to, “WATCH therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh” (Matt. 25:13). Since the full consummation of our salvation requires the return of Christ for His church, its importance should never be depreciated (Phil. 3:20-21; 1 Pet. 5:4; 1 John 3:2-3).

What would the Apostle Paul say to Rick Warren who fallaciously stated that Christ told His disciples “The details of my return are none of your business” (Pg. 285, “The Purpose Driven Life”)? Would Paul, “count him as an enemy,” or merely “admonish him as a brother” (2 Thess. 3:14-15)? Or chastise him to be “Scripture Driven”? The Apostle Peter would agree (Gal. 2:11-16).

Our Lord Jesus’s words enlighten us to be mindful of the great blessing of His return for us. His second coming, He offered as an effectual palliative for troubled hearts (John 14:1-3). Angels comforted the Apostles referencing Christ’s return (Acts 1:11) as did Paul (1 Thess. 4:16-18) and also the Apostle John (Rev. 1:7-8).

These and all the foregoing verses are heaven-sent treasures of truth that are our earthly possessions upon which our eternal hope is founded. It is most definitely our business to comfort one another with, “the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Tim. 4:8; Titus 2:13).

The Holy Spirit, through Jesus's half-brother Jude (vs. 24) assured all the adopted children of God (Ep. 1:4-7) that He would "keep you from falling" because, "God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth" (2 Thess. 2:13). This is in diametric opposition to any hint of works righteousness where man must contribute to his salvation. To be IN Christ, we must FIRST be "HIS workmanship" (Ep. 2:10) having received the earnest of our salvation already won for us on the Cross of Calvary (John 1:12-13, 3:16; Col. 2:13; Phil. 1:6, 2:13).

Having been drawn to Christ by the Father (John 6:44) we are assured of an eternal home (John 10:28, 11:25) and though we die, Christ's finished work and divine authority guarantees we will never perish (John 3:16). There is more to remember (Rom. 6:23). Some of those living in the day of Christ's return shall not experience physical death but will be "changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye" (1 Cor. 15:51-52) when the "times of the gentiles" be fulfilled (Luke 21:24; Rom. 11:25) and the "time of Jacob's trouble" (Jer. 30:7) begins (the seventieth week of Daniel – 9:24-27).

The Apostle John wrote of Jesus's comforting words to Martha when He confirmed His power over death. Christ said, "I am the resurrection and the life, he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall NEVER die" (eternally, John 11:25). The Holy Spirit guided the Apostle Paul to give other details regarding Christians that are already "asleep" saying, "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again," then those who have died in Jesus "will God bring with Him" (1 Thess. 4:14).

Again, as John recorded Christ's promise to "come again" to receive His Bride to take them home to "mansions in heaven" (John 14:1-3), Paul was enlisted to provide greater details saying, "the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be CAUGHT UP together with them to meet the Lord in the air" (1 Thess. 4:16-17). Paul then commanded, "Wherefore COMFORT one another with these words."

The foregoing verses are God-blessed assurances of eternal blessings; teaching and knowing them are most definitely EVERY believer's business. God's undeserved gift of faith (Ep. 2:8-10) is inseparable from a God-opened heart (Acts 16:14), and we may therefore rest upon the evidence faith provides (Heb. 11:1), and though we may have to die, we are "persuaded" that we will hear the trump of God (vs. 13, 16) and we can therefore "run with patience the race that is set before us" (12:1-2). Thanks to Christ's victory, we START our race from the winner's circle.

Prophecy differs considerably for those false professors (Matt. 7:21; Mark 7:6). If we interpret scripture that Christ returns before the great tribulation (Matt. 24:15-27) then great changes occur in the religious environs and institutions. A church scene devoid of born-again Bible believers will be positioned for experiencing the fulfillment of those prophecies not applicable to Christ's true church now in heaven.

Many passages predict major departures from the faith (Jude 3-4) with deception abounding when Christ comes for His Bride (2 Pet. 2:1-3; Rev. 19:7, 21:2) but the Lord promises to deliver "the godly" (2 Pet. 2:9, 3:9). Until then, believers in Christ will be in contention with the "last

days scoffers” who ask, “Where is the promise of His coming?” (2 Pet. 3:3-5). Peter described what we see today, “false prophets also among the people ... shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them...” (2 Pet. 2:1-3).

There have been many subversions of Christ’s gospel – there is room for but one example. In 1923, 1,300 out of 10,000 Presbyterian ministers signed the Auburn Affirmation which was a rejection of the 1910 General Assembly’s requirement that all ministerial candidates ascribe to five Christian doctrines: Christ’s virgin birth, the inerrancy of the scriptures, the vicarious atonement of Christ, Christ’s bodily resurrection, and the authenticity of Christ’s miracles.

Arrogantly, 1,300 ministers put their signatures to an Affirmation in Auburn, NY which rejected these “five fundamentals.” The Auburn Affirmation stated in contrariness that: a statement of the inerrancy of scripture is not necessary, the virgin birth is just one theory, vicarious atonement is also one theory, Christ’s resurrection was not necessarily bodily, ordinary use of means are not miracles. All of these 1,300 were guilty of “denying the Lord that bought them” (Jude 14-19).

Many similar departures from the simplicity of the biblical faith and Christ’s gospel have littered the historical landscape, especially in the 19th and 20th centuries. Many books have been written by giants of the faith, such as B. B. Warfield, Robert Dick Wilson, J. G. Machen, Carl McIntyre, et.al. that detail the spoiling and death of seminaries and denominations.

It is small wonder that the Holy Spirit inspired Peter to write, “make your calling and election sure” (2 Pet. 1:10) that we may fortify ourselves against an ever expanding spiritual malignancy regarding the person of Christ, His finished work on the cross, and saddest and most dangerous of all, the denigration of Christ’s blood of atonement. Until Jesus Christ comes for His church, we must stand against those whose Father is the Devil (John 8:44; Acts 20:28-30).

Scripture warns that the last days will reveal so great a “falling away” (2 Thess. 2:1-3) that our Lord asked, “When the Son of man cometh shall He find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:8).

And so the Lord said, “Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning. Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you, I say unto all: Watch” (Mark 13:35-37).

Thank God the return of our Lord is most assuredly OUR business.

Keep looking up.



The Wonder of it All

By Nancy Long

*There's the wonder of sunset at evening, the wonder as sunrise I see;
But the wonder of wonders that thrills my soul
Is the wonder that God loves me.*

*There's the wonder of springtime and harvest, The sky, the stars, the sun;
But the wonder of wonders that thrills my soul
Is a wonder that's only begun.*

*There's the wonder of God's revelation, The Word Who dwelt amongst men;
But the wonders of wonders that thrills my soul
Is that Jesus is coming again.*

Chorus -- *O, the wonder of it all! The wonder of it all!
Just to think that God loves me.
O, the wonder of it all! The wonder of it all!
Just to think that God loves me.*

(Words and music by George Beverly Shea)

Nehemiah 9:6 -- ***"Thou, even Thou, art Lord alone; Thou hast made
heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host,
the earth, and all things that are therein,
the seas, and all that is therein, and Thou preservest them all;
and the host of heaven worshippeth Thee.***

Job 7:17-18 -- ***"What is man, that Thou magnify him? and that Thou
shouldest set Thine heart upon Him? And that Thou shouldest
visit him every morning, and try him every moment?"***

Psalms 8:4 -- ***What is man, that Thou are mindful of him?
and the son of man, that Thou visiteth him.?"***

Psalms 144:3 -- ***"Lord, what is man, that Thou taketh knowledge of him!
or the son of man, that Thou maketh account of him!"***

Acts 17:24-25 -- "God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that He is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though He needed any thing, seeing He giveth to all life, and breath, and all things,"

Hebrews 2:6b -- "What is man, that Thou are mindful of him? or the son of man, that Thou visiteth him?"

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth His handiwork" (Psalm 19:1). We see, within this world around us, the amazing beauty of God's Creation. Who isn't in awe of it?! The impressive colors, the particulars and details, the magnitude, the enormity of it, the sky's vastness with countless stars, the ocean's abyss, the inhabitants of the earth, sky, and sea. The majesty of God's creation is all around, surrounding and enveloping like a warm blanket. **All** things were created by God's supreme and divine touch. He is almighty, all powerful, and all knowing!! The handiwork of God who can describe it accurately, or really, who is able to define it at all? There are no amount of words to express it adequately or appropriately by faith we believe.

There are wonders beyond measure that one is able to see with the physical eye, from sunrise to sunset please, don't miss them. But the wonder of all wonders, says the song writer, is that the sovereign God of the universe, has set His love upon us that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Rom. 5:8). He loves us unworthy, despicable creatures that we are, with deceitful and desperately wicked hearts (Jer. 17:9) He loves us. Who can fathom such a profound, and in some ways, mysterious, love?! Who can in reality, understand? Again, by faith we believe.

Behold, the wondrous mercy of God!! Behold, His wondrous grace!! Behold, His magnificent and amazing salvation!! The Sovereign One of the universe cares for you, and He cares for me individually and has a specific purpose for each and every one of us (Psalm 139). I pray we all intentionally contemplate these thoughts, allowing them to penetrate, to sink in, and to pierce, the depth of our hearts, the very core of our beings. Take time, and permit yourself to be filled with the truth that the Creator/Sustainer of everything loves you. May the **wonder** of it all thrill your soul!!

Thank you, Lord, for giving us another day in which to rejoice and be glad (Psalm 118:24). Thank you even more, for giving us Jesus, whose grace is beyond degree and more than sufficient.

"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:9).

" O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good: for His mercy endureth forever" (Psalm 10

Let God

When our country was founded, our Lord God was there.
When they composed our Constitution, it was done with fervent prayer.
This great nation was founded on God's rules, justice and might.
How can we possibly ever prosper when God is pushed out of sight?

Christians, is your heart right, do you yearn for yesterday?
Would you like to see honesty and righteousness back in government to stay?
Take your petitions to the Lord, don't just murmur and complain.
He can renew and cleanse our land and wash away every stain.

Your prayers He will answer if they come from a contrite heart.
He can do the impossible, but you must do your part.
America needs our help today, so pray and take a stand.
We must do our Christian duty and fight for our land.

Renew your walk with the Lord, make Him your number one.
Then walk each day in the light that comes from God's own Son.
Set the example so others can see, the love of God in you.
Show them how love and faith can accomplish what nothing else can do.

There is a rising tide of hate, throughout the world today.
They are doing all they know how, to take our rights away.
So Christians, it's up to you and I to take it to the Lord.
This is a battle that can only be won by God's almighty sword.

If you and I will believe, then God can do the rest.
Let's get our lives back on track, and put Him to the test.
We were once a Christian Nation, when men had God in their soul.
Let's invite Him back where He belongs, and let God be in control.

Hank Arthur

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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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
Outdoor Movie Night (Aug. 14th)	8:30 PM
9/11 God & Country Service (Sept. 11th)	7:00 PM