

The DEFENDER - January 2016

“... 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: What Next?

God has blessed us with another year. Happy 2016 everyone. Someone once said there's nothing new under the sun (Ecclesiastes 1:9), but every generation has its own set of characters and events. Three issues worth keeping our eyes on as this year unfolds, in their order of increasing importance, are the American presidential election, the global terror war, and the apostasy within the Christian church.

The presidential election this year has captured the attention and imagination of many because for the first time in memory, there are several outsiders who are making noises, literally, and in the polls. Donald Trump leads in most polls and sound bites, and Dr. Ben Carson and Carly Fiorina have added an element of diversity to a here-to-fore all-white male Republican Party. Americans throughout the land appear ready for change inside the Beltway. They're tired of the establishment on both sides of the aisle. This election is seen by many as being the most important of our lifetime.

The terror war has truly become global, crossing national borders into many nations, including our own. When will it be stopped is a question that many are asking. I can't predict the future other than to say that it **will** come to an end. There is no mention anywhere in Scripture of Muslims (jihadists or otherwise), taking over the world. God is well aware of their presence, however, and is bringing many of them to a saving faith in Jesus. This is a perfect opportunity to practice loving and praying for our enemies, as Jesus clearly exhorted us to do (Matthew 5:44). We're to be equal opportunity evangelists, sharing the life-saving, life-changing message of the gospel with all whom we meet.

The development which needs our closest attention, however, is the apostasy of the Church. Scripture is clear that the end times scenario includes a world-wide move toward ecumenism. It's the opinion of the liberal church that the Kingdom of God cannot come to pass until all Christians come into the unity of the faith. Many who support this movement even suggest that we can reclaim our culture and our country by crossing doctrinal lines and joining with people of all faiths to bring this about. Many are compromising to join the likes of Glenn Beck and David Barton in an effort to build the Kingdom of God on earth. People like James Dobson, John Hagee, Kirk Cameron, and Tim LaHaye, among others, have joined with Mormons and Catholics and Seventh Day Adventists to make this possible. 2016 will give us a clearer picture on all these happenings.

Rev. David Lewis

The End of the World

Part VI – Resurrection and Rapture

By Robert Luthardt, Sr.

The patriarch Job looked up from his pain, suffering, and sorrow and asked, “If a man die, shall he live again?” (Job 14:14). Job exemplifies all of mankind with our ups and downs and alternating times of hope and despair. If this life is all there is, then “we are of all men most miserable” (1 Cor. 15:19). Thanks be to God, there is infinitely more for all who believe in and trust the Lord Jesus Christ—resurrection and return (John 3:16; Rom 10:9-10, 13).

God’s Word tells of a future event when true believers will be “...caught up...to meet the Lord IN THE AIR: and so...ever be with the Lord” (1 Thes. 4:16-17). Other scriptures depict for believers a degree of happiness such as that of a bride on her wedding day. When the Lord comes (unannounced—like a thief, 1 Thes. 5:2-6) then believers asleep in the grave shall be raised and those then alive will be translated to be with the Lord forever.

The Church, caught up to be with the Lord, are those who have lived and died having received the undeserved gift of grace through faith in Jesus Christ’s finished work alone and will be resurrected in incorruptibility (1 Cor. 15:51-52). Even now the Christian life in this present world is unique, the rewards are unique, and the future blessed hope is unique (Ep. 2:1-10). When this interim period of centuries of freely-flowing grace ends (when the last of God’s adopted children is called, Ep. 1:4-14), God will take (as with Enoch) the “body of Christ”—the Church—to an eternal home in heaven (John 14:1-3; Rom. 12:5; 1 Cor. 12:27; Ep. 4:12; Col. 1:24).

God created Adam, the head of our race, to live forever if he obeyed. He rebelled; death and God’s curse resulted (Gen. 2:17, 3:14-19). Our first parents were banished from the Garden and the Tree of Life (vs. 22-24).

God demonstrated sin’s ultimate cost when He shed blood, thereby taking the life of innocent animals to make “coats of skins” (vs. 21) to be typical of the blood and the sin covering to be provided by the coming “seed of the woman,” the “Lamb of God who taketh away the sin of the world” (Gen. 3:15; John 1:29; 1 Cor. 5:7; 1 Pet. 1:18-20). The blood of this innocent “Passover Lamb,” applied to the doorposts of the heart, God employs to have mercy on each of His adopted children (Ex. 12:13; Matt. 26:28; Rom. 9:15-18; Heb. 9:12-14; Rev. 1:5).

God’s grace appeared early in human history. God took Enoch to heaven without dying (Gen. 5:24; Heb. 11:5-6), and Noah was saved from worldwide judgment (Gen. 6:8; Heb. 11:7). With Enoch, God exemplified mortality, putting on immortality (1 Cor. 15:53-54), and Enoch prophesied of a great host of Adam’s race being translated to heaven (Jude 14).

Why was Noah not translated? Scripture points out two worldwide judgments upon earth and mankind because of unrestrained rebellion and wickedness—The Flood (past) and the Great Tribulation (future, Dan. 12:1; Matt. 24:21). The Lord Jesus Christ compared Noah’s flood

with the Great Tribulation (Matt. 24:37-42). So Enoch is typical of Christ's Bride being "caught up" BEFORE a great judgment (Flood/Tribulation) while Noah is more typical of Israel who goes through the great tribulation but loses two-thirds of its people (Zech. 13:8-9, 14:1-4; Rom. 11:26-27).

Man's transgressions have yielded death (the wages of sin) but God's mercy yields the undeserved gift of eternal life—by grace alone as with Father Abraham (Heb. 11:8-10; Rom. 4:1-5, 13-16, 19-22).

Job was also assured that one day he would have a glorified body (Job 14:14-15a) because the cost would one day be paid by his REDEEMER, "For I know my redeemer liveth...he shall stand at the LATTER DAY upon the earth: And though ...worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh I shall see God..." (Job 19:25-27). Zechariah and other Prophets were also appraised of Christ's return to earth (Zech. 14:4; Jer. 23:5-6; Dan. 7:9, 13-14) as was also John (Rev. 14:1).

King David also expressed his faith in life everlasting by resurrection from the dead (2 Sam. 12:22-23; Ps. 23:4-6, 86:12-13). David and the Prophets of God were given assurances by the Holy Spirit that Christ would reign over Jerusalem in a reestablished State of Israel in the last days (Ez. 34:23-24, 37:25,27).

God has promised to, one day in the future, establish Christ's kingdom with a rebuilt temple standing in Jerusalem. The time is coming when the Lord Jesus Christ will reign as King of Kings—a returning King upon a restored Davidic throne (Acts 15:15-17). While many of God's chosen Old Testament saints looked forward to Christ's coming, they also anticipated a thriving culture in Jerusalem and the nation as well as personal resurrection and redemption (Ez. 37:11-13, 21-24a; Hos. 13:14; John 11:25-26). Just as Daniel recorded for Old Testament believers a coming resurrection (Dan. 12:2), so likewise Paul wrote of the grace of life after death (2 Cor. 5:8).

Scripture alludes to Old Testament saints as not going directly to heaven at death but rather to "Abraham's Bosom" (Luke 16:22-26; Heb. 11:13). This because all sinners must first have the "covering" of Christ's perfect sacrifice before entering the realm of God's perfect holiness (Rom. 3:22-28). This "way station" was deserted once the resurrected Christ "led captivity captive" (Ep. 4:8-10) victoriously to heaven for a "better resurrection" (Heb. 11:32-35).

After Christ's resurrection and ascension, Hades is never mentioned as an abode of saints. When Paul desired "to depart" it was to be with Christ (now in heaven, Phil. 1:23) because he knew that "to be absent from the body" is to "be present with the Lord" (2 Cor. 5:6-8).

All resurrection promises in the Old Testament were necessarily centered in the coming Redeemer, otherwise their preaching and faith were vain (1 Cor. 15:13-14). Jesus declared Himself the hope of mankind because His resurrection is the center of gravity for the soul (John 11:25-26). Jesus demonstrated His power over mortality by rising in an incorruptible body (1 Cor. 15:21-23). Likewise, believer's bodies will be changed when translated to heaven as was Enoch who was "taken" before the flood judgment. Later, Elijah was taken up without seeing death (2 Kings 2:11).

Jesus, through His finished work and resurrection, made possible eternal life for all re-deemed sinners—mankind’s greatest news (John 14:19). Paul, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, outlined Christ’s victory (Acts 24:14-16; 1 Cor. 15:54-58) as did Peter as well (Acts 2:22-24).

The hope of every Christian who dies in the faith is the resurrection of the body and the promise of eternal life for the soul in heaven. For those alive on earth when Christ returns for HIS BRIDE, the Apostle Paul was guided to describe their future translation, “But I would not have you to be ignorant brethren, concerning them which are asleep [already dead] that ye sorrow not...if we believe Christ died and rose again, even them which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him, for...by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive...shall not prevent [go before] them which are asleep. For 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...shall be caught up with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air and...ever be with the Lord” (1 Thes. 4:1-18). Jesus said, “The hour is coming...when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and, live” (John 5:22-27). Remember, Lazarus heard Christ’s voice (John 11:43-44a).

The trumpet of the Rapture heralds an event that will occur like a flash of lightning. Christians at that time will be “caught up” together with resurrected believers to live with Jesus in eternally glorified bodies (1 Cor. 15:51-52). “Wherefore comfort one another with these words” (1 Thes. 4:18) especially in times of trials and testings and let no theologian tell us these futuristic prophecies are “none of your business.”

Christ’s disciples asked Him when He would restore “the kingdom” (Acts 1:6-7). They well knew the Old Testament promises of the restoration of David’s throne. Christ had taught them to pray for the coming of that very kingdom (Luke 11:1-2). So the Apostles most definitely maintained the truth regarding Christ’s coming earthly kingdom (Acts 15:14-18).

The Bible teaches us that Jesus will reign on earth as a King (Rev. 20) which was prophesied by many Prophets including Isaiah (9:6-7; 11:1-12), Joel (3:15-17), Amos (9:11), and Zechariah (9:10, Dan. 7:14, Mic. 5:2). Greatest of all, we each have a home in the coming new heavens and new earth (Is. 65:17; 2 Pet. 3:10-14; Rev. 21:1-2).

So we are cautioned to be watchmen for “the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night” (unannounced). For when they say, “Peace and safety then sudden destruction cometh...(1 Thes. 5:3). But ye brethren are NOT in darkness” (5:1-4).

Keep looking up.

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Author:

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God Has a Plan for YOU

By Nancy Long

Psalm 37:23 a -- *"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord:* "

Proverbs 16:9 -- *"A man's heart deviseth his way:
but the Lord directeth his steps."*

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."*

The birth of a new year usually brings with it a sense of anticipation, excitement, and joy a new beginning a fresh start. Resolutions, promises, and good intentions, are made in abundance. Determinations are in place. Hoping, and perhaps even praying, that these vows and goals we've set for ourselves, will make us better people. We now have another chance to get rid of old bad habits and adopt new good ones. We can, and we will, (we say) mend ourselves.

Mending, though, is not the answer. The fact is, states C.H. Spurgeon, *"mending will not answer; 'you must be born again' What is wanted is that you should be made a new creature in Christ Jesus. You must be dead and buried with Christ, and risen again in Him, and then all will be well, for He will have made all things new."*

People can, and do, make plans God, though, determines the outcome. God does have a beautiful plan and a purpose for each one of His children a perfect plan and design, a prearranged sequence of intentions. He knew us before we were even formed in our mother's womb We are indeed *"fearfully and wonderfully made"* (Psalm 139:13-14).

All of us Defenders, I believe, desire a life that is pleasing to God. Do we, though, have the faith, to not only believe in, but to trust in, His perfect plan for our days the days He's purposed for us to live on this earth? Living a godly life was never promised to be easy or pain free. In fact, Scripture exhorts, *"..... In the world ye shall have tribulations: but then, be of good cheer; I have overcome the world"* (John 16:33b). What we **are** promised, though, is that **all things** pain, suffering, tears, heartache, and even persecution, perhaps unto death *"all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose"* (Romans 8:28).

God is sovereign over all things. He's created all things He sustains all things. He is King of Kings, Lord of Lords, Master Designer/Potter, and directs everything according to His own will and purposes. *"We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them"* (Eph. 2:10) and **He loves us**. Why would we not submit our lives to such a One as this?!

We, however, have not been called to stay on this narrow path in our own strength, but in **His**. The only way to endure the tests, trials, and tribulations He sends our way, and to stand strong when the storms of life begin to blow, is to know without a doubt, that we serve a God who is sovereign and in control and just to reiterate, **He loves us!!**

God is working in us to make us more like Himself, purifying our lives with trials, as gold is purified when passing through fire.

God's eternal purposes are in place. May we, who name the name of Christ, relinquish any rights we think we might have, or perhaps think we should have, and yield to His molding and shaping accept and also expect, His promised **"perfect peace"** (Isaiah 26:3).

As Christians we are called to walk in a manner, worthy of our calling (Eph. 4:1), not necessarily to make resolutions at the beginning of each new year. We have been put on a path (His path). We have been given the Holy Spirit, who lives within. God assures us that He loves us His thoughts are good, precious, and ones of peace He will never, no not ever, leave or forsake His own and He promises to stay with us until the end (Psalm 139:17, Jer. 29:11, Heb. 13:5b, and Phil. 1:6).

We have been given a wealth of knowledge, my Defender friends. I pray we use it to bless those whom we meet, and to be a testimony to help draw others to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Be grateful, and rejoice in each day He gives (Psalm 118:24).

"Every day I will bless Thee, and I will praise Thy name for ever and ever" (Psalm 145:2)



God's Truth, by Linda Tyson

God's precious truth we've come to proclaim,
To tell you that God is forever the same!
There is light in His truth when darkness surrounds,
We find hope in His word, nowhere else to be found.

You will find God's mercy and pardon for sins,
In His truth you may find a new life to begin.
There is love in His word, none greater to find,
And His arm of salvation reaches down to mankind.

We need God's truth in our lives each day,
To guide us and show us the straight and narrow way.
The grass may wither and the flowers may die,
But God's truth stands forever and is exalted on high!

You're Never Too Old, by Hank Arthur

You're never too old to fall more deeply in love,
You're never too old to seek guidance from above,
You're never too old to turn your back on sin,
You're never too old to begin again.

Look at Noah, he was told to build an ark.
He was old and bent, his hair no longer dark.
Age wasn't mentioned, he had a job to perform.
He had a boat to build before the storm.

Consider Abram and Sarai, his beloved spouse.
They never had a child's laughter around their house.
God saw their need, not their years,
And He gave them a son, to dry their tears.

Think of Saul and all the evil he did.
He persecuted Christians even when they hid.
He changed his name and he changed his ways,
And became a follower of Christ the rest of his days.

There was Noah and Abram and mean old Saul,
Who later became the Apostle Paul.
Through the years, God has had many more devoted men,
But only because they were never too old to begin again.

Vote Character

By Kevin Bruffey

Once again we are approaching an election, and Christians, like other citizens, are called to exercise their right to vote. In the past ten years, Christians have been placed under the category of value voters, meaning they hone in on issues pertaining to life, the homosexual agenda, gambling, and religious liberty amongst others. While all these issues deserve attention, the most important thing to look at is the person's character. It's true that we cannot judge a person's soul or expect perfection for we're told this cannot be achieved in Romans 3:23 – all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. However, 1 Timothy 3:2-3 tells us that we can have reasonable standards for those in authority over us. An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle peaceable, free from the love of money....

While these verses are intended for those in ecclesiastical office, I'd venture to say we can seek to apply these standards, if not others, to those seeking positions in the civil realm for the civil government is ordained by God just as the church government. In fact, Romans 13:4 tells us – for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil. In examining this verse, it is plain to see that God meant civil government for our good as his means of administering justice. So, with this in mind, it's important to carefully examine the character of the various candidates to determine who will rule in a selfless manner and who will treat people fairly. With this in mind, it's important to consider parts in scripture that prohibit favoritism, including Deuteronomy 16:18-20, which stresses the need for civil leaders to promote justice while not showing partiality. In James 2:1-10, clear instructions are given to treat people fairly regardless of their economic standing. This is especially relevant in choosing civil leaders because public servants are constantly tempted to vote or craft policy in such a way that it will favor wealthy and influential interests, often at the expense of the people.

As previously stated, no person can fulfill the role of civil servant perfectly. However, we can assess how a person positions themselves in respect to God by their conduct, speech and, of course, their testimony. One question to ask is do they know they need God? One candidate was quoted as saying he has no need to repent, so it's obvious he doesn't see that he has a personal need for God. This is unfortunate because one might wonder who he will turn to when times get tough on the job if he gets elected. Anyone who knows anything about the presidency knows that it's one of the hardest jobs in the world. Without turning to God, I don't see how a president can survive the job and expect to be effective for the country. In terms of position, how do the candidates see themselves in relation to God as they execute the office? Referring back to Romans 13:4, we're reminded that the civil servants are God's ministers for the good of the people. Are they willing to humble themselves and submit to this role while understanding that God is their overseer?

In keeping with the duty to bear the sword, do they have a clear understanding of the civil government's purpose and how it is distinct from the roles of self, family, and church government? Those who have an understanding of law and government from a Biblical standpoint will tell you that the purpose of civil government is to punish wrong doers (bear the sword) and protect the rights of the people. It must be understood that those rights come from God, not a politician, a law professor, a Supreme Court judge or any judge, not from a policy measure or a politician. If they did come from a political leader, we'd be under tyranny because we'd be under leaders who were arrogant enough to believe they could rule without submitting to God, the ultimate lawgiver.

In terms of God being the ultimate lawgiver, we must consider the Ten Commandments which He gave to Moses on Mt. Sinai. They have influenced and have been the basis for our civil laws since our country's founding. It's the Sixth Commandment – thou shall not murder – and the Eighth Commandment – thou shall not steal – that we derive the right to life and the right to own property, respectively. Do the candidates' policy proposals and records reflect an insistence on protecting these rights?

With all of this said, as Christians we should seek to elect Christians who have a Biblical view of law and government. A Christian, because only a Christian would recognize God as Lord and Savior. Why Lord? If a person doesn't see God as Lord, they will not humble themselves to serve as His minister while they rule. Why Savior? A person who understands their utmost need for God to save them from the bondage of sin is far more likely to acknowledge their need for God as they rule. Candidates must have a Biblical view of law and government so they understand their proper role in the civil realm and don't foolishly govern in a way that they are subverting the roles in the other jurisdiction of government – self, family, and church.



Is America a Christian Nation?

Presented by

Attorney Derek J. Howell



*“It is impossible
to rightly
govern a nation
without
God and the Bible.”*

George Washington

When: Saturday, January 16, 2016

1:00—3:00 PM

Where: Cub Hill Bible Presbyterian Church

2927 Cub Hill Road

Baltimore, MD 21234

For questions please email: howellministries@gmail.com.

America

When our forefathers founded America, the people knew how to pray,
But some of the ones who live here now live for the devil every day.

They took prayer out of our schools, put drugs and violence in.
They think there's nothing wrong, but the Bible says it's sin.

They worship the Creator no longer, it's material things they desire.
They seem to want their pleasure; of the movies and videos they never tire.

Children seem to rule the adults, it used to be the other way.
All they want is worldly pleasure, they seem to have forgotten how to play.

God is still on the throne, He's waiting from on high.
His plan is still on schedule to take His children home in the sky.

A Lost America

America has taken God out of school and put the devil in.
Now they are preparing for the man of sin.

The Web seems to be their Bible, and drugs the thing to do.
They don't seem to realize that God is not through.

They want to do as they please, but God is still on His throne.
Man wants to rule the world, they want to do it on their own.

The time is growing short, Jesus will soon appear.
To take His children home before the Tribulation's here.

It will not be long now, until all freedom is gone.
America will be judged, and it will affect every home.

America Today

When our forefathers founded America, they all knew just how to pray,
To their Father which art in heaven, not like the people who live here today.

They taught the Bible in the school, from the first grade they did begin.
They had faith in their Creator, learned to put their trust in Him.

The government of today has ruled the Bible out, the children are not allowed to pray.
Don't know they will have to answer to God on that "Great Judgment Day."

They seem to live for the devil, caring not when their lives will end.
Drinking, smoking, witchcraft, drugs, free sex, not knowing that God calls all of this sin.

God will be the final judge of all of the people here below.
You'll find your rest in Heaven, if it's Jesus that you know.

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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DEFENDER CONTRIBUTORS

Rev. David R. Lewis, MDiv., Director, IDOT
Robert Luthardt, Sr., Elder, CHBPC
Nancy Long, Member, CHBPC
Kevin Bruffey, Deacon, CHBPC
Linda Tyson, Member, CHBPC
Hank Arthur, Defender
Lawrence Hill, Defender (in Heaven)

WRITE TO US!

Rev. David Lewis &
In Defense of Truth
2927 Cub Hill Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21234

Upcoming Events!

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

Adult & Children's Sunday School	10:15 AM
Sunday Morning Worship & Children's Church	11:00 AM
Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study	1:30 PM
Wednesday Evening Bible Study	7:00 PM
Friday Evening Youth Group	7:00 PM
Is America a Christian Nation? (January 16th)	1:00 PM
Karaoke Night (January 23rd)	6:00 PM