

The DEFENDER - February 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: Presidential Musings

February is the month in which we celebrate President's Day. In honor of that it might be interesting to take a look at a few of the 2016 candidates, in light of God's Holy Word.

Donald Trump has said that if elected he would have a wall built on the southern border between the United States and Mexico. Some have said that's not the Christian thing to do. Mr. Trump has said he wants to protect Americans from illegal immigrants and terrorists who could enter our country from the south. It so happens that the Book of Nehemiah is dedicated to teaching us about the building of a wall around a city to protect God's people. Non-Jews were the primary reason that Jerusalem was in the condition it was in and Nehemiah wanted to do something about that. In fact, he armed his people to be prepared to fight and kill if necessary, to get that wall built...a wall that was meant to keep those out who meant harm to Jerusalem. But Israel has always been willing to take in those who were willing to abide by their laws and assimilate into their culture. And America has always welcomed *its* immigrants under the same conditions.

Hillary Clinton has championed herself as a defender of women's rights. On the surface that sounds like a noble cause. But on closer examination we find that the women's rights that she's speaking of is their right to murder their unborn child. Which begs the question, what about the baby's rights? Looking at God's Word in **Proverbs 6:16-17** we find that He hates the hands that shed innocent blood. How does Mrs. Clinton, a church-goer, reconcile that?

Just recently Glenn Beck threw his endorsement into Ted Cruz's campaign. No one can control who supports them and who doesn't, but Mr. Beck, a Mormon, is supporting what he calls the Third Great Awakening, a global spiritual plan to build bridges between various faiths to have a stronger voice in fending off secularism. Sounds like the amalgamation of religions of which **Revelation 17** speaks. Something of which a born again believer like Mr. Cruz should be aware.

All of these observations, of course, must be seen in the light of God's Word as written in **Proverbs 21:1** and **Daniel 2:21**. Even though rulers may have almost limitless power, our sovereign God controls everything that happens. The world is moving according to God's purposes and toward His specified ends. Let this knowledge give you confidence and peace no matter who is elected.

Rev. David Lewis

The End of the World

Part VII – The Second Coming of Christ

By Robert Luthardt, Sr.

Some believe that our day and time reveals the rapid formation of the political New World Order (the Beast of Revelation 17) and a foundation in place for a One-World religious amalgamation (the Harlot that rides the Beast). Could we be the generation that sees the Antichrist take the world stage?

This coming world dictator will not be an obvious ogre who frightens children. Rather he will be renowned and admired and able to sway masses of people. Hollywood caricatures of a sinister, criminally insane monster actually plays into the hands of the “Prince of this world” and the evil principalities that will possess him (John 12:31; Ep. 2:2, 6:12; 2 Thess.2:3-12; Dan. 8:23-25).

The Apostle Paul dispels the “openly evil ruler” theatrics when he is led to report, “Satan himself is transformed into an ANGEL OF LIGHT. Therefore, it is no great thing if his ministers ALSO be transformed as ministers of righteousness” (2 Cor. 11:14-15). The Antichrist will be the ultimate “Eagle Scout” who will possess “all power and signs and lying wonders” – a veritable miracle worker (2 Thess. 2:9).

The nation of which we are most familiar, America, has been on a dangerous slippery slope to total degradation since the 1960’s. We condemn millions of babies to a Hitlerian horror in the death chambers of Planned Parenthood’s infant-organ-merchantry. Marriage is ignored, even ridiculed, while Sodomy, formerly a crime, is honored in its place. Our once great nation of godliness and righteousness is now the world’s chief source of hardcore and even child pornography. Today millions are enslaved by the sorcery of intoxicants and opiates. Pagan Eastern religions, witchcraft, Christian cults and apostasy abound. War zones are safer than most American urban areas.

Jesus warned that the last days would see many false teachers, Apostles, Prophets and even some who claim to be Christ and others who claim to actually hear His voice (while in occultic trances)—(Matt. 24:4-5, 11, 24). America is chronically infested with spiritual counterfeiters of every ilk and is overdue for God’s judgment.

So the Antichrist will also be a masquerader as the false Messiah, and apostate Christianity will hail him. Sound doctrine will be buried by then (2 Tim. 4:1-4). Masses will have turned from the truth and unto fables (vs. 4). Small wonder that Jesus raised the question whether He would find any faith anywhere on earth when He returned (Luke 18:8).

Obviously God’s longsuffering mercy is delaying His prophesied judgments allowing time for the calling of the last of Christ’s remnant—His Bride. Those enabled to love the only true and living God and His Son Jesus Christ will be saved from all the deceptions that will saturate a world ready for the Antichrist and the false prophet (Rev. 16:13, 19:20).

All the world yearns for safety and the one who can ostensibly bring “Global Peace” will be consummately popular. While God has kept hidden much of what the future holds, He has revealed what He wants us to know and true peace will only come with the return of the “Prince of Peace” and even that only after the war of wars—Armageddon.

Indeed, the coming false peace under the Antichrist will precede holocausts that will threaten all life on earth—many will perish (Dan. 8:25; 1 Thess. 5:3). Christ called these catastrophes the “great tribulation” (Matt. 24:21). For theologians of the Futurist School, the great tribulation only comes AFTER the Rapture of the Church (1 Thess. 4:13-18, 5:9; Rev. 3:10).

How, in this present world, is there any reason for a Christian to be joyful? Enumerating a few of God’s mercies and blessings helps. First, born-again Christians have been, by God, foreknown, predestinated, called, justified and glorified and granted life eternally (John 3:16; Rom. 8:29-30). So fear in a believer of personal judgment is unwarranted. Then there is a new depth of love known only to those in whose heart Christ and the “fullness of God” dwells (Ep. 3:16-19; Gal. 5:22; 1 John 4:15-19). We know we have that love when our greatest desire is to please Christ and keep His commands (John 14:15), and now we hate the sin with which we once were at peace.

To be “caught up” at the Rapture to meet Christ in the air and to be taken to heaven without experiencing death is the great hope of all Bible-believing Christians. Paul told the Philippians to “look” for the Savior (3:20). He told Titus that we are “looking” for that blessed hope and the glorious “APPEARING” of the great God and Savior Jesus Christ (2:13). The scribe of Hebrews declared, “Unto them that “look” for Him shall he appear the SECOND TIME without sin unto salvation” (Hebrews 9:28).

Scripture is explicit that no one knows the “day or the hour” of Christ’s return (Matt. 24:36), so it is incumbent upon every generation to live in expectancy of His unannounced return as He commanded (vs. 42-44). If we trust Christ’s spirit within us, we will also trust His words (John 14:1-3, 20; Rom. 8:9-10; Gal. 2:20; Ep. 3:17) “for the Son of Man cometh at an hour when ye think not” (Luke 12:35-37, 40). Be ye therefore ready ... the Son cometh ... when ye think not.”

What can “at an hour ye think not” mean but that it will be a time when a great “falling away” has plagued the visible, organized Church (2 Thess. 2:3) which opens the door and clears the way for the advent of the Antichrist and the False Prophet (Rev. 16:13-14, 19:20; 2 Thess. 2:4-8).

Some accuse those waiting for the Rapture (1 Thess. 4:13-18) to “take them,” of sitting on their hands, wallowing in an “escapist mentality.” But the “blessed hope” of avoiding death and being with our loving Savior is the greatest motivation for holy, victorious living and a definite spur to evangelize everyone in our personal orbits (Titus 2:13-14). Everyone who has this hope “purifieth himself” (1 John 3:3). Furthermore, this hope impels believers to mortify (kill off) carnal passions: “fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affections, evil concupiscence (abnormal appetites) and covetousness, which is idolatry ... anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication ...” (Col. 3:4-5, 8-10). Once having turned from these carnalities, a believer is free to express holiness: “mercies, kindness, humbleness, meekness, longsuffering—a wholly new pattern of Godly living.

So all who are “risen with Christ” will “set their affections on things above” (Col. 3:1-4). Christ’s victory at His first advent is made vicariously our own victory as well so we not only rejoice in the future consummation of our redemption, we also relish His appearing and our being at His side as a Bride with her Bridegroom (2 Cor. 11:2; Rev. 19:7). Especially so since we see the scriptures that point to the perfect holiness of our God whom we have offended (Hab. 1:13a; Deut. 25:16; Ps. 5:4, 11:5, 7:11). We break His commandments and assume horrible eternal consequences, yet He pardons our iniquities so that our gratefulness for His mercy is also eternal.

So Christ is our joy and our new life and we “SHALL APPEAR with Him in glory” (Col. 3:4). At any moment He could suddenly appear and take us to our Father’s house and “every eye shall see Him” (Rev. 1:7).

Now what the Angels proclaimed as the purpose for His Virgin birth will finally be realized when He brings the earth a true lasting peace (Is. 9:6-7; Luke 2:8-14). Those attempting international peace without the reign of Christ will only be paving the way for the Antichrist. The false Prophets that abound then will deny the foundations of the Faith of Jesus Christ by claiming a “Christ Spirit”—suitable for all diverse religions. This ecumenical deviancy is already moving apace in the world. Earth’s darkest hour is yet future but immediately followed by the brightest dawn. Then poverty and famine, disease and old age will be eliminated. Abundance will be available to all. One day, “the wolf shall dwell with the lamb and the leopard ... with the kid; and the calf and the young lion ... a child shall lead them” (Is. 11:6-8).

Yet as wonderful as Christ’s millennial reign will be (Rev. 20), God’s final creation will be a joy beyond human imagination, “Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard ... the things God has prepared for them that love Him” (1 Cor. 2:9). He will create for His adopted sons and daughters “new heavens and a new earth” (2 Pet. 3:13) where there will be joy and peace forever (Ep. 1:4-7, 18-21).

Keep looking up!

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Countdown to the Second Coming

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"What the World Needs Now is Love" -- "Lovest Thou Me?"

By Nancy Long

*"What the world needs now is love sweet love,
It's the only thing that there's just too little of.
What the world needs now is love sweet love,
No, not just for some, but for everyone."*

The above words are part of a popular song of the mid 60's, reaching number 7 on the top 100 music charts lyrics written by Hal David, and music composed by Burt Bacharach.

***"The love of God is greater far ... than tongue or pen can ever tell,
It goes beyond the highest star ... And reaches to the lowest hell;
The guilty pair, bowed down with care ... God gave His Son to win:
His erring child He reconciled ... And pardoned from his sin.***

*When years of time shall pass away, And earthly thrones and kingdoms fall,
When men, who here refuse to pray, On rocks and hills and mountains call,
**God's love so sure shall still endure ...
All measureless and strong:**
Redeeming grace to Adam's race ... The saints' and angels song.*

*Could we with ink the ocean fill ... And were the skies of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill ... And every man a scribe by trade,
To write the love of God above ... Would drain the ocean dry,
Nor could the scroll contain the whole ... Tho stretched from sky to sky.*

Refrain --

***O love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure ... The saints and angels' song."***

(Words and music -- Frederick M. Lehman)

**Jer. 31:3 -- "Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with
lovingkindness have I drawn thee.**

**John 13:35 -- "By this shall men know that ye are My disciples,
if ye have love one to another."**

1Thess. 4:9b -- "for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another."

1 Peter 1:22-- "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently."

1 John 3:11 -- "For this is the message you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another."

1 John 4:11 -- "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another."

Love, in all probability, is one of the most discussed, yet least understood subjects in the world today. All of us possess, from birth, an innate need to love and to be loved, but unfortunately the quest for it has always had its difficulties, perhaps because there's been a basic misconception of its true meaning.

We love, we humans say, everything from ice cream, to baseball, to puppies, and babies, perhaps our work, and for sure, our spouses and some might even say, God.

Perfect love though, at its source, comes from, and is rooted in, God It is in total contrast with the world's understanding. It's distinct. It's special. It's unique. God's very nature and essence is love. Who of us can truly understand it? *"God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"* (Romans 5:8). Those of us who call ourselves Christians, have been given the faith to believe that Christ demonstrated sacrificial love, by willingly shedding His perfect, sinless, precious blood, and dying for us in order to pay the penalty for our sins so that we could be restored back to fellowship with our Creator God.

Yes, for certain, *"what the world needs now is love, sweet love,"* but we who have been born again, possessing a new nature, have been blessed with a glimpse just a bit of an idea of what "true love" is all about. We now then are expected to live as Jesus has taught ***"to love one another, as I have loved you"*** (John 13:34). This love should be the mark of every one of Jesus' disciples.

There is a beautiful passage of Scripture that I believe provides powerful wisdom regarding, and also defining love, for all of us to follow each and every day of our lives. It's found in 1 Cor. 13, is frequently called "The Love Chapter", and is most likely the most quoted passage in the world on this topic. The Apostle Paul, by Divine inspiration,

revealed these words, giving a more clear definition of what real love, in fact, is: *"Love is patient, and is kind; love is not jealous or proud; love does not behave rudely; love does not insist on its own way; love is not provoked; love thinks no evil; love does not rejoice in wrong, but always rejoices in the truth."*

This type of love flows far deeper than romance or experiences that only excite the imagination. The love of which the Bible speaks is a behavior or an action we choose to exercise, with the help of the Holy Spirit, regardless of our feelings. This certainly goes contrary to the flesh, to selfish inclinations which, if not dealt with in our relationships, will prove to be unproductive, and possibly even destructive.

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35). John expands upon the expectation of love in the true believer. For those who have indeed been born again, who have been imparted with a new nature, their lives should be habitually characterized by love. Those who practice Christ-like love show evidence of the new birth.

It's important to remember that Jesus Christ said, *"Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? and in Thy name have cast out devils? and in Thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity"* (Matt. 7:21-23).

The most important thing in life is for us to know, and be assured, that we have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, and that we will live with Him eternally in a glorious place called heaven. As quoted so simply, yet so profoundly, by the late Dr. J. Vernon McGee, *"It is not to mouth platitudes about His being your Lord, and claim to be doing great things for Him. It narrows down to the thing He said to Simon Peter by the sea of Galilee, 'Lovest thou Me?'"*



How Much More Will God Tolerate?

By Kevin Bruffey

In pondering the role of civil government, I compare it to a soldier commissioned by his commander to carry out specified duties. Regarding civil government, its commander is God. Romans 13:4 tells us that the civil authorities are God's ministers for our good. Throughout the centuries world leaders, including our own, have established constitutions to establish and define the roles of their civil governments. Citizens of the United States are blessed in that our Federal and State constitutions were heavily based on biblical principles.

If we were to go back to the soldier comparison, our civil government, thanks to our leaders, would look like a soldier who praised his commanding officer, told him how honored he was to be part of his troop, started off executing his assigned duties, then acted in such a way that those observing wanted to send word back to his officer to share with him the great news regarding his soldier's performance. However, over time, after experiencing success, the soldier began to question his commander's instructions. He started to ask if there were other means that he could take to achieve his commander's goals for him. At first he succeeded, but only after much trial and error using his ways. Eventually, the soldier convinced himself that he could meet the goals laid out by his commander strictly by his own means. He experienced pitfall after pitfall. He made alliances with people who got him into trouble. In order to get out of trouble, he made alliances with those his commander would never want him to be with. They convinced him to conduct himself and utilize strategies that completely conflicted with the principles his commander taught him. After a while, those who originally praised this soldier had nothing but bad things to say about him.

In the Bible, we've seen similar scenarios. A good example is David, whom while serving under Saul was a heroic warrior, but once he became king committed grievous sins which included having an affair with Bathsheba, having her husband killed, and carrying out an unlawful census. Then there's the accounts of the Jews after leaving Pharaoh's captivity. As God's people you'd think that they'd be happy to have their freedom, but they constantly moaned as Moses tried to lead them to the Promised Land. Their impatience was also shown when they made a golden calf for themselves to worship as Moses was getting the 10 Commandments on Mount Sinai. There's mention in other Old Testament books, such as Hosea, of the Israelites giving their allegiance to a foreign god, as the Lord waited patiently for them to come home.

All of this points to man's waywardness as we live in a fallen world. Going back to civil government, while I recognize God's mercy, I wonder how much more he will grant to the United States. They say we get the leaders we deserve, so if that's the case, we must look ourselves in the mirror when we consider things that have happened over the years.

This isn't to suggest that our government hasn't done righteous things. To start with, we fought a Revolutionary War that liberated us from the clutches of King George.

With other allied countries we liberated the world from the Axis Powers, and through Ronald Reagan's leadership along with other world leaders we ended the Cold War. I also like to note free-market initiatives carried out by presidents in the 1920's including Calvin Coolidge, JFK in the 1960's, and Ronald Reagan in the 1980's, that were a boon to our economy. These accomplishments are, of course, just a few made by leaders in our great land.

My concern though, is how are we treating the Lord? When you think of a sin like abortion, which involves taking another human being's life, it's also a sin against God. Upon returning home, the prodigal son recognized this as he planned to say to his father, I've sinned against Heaven and you (Luke 15:18).

As I noted, while leaders have used civil government to do righteous things, they've also perverted its intent as well. To sum it up, the purpose of civil government with God being the "Commander" is to protect the rights which He has bestowed onto us and to punish wrongdoers. This point is illustrated in 1 Peter 2:14 which shows that the civil magistrate can be a blessing for those who obey and a curse for those who disobey.

When we take a stand for various causes, we should see it as an opportunity to honor the Lord and make the trumpets sound in Heaven. Next time you make an effort to advance the cause for life, recognize what is happening. For one thing, you're advocating for the welfare of a child. Legislatively, you're insisting that the civil government's laws reflect justice. In the case of opposing abortion funding, which is especially relevant with the Planned Parenthood scandal, you're insisting that the civil leaders use the tax system in a righteous manner rather than involve the taxpayer in a murder in which they had no say.

With gambling expansion over the past 40 years, an unholy alliance has been formed with the state and the gambling industry. Not only do most states have lotteries, but many work with casinos which bring about people's downfall. By involving itself in gambling, the states have truly perverted their purpose of looking out for their citizens' welfare as they achieve their maximum benefit from those who struggle with this sin the most. Sponsoring gambling also means state officials are sanctioning a practice that encourages people to profit without sacrifice, thereby going against God's order.

Last but not least, I look at marriage. For approximately 20 years, the homosexual lobby has been trying to alter marriage laws which have been in place for generations. Despite last spring's Supreme Court ruling which ruled in favor of same sex marriage, more than thirty states previously voted to affirm traditional marriage. However, it's important to see what happens when the homosexual lobby is successful as they were in certain states, including New York and Maryland, even before last spring's ruling. They essentially persuaded the leaders of those states, among others, to tell God "No, we're doing things our way. We don't care about your standards." I'm thankful for leaders like Judge Roy Moore and Kim Davis who understand that giving marriage licenses to same sex couples is corrupt. Not only does it undermine marriage but it is also a slap in the face to God.

I could go on with other examples, such as taking the Bible and prayer out of schools, banning the 10 Commandments, penalizing military chaplains who speak biblical truths, etc. So, the question is how much longer will we allow our leaders to turn against God and pervert our institutions? God told Abraham He would continue to have mercy, provided there were still righteous in the land. We don't want to miss out on His blessings for us because we've failed to honor His Word.

God and Government

Romans 13:1-7 (KJV)

1. Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.
2. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.
3. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:
4. For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.
5. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.
6. For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.
7. Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.



(From "An American Citizens' **Pocket Companion**, A Legal Heritage" -
Institute on the Constitution)

Presidential Warnings

*“We have staked the whole future of American Civilization,
not upon the power of government, far from it.
We have staked the future of all our political institutions upon
Our capacity ... to sustain ourselves according to the
Ten Commandments of God.”*

James Madison



*“God who gave us life gave us liberty.
And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure
when we have removed their only firm basis,
a conviction in the minds of the people that
these liberties are the Gift of God?
That they are not to be violated but with His wrath?
Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that
God is just; that His justice cannot sleep forever.”*

Thomas Jefferson

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!

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