

The DEFENDER - May 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: Tightening the Screws

Jesus said that as His followers, we would suffer persecution **Matthew 10:22, John 15:18**. Sooner or later, we all knew that this form of discrimination would be coming to America. We've seen evidence of it here and there throughout the land. Christians are called bigots and hate-mongers for speaking out against the homosexual agenda. Believers in general are deemed intolerant for holding the Bible as our truth guide. We're often called out by the post-modernists simply for believing in absolute truth. Christian businesses have been sued or forced to close because of their refusal to bake a cake or take a picture for a same-sex wedding.

All of that, however, may be just a sign of things to come, as the feds seem to be rolling out the heavy artillery in the form of silencing the populace at large. They're beginning to turn up the heat on those whom they call 'climate change deniers.' The politically correct viewpoint, and that's all it is, says that climate change is real. And all who oppose that opinion, in their eyes, need to be silenced. In essence, the government wants to investigate and prosecute us for our opinions on unproven scientific theory. The larger issue here, of course, is an attack on our First Amendment rights, otherwise known as President Barack Hussein Obama's transformation of America. The PC thinking on this says that to promote anything other than their point of view is actually fraud, and therefore should not be protected by the Constitution.

This should be a loud wake-up call to researchers everywhere who understand the need for a spirited debate over scientific issues. But if U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch has her way, the politically *incorrect* among us will soon be silenced. She has been discussing this matter at the Justice Department and has even referred it to the FBI to see if it meets the criteria for investigation and possible action. With the AG involved, this is no longer one side of a debate trying to shut up the other, but rather the use of state force to do so.

We've been targeted for our ideas, or in the case of Christianity, for our faith. The ultimate goal has little to do with climate change and everything to do with the power of government to punish dissent and silence criticism. Jesus said to know the truth would set you free. As someone who has forever been set free by Jesus (**John 8:32**), and therefore not afraid of government bullying, I'm here to tell you the truth in this matter. CLIMATE CHANGE IS NOT REAL.

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) and 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 Caesar's 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 antisocietal 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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Surrendering All

By Nancy Long

Matthew 10:39 -- *"He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for My sake shall find it."*

Matthew 16:24 -- *"Then said Jesus unto His disciples, 'If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.'"*

Luke 14:27 -- *"And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after Me, cannot be My disciple."*

Romans 6:13 -- *"..... yield yourselves unto God and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God."*

I Surrender All

All to Jesus I surrender, All to Him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust Him, In His presence daily live,

All to Jesus I surrender, Humbly at His feet I bow,
Worldly pleasures all forsaken, Take me Jesus, take me now.

All to Jesus I surrender, Make me, Savior, wholly Thine;
May Thy Holy Spirit fill me, May I know Thy pow'r divine.

All to Jesus I surrender, Lord I give myself to Thee;
Fill me with Thy love and power, Let Thy blessing fall on me.

All to Jesus I surrender, Now I feel the sacred flame;
O the joy of full salvation! Glory, glory to His name!"

Chorus -- I surrender all, I surrender all.
All to Thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.

Words - Judson W. Van DeVenter Music - Winfield S. Weeden

Much of the time, lyrics, such as these, come from personal struggles, daily trials, and the happenings and occurrences of life, that in the end, result in a strong personal commitment to Christ. This is one such example.

Quoting from Mr. Van DeVenter: "*For many years I had been studying art. My whole life was wrapped up in its pursuit, and the thing farthest from my mind was active Christian service. My dream was to become an outstanding and famous artist. After graduating from college, I studied drawing and painting under a well-known German teacher. To help me financially, I taught school and eventually I became supervisor of art in the public schools of Sharon, Pennsylvania. It was during this period in my life that a revival was held in the First Methodist Church of which I was a member. I became very interested in these meetings as a personal worker. The Spirit of God was urging me to give up teaching and to enter the evangelistic field, but I would **not** yield. I still had a burning desire to be an artist. This battle raged for five years. At last the time came when I could hold out no longer, and I surrendered **my all** - my time and my talents. It was then that a new day was ushered into my life. I became an evangelist, and discovered deep down in my soul a talent hitherto unknown to me. God had hidden a song in my heart, and touching a tender chord, He caused me to sing." I wrote **'I Surrender All'** in memory of the time when, after the long struggle, I had surrendered and dedicated my life to active Christian service for the Lord."*

What does it really mean, this little phrase, "surrender all"? My Webster's Thesaurus gives me some synonyms: **SURRENDER** - *relinquish, abandon, come to terms, let go, give oneself over, submit, humble oneself yield.* **ALL** - *completely, totally, wholly, entirely, fully, utterly, thoroughly, perfectly, unconditionally absolutely.*

Not one person can do this, you know. No human being is able to develop all these qualities *in* themselves *by* themselves. We, created beings, are, for the most part, "**all about us**". This world does revolve around "us", does it not?! Scripture, though, states that our "**hearts are deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked**" (Jeremiah 17:9) and no one, **no**, not even one, can change the heart **except** God!!

We are, of course, able do some things, and we're exhorted to do so. We must be mindful, consciously forgetting about ourselves, putting ourselves on the back burner, if you will focusing our thoughts on Him, magnifying **His** name, worshipping **Him**, and putting **Christ** at the center of our lives! This takes thought though; careful, deliberate thought, constantly bringing back to mind to "**set our affections on things above, not on things on the earth**"(Col. 3:2).

God has a large overriding plan, a uniquely designed purpose for each one of us, that has been put in place before the foundation of the world. His thoughts are precious toward us, and are more in number than there are grains of sand (Psalm 139:17-18).

God knows us God, the Master Designer/Potter has fashioned us we have been *"fearfully and wonderfully made"* (Psalm 139:14). Why wouldn't we praise Him? Why wouldn't we surrender completely to One such as this?!

Billy Graham, well known Christian evangelist stated, *"One of the evangelists who influenced my early preaching was also a hymnist who wrote, 'I Surrender All' --- the Rev. J.W. Van DeVenter. He was a regular visitor at the Florida Bible Institute (now Trinity Bible College) in the late 1930's. We students loved this kind, deeply spiritual gentleman and gathered in his winter home at Tampa, Florida, for an evening of fellowship and singing."*

Our lives touch so many people as we travel throughout the days God gives, as we move through this thing called time. The Reverend Billy Graham was influenced in a mighty way by a man who surrendered his **all** to the cause of Christ. I will pray for you, my Defender friends, and I covet your prayers for me as well that we who call ourselves children of the King, will **live** as if we are. I pray that we are willing to surrender everything our time, our talents, our money our **hearts**, so that God can use each one of us more effectively.



Voting

By Kevin Bruffey

As we're in the midst of another election season, I've decided not to go along with conventional voting "wisdom." Let me start off by saying I will always advocate for good citizenship. This means I'll always be mindful of matters affecting my community, my state, our nation, and the world. While I may not have all the answers, I will always praise our God who has everything in His hands.

The conventional wisdom I've always heard on voting has been that as good citizens we must out of duty always cast a vote for each office. But is that notion really consistent with our duty as Christians? In thinking of Christian duty, I go back to the first question of the Shorter Catechism which asks, "What is the chief end of man?" The answer as many of us have memorized is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

In recent months, I've pondered what it means to vote. My conclusion is that when we cast a vote for a particular office we are essentially making a recommendation to our fellow citizens by selecting our candidate of choice. To put it in other terms, suppose you have a friend whose company needs to hire someone to manage their accounting department. Let's say you have another friend who passed the CPA exam on the first attempt, has an MBA, has ten years under his belt with his current accounting firm, and is climbing the ladder with that company. You'd have no problem recommending this person to head up the other friend's accounting department. Now, suppose instead you only knew of two men who could barely hold down an accounting position. They've gone from job to job, and neither were successful in passing the CPA exam. They barely made it through their undergraduate accounting programs.

How comfortable would you feel in recommending either of these men to your friend's company? If you're like me, you'd tell your friend you don't have anyone to recommend. By recommending one of these men you'd be doing a disservice to your friend's company, one of these men themselves since they probably won't last in the role, and to your own reputation.

So, if an incompetent accountant doesn't deserve a recommendation as in this example, why is that when it comes to civil elections we tell ourselves that there is a civic obligation to cast a vote? If you think about it, a vote for a civic office has much more weight and impact than a person heading up an accounting department. I once bought into the notion that we should at times vote for the lesser of two evils before someone pointed out to me that the lesser of two evils is still evil. Going back to the Shorter Catechism question, if we're voting for evil, are we glorifying God? I don't think so.

Another false notion is that a person must vote for candidate B to prevent candidate A from getting into office. People often say that if a person chooses another candidate, such

as candidate C or doesn't vote at all, they are ushering in candidate A. This logic is faulty for several reasons. First of all, the only way to advance candidate A's cause is by casting a vote for candidate A. If a person votes for candidate C, they vote for candidate C, no one else. The assumption is that if a person votes for candidate C, they would have otherwise voted for candidate B. That's actually presumptuous. It's true, the voter may have voted for candidate B, but they may have also voted for candidate D, E, or none at all. A vote for candidate B will obviously improve candidate B's chances of winning but a vote should ultimately come down to conscience not obligation or fear. If we're only advancing candidate B to prevent candidate A, does that really say much about candidate B? When this is the case, the citizenry, whether they support A or B, doesn't have much hope for their government. Maybe if we vetted our candidates better from the start we wouldn't be in this age old "lesser of two evils" predicament.

This should also be looked at as a matter of honesty. We want honest government, right? Well, how can we expect this if we're not voting honestly? Going back to the essence of voting, which once again is to make a recommendation to our fellow citizens, should be the basis of whether or not we can vote at all. If we can make a good recommendation, then we should vote, but if we can't make a good recommendation we shouldn't vote at all. Casting a vote for a "lesser evil" or the candidate who will do the "least amount of damage" is a dishonest act because it is making a recommendation to one's fellow citizens knowing the candidate is unfit for office.

If we really want better government, we must start with making honest votes, or in some cases none at all, if that's what it takes. To really think in terms of being good citizens we should remember that our ultimate allegiance is to God, not man. Acts 5:29 says – "But Peter and the apostles answered, we must obey God rather than men."



A Miracle Called Mother

By Hank Arthur

God wrought a special miracle many, many years ago ...
He called this miracle mother, as all of you should know.
He used a flower to make her lips, pure gold He used for hair.
This miracle called mother, is a thing beyond compare.

Her eyes are bright and shining stars, in a sky of blue.
The heart that beats within her breast, is full of hope for you.
The sweet love of a mother can pardon anything.
The prayers of a mother can make the angels sing.

This miracle called mother will be true till dead.
For every child that suffered, a mother's heart has bled.
From the beginning of creation right down through the years,
One thing that hasn't changed a bit is a mother's hopes and fears.

This miracle God gave to man shows His wondrous love,
This work of art that He has sent to us from heaven above.
This Mother's Day, let's all give thanks for mothers young and old,
The miracle of a mother's love will never wane, or grow cold.



Moments of Truth

April 26

The world is unified in at least one cause in the Middle East—and that is the demonization of Israel. One of the more popular tools to do that is through the means of false moral equivalence. The term “moral equivalence” is the claim that there’s no difference between two actions that differ greatly in character. It’s frequently used to emphasize similarities between two otherwise dissimilar acts.

One instance of false moral equivalence compares Israel’s actions to those of the Nazis. When two dissimilar realities such as these are linked falsely, the use of one side is intended to bring to mind the other—however distorted the comparison may be. Subsequent repetition results in acceptance where the false moral equivalence is no longer questioned.

In addition, Israel has been compared to Apartheid South Africa, and it doesn’t stop there, as several UN-sponsored declarations have falsely compared Zionism to racism.

It’s apparent that those who would attack Israel in such a way are not familiar with God’s promise to Abraham in Genesis 12. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who don’t. And God keeps His promises.

April 27

In light of the upcoming presidential election, and with all due respect to Donald Trump or any of the establishment running for the highest office in the land, none of those running for office will make America great again.

Over the years I’ve quoted enough Scripture to give credit to the One who does.

In Daniel 2 the prophet tells us that it’s God who removes kings and sets up kings. King Solomon tells us in Proverbs 21 that the king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord, and God turns it in whatever way He pleases.

We sing a Doxology that says Praise God (not government) from whom all blessings flow. In Deuteronomy 8, Moses reminds us that it is God who gives us power to get wealth, and Jesus told Pilate just prior to the crucifixion that he would have no power at all unless it was first given to him from above.

Maybe the Bible verse we in America should be contemplating the most right now is Proverbs 14:34: “ Righteousness exalts a nation but sin a reproach to any people”—which makes Pogo’s assessment true. We have met the enemy, and he is us.

Our mission through the broadcast of In Defense of Truth and the publication of The Defender newsletter is to earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3). Our vision today is just as strong as it was back in 1963 when Dr. John Dekker began this outreach. We pray that you will continue to stand with us as we hold true to God's holy Word.

The Defender is available, free of charge, on audio CD.
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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