

The DEFENDER - January 2017

“... 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 You See and What You Don't

Cue the music and strike up the band. In what can only be described as delicious irony, half of America is singing the song that has been linked to the Democrat Party since the days of FDR. But it's not either party, really, that can be heard intoning "Happy Days are Here Again." It's all the people who voted for *real* change that have now been given *real* hope that America can and will get back to its glory days. Despite Michelle Obama's claim to Oprah Winfrey that "...now, we are feeling what not having hope feels like," Americans are feeling better than they have in the aftermath of any presidential election since choosing Ronald Reagan in 1980.

Donald Trump's mantra of "Make America Great Again" is beginning to have people in our nation feel that it can actually happen. Was it my imagination, or did we hear more people say "Merry Christmas" these past several weeks than "Happy Holidays?" It's almost like the shackles of political correctness have been taken off and freedom loving people have been allowed to breathe again. Of course, time will tell if Mr. Trump is able to truly take advantage of the mercy which God has granted us and turn us back into a God-fearing nation again, seeking to please Him rather than ourselves. What we've seen thus far, however, is certainly cause for optimism.

Now for what we don't see. Evangelicals turned out in great numbers to vote for Mr. Trump. He has Christian leaders praying for him and advising him of our Judeo-Christian worldview. But it's important for us to remember that he is not a savior. I say that because there are born-again folks out there who believe that God has given our new president some sort of mandate to take our country to the promised land. And in the midst of all of this euphoria, I'm afraid that the church may let its guard down. Seventeen hundred years ago the Roman Emperor Constantine saw himself as an emperor of the Christian people. Although his decision to cease the persecution of Christians within the Roman Empire was admirable, the ecumenism which ensued was tantamount to a Trojan Horse finding its way into Christendom. Amidst the good feelings of a president who is friendly to Christians, I can once again see the watering-down and compromising of our faith. I see apostasy weaving its way into churches and entire denominations, just as it was foretold for the latter days (2 Thessalonians 2:3). I wondered before the election if there were enough righteous people in the land to withhold God's judgment on America. Apparently there were, but now the onus is on us to continue to stand strong in the faith, holding fast to the Word, and clinging to Jesus Christ as never before.

The time is coming when men will not endure sound doctrine (2 Timothy 4:3). We're exhorted to be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers and to come out from among them and be separate (2 Corinthians 6:14, 17). Let us enter this new year walking circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil (Ephesians 5:15-16).

Rev. David Lewis

Are You Born Again?

By Robert Luthardt, Sr.

What is meant by being born again? Why do Christians need certainty and assurance that they ARE born again? The Lord Jesus Christ, God incarnate (Is. 7:14, 9:6; John 1:1-3, 14), informed the highly educated religious leader Nicodemus, “Except a man be born again, he CAN-NOT see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3). Every descendant of Adam needs the miracle of the new birth (Rom. 3:10-23). All who call themselves Christians must ask, “Am I born again?”. Thousands have signed church rolls but lack the marks of being indwelt by Christ’s Spirit. So what are those signs?

The First of six signs of the new birth recorded by the Apostle John in his first epistle is, “Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin” (1 John 3:9), and “Whosoever is born of God sinneth not” (1 John 5:18). A born again or regenerated believer does not rebelliously commit sin as a regular habit once the Spirit of Christ is enthroned in their heart (Rom. 8:7-11; Gal. 4:6; 1 John 4:12-16). Before being drawn to Christ by the Father’s will alone (John 1:13, 6:44) there for most was a period when they did not much care whether their thoughts and actions were sinful or not. Now they hate sin, flee it, fight it, groan under it, mourn its influence, and long for deliverance from it altogether. Sin no longer pleases them. No one can wholly prevent its dwelling in them (the old fallen nature), and if they deny its presence there “is no truth in them” (1 John 1:8). By the power of the Holy Spirit within a believer (Rom. 8:11-16) he or she can now say how they abhor sin and long to never sin again. But bad thoughts and defects occasionally appear in believers’ words and actions. The Apostle James lamented, “we offend all” (3:2) and yet by their new nature they can truly say they no longer give sanction for sinfulness. John would ask us, “Have you this first mark?”

The Second sign John records is, “Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God” (1 John 5:1). Those truly born again believe Jesus Christ is the only Savior that can pardon guilty sinners – being enabled to believe and trust once moved upon by the Holy Spirit; convicted of their sinful condition with their record of transgressions. Now by Christ’s FINISHED work at Calvary (John 17:4, 19:30; Heb. 9:28, 10:14-18), the sinner sees a ROCK OF SAFETY to rest upon knowing their sins are washed away never to be remembered because they are now “reckoned righteous” in God’s sight. Christ, by His work alone, paid our sin debt “in full.” He uttered “tetelestai” (a business term meaning Paid in Full) and by His own blood, His death, and resurrection, we can be born again. Believers no longer need fear death, and once grounded in Biblical truth, they will never give up trusting Christ to offer God their “good works” (Is. 64:6). They staunchly cling to Christ’s atonement alone. Is this your sign?

John’s Third mark recorded is “Everyone that doeth righteousness is Born of Him” (1 John 2:29). A sinner born again by the Holy Spirit is called to a life of enduring, tenacious holiness. Now having received a NEW NATURE as a new creation of God (2 Cor. 5:17; Ep. 4:24) new desires sprout up to please God by avoiding everything displeasing to God. Believers strive to love God as Christ commanded (John 14:15; Mark 12:28-31) with all one’s heart, soul, mind,

and strength and their neighbors as themselves. Christ is our example as friend and brother as well as being our Savior. Believers admit they are not sinless and groan over indwelling corruption in their old fallen nature, recognizing inner spiritual warfare but not consenting to it. At times even true believers swerve and turn their back to God's grace. However, their new imputed stronger inclination is toward the greatest degree of holiness possible and development of better habits, pleasing to the Savior they love. Temptations assault Christians like a contrary wind battering a sailing vessel, but true believers hold their new course set for God and the safety of Christ, our "lighthouse."

Sometimes Christians feel low and even question their salvation. But they soon affirm with old John Newton (the slave ship Captain), "I am not what I ought to be; I am not what I want to be. I am not what I hope to be in another world, but still, I am not what I once used to be, and by the Grace of God, I am what I am." What would the Apostle say of you (and me) in light of this third sign? Are you born again?

Number Four in John's registry of signs is, "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren" (1 John 3:14). All given the miraculous gift of a new nature now recognize the specialness of the newfound love for every true disciple of Christ. Just as God the Father, Christ loves mankind with a general love, but reserves a personal love for those He chose to "foreknow, predestinate, call, justify and glorify" and leads into "one mind with Christ" and the brethren (Rom 8:28-30; Phil. 2:5, 13). Spiritually quickened by God, born again believers can, like their Savior, express caring love – even for the worst of sinners like the thief, Zacchaeus (Luke 19), and the woman at the well (John 4). Believers in Christ are happiest when in the company of their brother and sister saints of God on earth.

The old nature in fallen man values – learning and cleverness, or agreeableness and riches, all rank above any spiritual inducements. Once born again, believers value to Grace of God above all else. They now begin to recognize other adopted members of God's own family (Ep. 1:4-12) and their own newly adopted brothers and sisters (Rom. 8:15). Each of God's family are fellow soldiers warring against the same enemy. They are travelers journeying along the same "narrow way" to "Bunyan's Celestial City." They may be very different in rank and privilege and wealth, yet they well understand each other knowing God is "no respecter of persons" (Acts 10:34). What really matters is that they all love and strive to bring glory to Christ as true children of God (John 1:12-13). A marvelous family reunion will occur at the Wedding Feast of the Lamb of God (Rev. 19:7-9). Love such as never seen or experienced will be manifested there. What if the Apostle asks you, "Are You Born Again?" Do you have this fourth mark?

Sign number Five that John gives is, "Whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world (1 John 5:4). Once regenerated by God's spirit, born again believers learn NOT to make the world's opinions their rules of right and wrong even when "professing" Christians fall into it. True believers will swim against the world's frivolities. "What will people say?" no longer stifles or moves them once having overcome all inordinate love for "this present world" (2 Tim. 4:10). Believers no longer take pleasure in worldly pursuits nor partner with those whose lifestyle is unworthy of a true child of God destined for immortality. Believers not only overcome the world, the flesh and the devil (1 John 2:15) but all fear of what the world thinks of them or may do to

them. The world hates believers because it first hated Christ and His righteousness (John 15:18-19). Those who remain as lost “children of disobedience” and “wrath,” believe and act in the lostness of their inherited Adamic natures, walking in compulsion to the “course of this world” controlled by the “prince of the power of the air” who blinds unbelievers (2 Cor. 4:4; Ep. 2:2-3) whose father is the devil (John 8:44; 1 John 3:10). Those who once despised believers now seek their praise. Believers’ ways and teachings offend the worldly but please God. Their one aim is to always please the Savior and not the world. So, do you have this mark?

The Sixth and last sign John relates is “All that are begotten of God keepeth themselves” (1 John 5:18). Those truly born again are careful for their souls steering clear of temptations’ pitfalls. They are especially careful of the company they keep knowing “evil communications” corrupt (1 Cor. 15:33). Also they are careful to use their time for the Lord. They keep the command to flee from friendships, partnerships and marriages with the unsaved (2 Cor. 6:14-17; Ep. 5:3-11). They know what their natural heart is (Jer. 17:9). They always don the armor of God to drive out the lion of evil (Ep. 6:11-18; 1 Pet. 5:8). They know they are God’s soldiers in enemy territory. So they humbly study (2 Tim. 2:15) and are watchful (Luke 21:36), obedient, prayerful children of God. Do you have this sixth mark? Are you born again?

There are in many cases a vast difference in the depths of these signs in those who are followers of Christ. In some who may be saved these marks may be dim and feeble – hardly discernable. In others they are bold and unmistakable. The Holy Spirit inspired Apostle John (2 Pet. 1:21), writing one of the last general epistles to Christ’s Church, warns all believers that those truly born of God (John 1:13) do NOT commit habitual sin, believe without doubt that Jesus is the promised Christ sent by God, practices holiness as a first priority for life. They love the brethren, overcome this present evil world, and keep to God’s narrow road that alone leads to “life eternal” (Matt. 7:14; John 3:16).

The Word of God and the Holy Spirit incubated humility in the hearts, minds and souls of believers now fosters the conclusion of agreement with the Old Anglican fundamentalist Bishop J. C. Ryle, that those truly born again will have these six signs about them. He asks us all, “Are You Born Again?”

Keep looking up.

Source: Tract, “Are You Born Again”
Author: J. C. Ryle (sometime in the 19th Century)
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Facebook: www.facebook.com/cubhillchurch
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Spiritual Inventory

By Nancy Long

James 4:13-15 -- *"Go to now, ye that say, Today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, and appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, if the Lord will, we shall live, and do this or that."*

Those of you, who are reading this Defender right now, have already been given God's gift of 31,622,400 seconds of life during the past leap year 2016. Because of the Creator's awesome provision, all of us were blessed with our own personal "time" bank account, to be used as each one of us chose was best. It is incumbent upon us, I believe, to periodically, perhaps annually, take inventory, and to think seriously about this treasure we've been granted. I ask myself, "How did I do?" I now put forth the same question to you, "How did **you** do?"

How we used, and the way in which we are currently using our seconds, minutes, hours, and days, will determine whether or not we've multiplied our "time" account and made deposits into our "eternal" one, or made merely withdrawals.

"We've only one life 'twill soon be past: only what's done for Christ will last." This quote by missionary to China, India, and Africa, C.T. Studd, we've all heard repeated many times --- **there's no greater truth!!**

We, who are living here on this earth, are passing through this thing we've dubbed as "time", **so** very quickly. "Time is fleeting", we say, "moving right along faster, it seems, with each passing year!!" **Life is brief!!** The time we've been allotted for living in the world is short, predetermined, appointed, and known only to an omniscient, sovereign God (Job 14:5). Scripture likens it to the wind (it comes, and then it goes) -- Job 7:7, also comparing it to a vapor (a puff of smoke, or one's breath that appears but for a moment in cold air) -- James 4:14.

The Bible clearly states that man is of a few days, delicate and fragile (Psalm 37:4), as many other passages as well, emphasize the temporary and transient nature of life. Let's not take such a treasured, and precious, gift for granted!

At the start of each New Year, many resolutions are made. Ever so many promises and commitments are vowed to ourselves, and as well, to each other. New goals are established. "I'm going to get out of debt", some say, or "My health is important, I'm

joining a health club and developing an exercise routine, losing some needed pounds, etc. beginning, of course, on January 1st." Others will determine to give up bad habits and implement good ones resolve to read the Bible within the next twelve months, to become involved in a Bible study, or to pray more. No one could find fault!!

However, remembering that our days are in **God's** hands and our lives **could** be taken away today would we be ready? How many of us even think on this with any regularity, or with any serious thought? Considering though, the brevity of life, this surely could be yours (or my) last day to live. There may never be another opportunity to say, "I love you" to your spouse or to your child. There may never be another occasion to verbalize to a loved one or to a friend, "I am so very grateful that the Lord has placed you in my life", or "I forgive you", or perhaps, "I am so sorry, please forgive me".

I exhort you, my Defender friends, to rejoice and be glad for the newness of each day, to be thankful to the Lord for awakening you this morning, for putting breath in your lungs once again, to perhaps behold another sunrise, or to see a baby smile, or to experience and feel the softness and warmth of at least one more hug or possibly, even to enjoy end of the day greetings from a fluffy puppy, whose tail wags faster than one can imagine!

The "seconds" of our life's clock are ticking away, being used up like the grains of sand in an hourglass.

As we embark, once again, on another new year 2017, let us renew our allegiance to Him who made us, to Him who said, "*Behold, all things are become new*" (2 Cor. 5:17). Life is a gift, and it comes from God!! I pray we **consciously** shift our attention from ourselves to others, and **gratefully** rejoice in whatever each new day brings (Psalm 118:24).

You know, the best things in life really **are** free. Take time for the Lord. He is life's only true, lasting investment the only gift that will last eternally!



American Minute—January 17

Mel Gibson's movie "The Patriot" depicted the Battle of Cowpens, **JANUARY 17**, 1781, where American General Daniel Morgan had a line of militia fire into British General Cornwallis' and Colonel Tarleton's dragoons, regulars, highlanders and loyalists. When the Americans retreated, the British pursued, only to be surprised by American Continentals waiting over the hill. In the confusion, the Americans killed 110 British and captured 830. Cornwallis regrouped and chased the Americans, arriving at the Catawba River just two hours after the Americans had crossed, but a storm made the river impassable. He nearly overtook them again as they were getting out of the Yadkin River, but rain flooded the river. This happened a third time at the Dan River. British Commander Henry Clinton wrote: "Here the royal army was again stopped by a sudden rise of the waters, which had only just fallen (almost miraculously) to let the enemy over." In March of 1781, General Washington wrote to William Gordon: "We have...abundant reasons to thank Providence for its many favorable interpositions in our behalf. It has at times been my only dependence, for all other resources seemed to have failed us."



American Minute—January 21

He produced epic films in Hollywood for almost five decades and started Paramount Pictures. His name was Cecil B. DeMille and he died **JANUARY 21**, 1959. DeMille's best-known films include: *Samson and Delilah*, *The Ten Commandments* and *The Greatest Show on Earth*, for which he won an Academy Award. At the opening of *The Ten Commandments*, 1956, Cecil B. DeMille stated: "Man has made 32 million laws since the Commandments were handed down to Moses on Mount Sinai...but he has never improved on God's law...They are the charter and guide of human liberty, for there can be no liberty without the law." President Harry S Truman stated in his address to the Attorney General's Conference, February 1950: "The fundamental basis of this nation's laws was given to Moses on the Mount. The fundamental basis of our Bill of Rights comes from the teachings we get from Exodus and St. Matthew, from Isaiah and St. Paul. I don't think we emphasize that enough these days." Truman concluded: "If we don't have a proper fundamental moral background, we will finally end up with a totalitarian government which does not believe in rights for anybody except for the State."

(AMERICAN MINUTE.COM—WILLIAM J. FEDERER)

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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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 & 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 Night Youth Group	7:00 PM