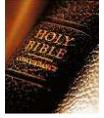


The DEFENDER - April 2019



“. . . 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: A Thought-Provoking Question

It's not my intention to be controversial. My goal is to reveal the truth. But if that brings about robust discussion and honest self-analysis, then I feel disagreements can be beneficial as long as any criticism involved is constructive in nature. With that as a backdrop, I come to you this month with a question involving two controversial subjects—politics and religion. I saw a bumper sticker recently that said “Christians cannot vote Democrat.” So my question to you is, “Is that true?” Also understand that my aim here is not to look at this from a political perspective, but rather from a theological one.

We begin our analysis by examining the platform of the Democrat party. While the planks in the platform are many, for our purposes we'll use just those that are in conflict with the Word of God. The most obvious and egregious are the ones pertaining to abortion and same-sex marriage. The Party's official stance calls for the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. No mention of discrimination against unborn women. They go on to say that safe abortion must be part of comprehensive maternal and women's health care. Again, no mention of the fact that no abortion is safe for the unborn child. In checking God's Word we find the sixth commandment given us in Exodus 20:13 is explicit in saying “Thou shalt not kill.” For those who still need further proof of God's opposition to the Democrat Party Platform, Proverbs 6:17 says that God “hates the hands that shed innocent blood.” Can there be blood that is any more innocent than that of an unborn child?

Moving right along, we take note of the Democrat Party's support of the sodomy lobby. Whether its same-sex marriage or transgender confusion, the Democrats are in direct opposition to God's decree that it is an abomination to lie with mankind as with womankind (**Leviticus 18:22**) and that cross-dressing is an abomination to Him as well (**Deuteronomy 22:5**).

The Democrat Party also believes in the hoax known as Climate Change. There is no scientific proof to support it. It is nothing more than a contrived international emergency intended to control the population. Nowhere in God's Word are we told that the earth will be threatened by drastic elevations of the oceans or air temperatures. Yet many evangelical leaders have climbed onboard this bogus social justice issue to the point of leading their flocks astray, squandering gifts and offerings on saving the planet that would be better used in the salvation of people's souls. While it is probably true that not every Democrat who holds public office also holds to every plank in their party's platform, understand that by voting Democrat, you are increasing the Party's chances of controlling Congress, thereby ensuring their anti-God philosophy becomes the law of the land.

I've often wondered how true Christians could support these official Democrat policies that clearly violate God's holy Word. I don't believe they can.

Rev. David Lewis

Bible Basics for Christians
Part II – God’s Providence and Man’s Redemption
(Part I ran in December 2018 and can be found on our website.)

By Robert Luthardt, Sr.

Common sense alone informs mankind that the works of creation and the light of nature did not spontaneously generate from nothing. Some supreme entity brought the universe into existence and was its first cause. Throughout recorded history, sages have testified to having encounters with one claiming to be that creator of everything. Those chosen to record the words of this creator are known as Prophets and Apostles and what they inscribed comprises the books of a properly translated Holy Bible (John 1:1-3; Rom. 1:18-20; Heb. 1:1-2).

The goal of this short article is to allow God’s Word to illuminate issues basic to Christ’s Gospel and to allow the Holy Spirit to enlighten whom He will. The scriptures teach that God gave us His message in written form; “All scripture is given by ... God (2 Tim. 3:16-17) by men of God’s own choosing; “Holy men of God spoke [AND WROTE] as they were moved by the Holy Spirit” (2 Pet. 1:21). Some erroneously charge this to be circular reasoning but if the Bible is to be accepted as God’s infallible, inerrant Holy Word (in the original manuscripts) it would of necessity have to at least make that claim; and so it does. Many proofs are available to conclusively establish authenticity.

What does scripture tell us about God? God is SOVEREIGN over time and eternity and all creation; “He doeth according to HIS WILL in the Army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth, and none can stay His hand or say ... What doest Thou? (Dan. 4:35). God’s sovereignty extends into the future (Prov. 16:33; Neh. 9:6; Ps. 145:13; Is. 42:9, 46:10). His wisdom is far above man’s (Job 11:7-9) and He turns Kings’ hearts as He pleases (Prov. 21:1). All of Heaven and Earth cannot contain Him (1 Kings 8:27); none can hide from Him (Jer. 23:24). He sees our good AND our evil (Prov. 15:3); everything is open to His eyes (Heb. 4:13).

God does NOT change: “I am the Lord, I change not” (Mal. 3:6). “God is faithful ...” (toward us that were “called” into the fellowship of Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 1:9). He is “the same yesterday and today and forever” (Heb. 13:8) “with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning” (James 1:17).

God’s understanding is far beyond man’s; “How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out ...” (Rom. 11:33). “He sitteth upon the circle of the earth and ... stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain ...” (Is. 40:22). “When I consider the heavens ... the moon and stars ... what is man that Thou are mindful of Him ...?”

(Ps. 8:3-4). God knows His chosen ones BEFORE they are conceived; “Thine eyes did see my substance ... when as yet there was NONE” (Ps. 139:16). God’s understanding is infinite (limitless) (Ps. 147:5). He sees everything at once (Heb. 4:13) because He knows “ALL THINGS” (1 John 3:20). He knows every good and every evil every man has done (Prov. 15:2).

God knows every descendant of Adam (John 2:24) and the life record of their foolish darkened hearts (Rom 1:21). Yet by grace alone He opens some hearts (Acts 1:24, 16:14) so that they thirst for Him and His Word (1 Pet. 2:2-3) as those chosen and precious to Him (vs. 4-5) and as a “living sacrifice” acceptable unto God (Rom 12:1). God “constrains” those He calls with “imputed” righteousness – won for us by Jesus Christ and in us (2 Cor. 5:14; James 2:23). He resurrects and renews every chosen believer into a new living creation (2 Cor. 5:17).

God’s thoughts in scripture are quick [LIVING] and powerful ... (Heb. 4:12) giving the spiritually resurrected (Ep. 2:1) a blessed hope (Titus 2:13) that Christ will come again for His own (1 Thes. 4:13-18) to take us to our eternal home (John 14:1-3). His Word will NOT return void (Is. 55:11) for God cannot lie (Heb. 6:18).

God opens the understanding of all His chosen (Luke 24:45) to recognize what the Divine Author revealed (Heb. 12:2) that before was only mystery (Phil. 1:9) that Jesus created all things and delivered us from darkness (Col. 1:13-18). He turned our hearts from deceit and wickedness and spiritual deadness (Jer. 17:9; Ep. 2:1-3) from being God’s enemies in our minds (Col. 1:21) to a transformational renewing of our minds (Rom. 12:2) by God’s grant of “a measure of faith” (vs. 3).

Our salvation is by God’s gift (Ep. 2:8-9) and we rejoice in Christ’s Gospel of truth: first imbibing the “milk of the Word” (Heb. 5:14) as “little children” (Matt. 18:1-4), then to strive for the meat (deeper knowledge) with “a pure heart and unfeigned faith” (1 Tim. 1:5) by studying “the Word of God” to “rightly dividing the word of truth ...” (2 Tim. 2:15). What comprises the nature of a God who mercifully opens the hearts and minds of His enemies? (Rom 5:10; Col. 1:21) to adopt them as His own sons and daughters? (Ep. 1:4-5; John 1:12-13).

Scripture properly interpreted, shows one God (Deut. 6:4; Mark 12:29) who exists as THREE co-equal persons in a tri-unity. To understand God with the human intellect is equivalent to “fitting the ocean into a bucket” (Thomas Watson). Nevertheless, the Bible exhibits the triune nature of God: in single verses (Matt. 28:19; John 14:26, 15:26; 2 Cor. 13:14; Gal. 4:6; 1 Pet. 1:2; 1 John 5:8) and in combination verses (Matt. 3:16-17; Rom. 8:9-11, et. al.).

On earth, Jesus claimed His deity: “I and my Father are one” (John 10:30; “He that hath seen me hath seen the Father” (John 14:9); “Before Abraham was, I am” (John 8:58, 14:62). The Son and the Holy Spirit work in full concert with the Father. The

Father “draws” sinners to salvation (John 6:44, 65) so does Jesus (12:32) also the Holy Spirit (16:13) for the glory of all (17:24, 26).

God sacrificed His only begotten Son (John 3:16) but raised Christ from the dead who then sent to us His Spirit providing eternal life for those chosen to redemption (2 Cor. 3:17-18, 4:14, 5:1). Jesus declared war on death (John 2:18-22) and made a spiritual temple and priesthood (1 Pet. 2:5; 1 Cor. 3:16) and Christ the cornerstone (Ep. 2:20-22). Jesus thought it NOT robbery to be equal with God (Phil. 2:6-13). “But this man sat down at the right hand of God ... for by ONE offering He hath perfected forever them that are sanctified (Heb. 10:14) and the Holy Spirit is our witness (1 John 5:6, 10-13). The Triune God so loved us to become one with us and to bleed and die for us (1 John 3:16). There is no greater love (John 15:13) and God became the literal embodiment of love (1 John 4:7-8, 10).

God is perfect holiness. “Holy, Holy, Holy cried the Angel” (Is. 6:3). “Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil and cannot look on iniquity” (Hab. 1:13). “He is glorious in holiness” (Ex. 15:11). “Who is able to stand before this holy God ...” (1 Sam. 6:20). “Thou only art holy ...” (Rev. 15:4). “The Father of spirits ... chastens us ... for our profit that we might be partakers of HIS HOLINESS” (Heb. 12:9-10) and “delivers us from evil” (Matt. 6:13). Christ, the good shepherd, leads His sheep AWAY from temptation and gives His very life for them (John 10:14, 27-28) and made us partakers of the divine nature of godliness that we might, by holy living, “escape corruption” (2 Pet. 1:3-4).

We are duly warned to “love NOT the world, neither the things that are in the world.” “If any love the world, the love of the Father is NOT in them” (1 John 2:15; Rom. 12:2). As best we can, we fight intensely to follow Christ’s example (1 Pet. 2:21-23) “who did NO sin.”

What is mankind’s present condition? All, from Adam’s fall, are born with a nature and a heart at enmity with God. “The heart of man is deceitful ABOVE ALL THINGS and DESPERATELY wicked” (Jer. 17:9) filled with evil imaginings (Gen. 6:5) and imagined deceits (Ps. 38:12) and devising evil imaginations ... running to mischief (Ps. 6:18)) and “glorified Him NOT as God ... vain in their imaginations and their foolish heart was darkened” (Rom. 1:21) so to be “carnally minded [WORLD-LOVING] is death” (Rom. 8:6).

The natural born condition of our human heart is that of deadness, disobedience and lust controlled by Satan (Ep. 2:2-3; 2 Cor. 4:3-4) prone to even murder (Gen. 4:4-8) the “way of Cain” (Jude 11) brother against brother (Gen. 27:41) as Esau against Jacob, Joseph’s brothers desired to murder him (Gen. 37:4, 18) wicked leaders sought Paul’s life (Acts 23:12) and Stephen and James were unjustly executed by them. The Lord Jesus Christ they brutalized and crucified (John 19:15-18). The unsaved in the world still hate Christ and Christians (John 15:18-19). ALL from Adam are born with

darkened hearts, by nature – lost, enslaved by Satan (Ep. 2:23). Scripture indicts us because we are born loving darkness (John 3:19) hating God’s light (vs. 20) and unless the Father “draws” the lost to Christ (John 6:44;65) by His WILL “alone” (John 1:13) they remain forever separated from Him and heaven.

Adam’s descendants are born liars (Ps. 58:3; Prov. 22:15) who willingly twist God’s words (Rom. 1:25) their throats are likened to a rotting corpse, their lips smeared with the poison of snakes, their language filled with filthy cures and bitterness (Rom. 3:13-14) and without Christ they end in Hell.

Solomon wrote of our natural plight, “There is NOT a just man on earth that ... sinneth not” (Ec. 7:20) so also Jeremiah. “Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard his spots ...” then evil men may do good (Jer. 13:23). Depraved hearts and “wicked hands” crucified our LORD (Acts. 2:23). Since the unregenerate take pleasure in sin (Rom. 1:32) so those living “in the flesh [CARNALITY] cannot please God” (Rom. 8:7-8) for there is none righteous, none that truly understands, none that rightly seeks after God and “all have sinned ...” (Rom. 3:10-18). The spiritually dead are beyond hope without God’s unmerited mercy (Col. 2:13a; Rom. 9:16) by the new birth (John 3:7-8). A great mystery.

God, who is love (1 John 4:8) like any Father, loves His adopted children (Gal. 4:3-7) who come to Him in the simplicity of faith as Jesus admonished the disciples (Mark 10:15; Luke 18:16). For those who feel God is too far away, He is not the one who moved: so again, apply Christ’s promised solution (Luke 11:9-13) and God will “draw” home all of His pleading prodigals (Luke 15:17-24). The Angels will rejoice (Luke 15:10). Simply call upon the Lord (Rom. 10:13).

Keep looking up.

Chief Source:

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Publisher:

A Body of Divinity
Thomas Watson
The Banner of Truth Trust
P.O. Box 621
Carlisle, PA 17103
ISBN: 0 85151 145 7

He Arose

By Nancy Long

Matt. 28:6 – *“He is not here: for **He is risen**, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.”*

Mark 16:6 – *“And He saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth which was crucified: **He is risen**; He is not here: behold the place where they laid Him.”*

Luke 24:6 – *“He is not here, but **is risen**: remember how He spake unto you when He was yet in Galilee.”*

Acts 2:24 – *“Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that He should be holden of it.”*

Acts 26:8 – *“Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?”*

1 Cor. 15:55 – *“O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”*

Christ Arose

Low in a grave He lay, Jesus, my Savior.
Waiting the coming day, Jesus, my Lord!

Vainly they watch His bed, Jesus, my Savior.
Vainly they seal the dead, Jesus, my Lord!

Death cannot keep his prey, Jesus, my Savior.
He tore the bars away, Jesus, my Lord!

Up from the grave He arose, With a mighty triumph o'er His foes.
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,
And He lives forever with His saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Words and Music ---- Robert Lowry (1826-1899)

On December 17, 1927, just off the coast of Provincetown, Massachusetts, a Coast Guard destroyer accidentally rammed into a Navy S class submarine, sinking it to the bottom of the ocean within minutes. Life boats were immediately lowered in hopes of saving those on board, but to no avail, since severe weather had impeded the search.

It wasn't until the next day when divers were able to get down 100 feet, where the sub had rested, that they were able to learn, by the use of Morse code, there were only six, out of the forty men initially on board, still alive; and these six men were trapped

inside the submarine's torpedo room. Oxygen was running low. Extreme winds and frigid temperatures continued to thwart any rescue efforts!

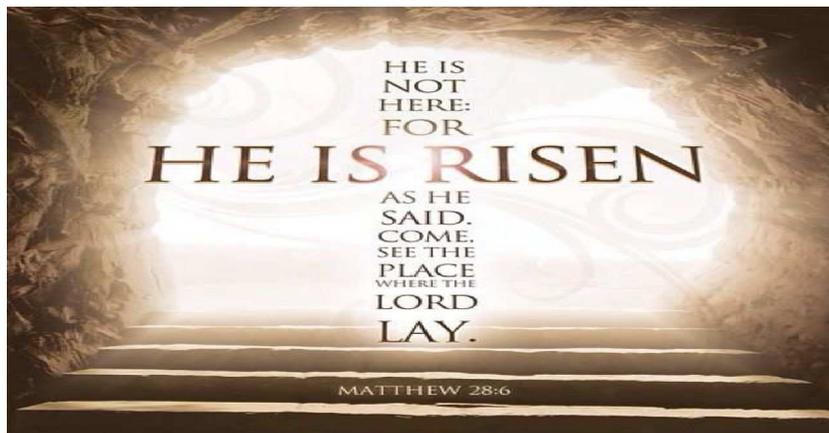
The last Morse-coded message heard from these few men, who had been tapping on the hull of the ship was, ***"Is there any hope?"*** The Captain's response, ***"There is hope. Everything possible is being done."*** The rescue team, though, because of that harsh and severe weather, could not, in spite of the intensity of their desires, save the lives of those six men!!! Whatever was humanly possible had been done! You see, the strength of mankind, no matter how all consuming the effort, often is ***not*** enough!!!

"Is there hope? Is there?" Is this not humanity's cry?!? If so, where is that hope and in what, ***or whom***, is that hope? There ***is*** an answer to that query! The resurrection of Jesus Christ ***is*** the answer to that impassioned cry! Jesus' victory over death ***is*** that hope!!

You see, Jesus was not just a man! Oh, yes, he was humbly born as a tiny baby in Bethlehem, lived on this earth as a human for 33 years, and ultimately was put to death by crucifixion and was buried. The tomb had been sealed the tomb was guarded! This story though, does not end here!!! Despite man's attempt to keep the body of Jesus in that tomb, Christ arose!!

*"Up from the grave He arose, with a mighty triumph o'er His foes.
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,
And He lives forever with His saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!"*

This, my Defender Friends, is ***HOPE*** a promised hope for an eternity in a place called heaven forever and ever, and ever, in perfect bliss, joy, peace and harmony!!!



A Church, A Courtroom and Then Goodbye

By Michael Anthony

When I was growing up in the nineteen fifties and early nineteen sixties, it was considered a sin for a boyfriend and girlfriend to live together. Obviously, there was a little more to the story than just two people living in the same location. Implicit in the arrangement was fornication. This was the sixties, however, and “if it feels good, do it” became the new moral authority. It was a time when the “Me” generation and “sexual revolution” would usher in peace, love and flower power. Or was that civil unrest, non-commitment, and a lot of penicillin? I get those confused.

Luckily, I had a healthy respect for the back of my father’s Italian hand, and I avoided the above-mentioned sin for another twelve years. There really is something to the cliché spare the rod and spoil the child. He made it clear that certain things would not be happening “under his roof” or under “hers” for that matter. Thank God for him. Without his guidance, I probably wouldn’t be alive today, and it’s doubtful that I’d be writing anything for *The Defender*.

I began thinking about the topic of marriage and non-commitment after listening to Patsy Cline sing the song “A Church, A Courtroom and Then Goodbye.” Call me crazy (pun intended), but for a brief moment I felt like I was in the “Twilight Zone.” It was a time when morals were relative to God’s doctrines and divorce was not a part of His marital covenant. “Love the one you’re with” was not yet an accepted part of the culture.

The lyrics (written by Eddie Miller and W.S. Stevenson)

*“The first scene was the church, then the altar
Where we claimed each other, with tears of joy we cried
Our friends wished us luck there forever
As we walked from the church, side by side*

*The next scene was a crowded courtroom
And like strangers we sat side by side
Then I heard the judge make his decision
And no longer were we man and wife
I hate the sight of that courtroom
Where man-made laws push God’s laws aside
Then the clerk wrote our story in the record*

A church, a courtroom and then goodbye

*We walked from that courtroom together
We shook hands and once again we cried
Then it was the end of our story
A church, a courtroom and then goodbye”*

There was genuine sadness to Patsy’s voice as she lamented the loss of something very special, that is, losing a life-long promise to stay together until death do we part. Those were the days when most churches taught from the Bible and not from the latest “purpose-driven” variation of Peter F. Drucker’s “Concept of the Corporation.” It was a time when the clergy emphasized the sanctity of marriage and not the quantity of money landing in the collection basket.

The disintegration of morals was not caused by the immorality of people. People have always been attracted to immorality. Morality was lost when the clergy abdicated their duty to teach all of the ten commandments with equal vigor. The morality needed for a successful marriage was destroyed when the first priest knowingly married two people whom he knew were already living together. With a wink and a nod he said, “Let’s hurry up and get these two legal.” His goal was not spiritual reconciliation, but financial remuneration.

The clergy made the decision to ignore the sinfulness of sexual fornication in an effort to slow the number of people who were exiting the church. Less people translated into less money. Therefore, the clergy watered down the gospel so that people would not be convicted of sin, feel bad, and leave the church. Ignoring sin, however, is never profitable.

Today, people think that adultery is only committed when a married person “sleeps with” someone who is not their spouse. God’s definition of adultery has been lost and with it the sanctity and stability of marriage. Stable societies require stable marriages; not a village of social workers.

The cultural revolution of the nineteen sixties has been very successful in destroying God’s morality. The Bible, however, is replete with examples where God’s patience was exhausted, and He reestablished His law. “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap” (Galatians 6:7).

P.S. Have you priced the cost of a catholic annulment lately?

While We Were Yet Sinners

By Hank Arthur

While we were yet sinners,
God loved us, yes everyone.
While we were yet sinners,
He sent down His Son,
To be born of a woman,
like an ordinary man.
Then let Him die on the cross
to fulfill His Father's plan.

God sent heaven's finest,
as a ransom for the lost.
He meant to save His children,
regardless of the cost.
Jesus came as a babe,
born in Bethlehem's stall.
Walking forward each day
towards Pilate's hall.

While we were yet sinners,
He was hung on that tree.
While we were yet sinners,
He gave his life for you and me.
But He arose triumphant,
He came out of that grave.
He conquered death,
God's chosen ones to save.

Yes, we are yet sinners,
but we are saved by Grace.
Christ Jesus, God's Son,
died in our place.
Some day soon He'll take us,
to our home in the sky,
To live forever with our Savior,
in the sweet by and by.





Joyful

Easter

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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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
Good Friday Service (April 19th)	7:00 PM
Easter Sunday Service (April 21st)	11:00 AM