

TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

WATCH

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Patriotism or "Crude Nationalism?"

A Debate That Will Rage for Years

COMMENTARY

Peace & Prosperity: God's Promises

by Michael Armstrong

Love him or hate him, Donald Trump's election to the office of President of the United States has rocked the nation. Since its announcement, President-elect Trump's bid for office has been treated as a joke and usually a bad one. We will not attempt to re-live the campaign in its excruciating entirety or even summarize it in this article. However, it is well known that media sources never ran short of criticisms and victory was thought extremely unlikely even among supporters. Now observers on both sides have been forced to reevaluate the priorities of the American public.

Regardless of personal opinions it is accepted that, had the election gone her way, a Clinton administration would have nearly mirrored Barack Obama's. A Trump administration, based on campaign promises, represented almost the complete opposite. Through all the detailed discussion of the merit, feasibility and practicality of particular party platforms this stark difference has been a given.

This leads us to our current, peculiar reality: The same states

that twice propelled President Obama to the Whitehouse have now paved the way for President-elect Trump. Two diametrically opposed ideologies placed in charge of this country were, selected by many of the same people after the space of only

history. The world's largest economy, an unusually high standard of living, personal freedom with civil rights protected by the rule of law, and an unrivaled military capability has rendered Her premier among the nations. Contributions to science and medi-



Partial view of the crowd attending a Trump rally in the U.S. Bank Arena, Cincinnati, Ohio on October 13, 2016.

four years. What happened? Is it reasonable to assume the electorate has completely transformed? Or are they desperately seeking a path to what they want, to what all sane and rational people want, peace and prosperity?

The United States has occupied a special place in modern

cine have been revolutionary to all mankind. Figures on annual charitable donations are staggering. She has been a land of opportunity, a beacon of hope, representing a chance to work and receive the fruit of your labor to oppressed peoples all over the world. These conditions have

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Germany
Submits to
Sharia Law

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European Leaders React to Presidential Election ... with Fear and Loathing

by Mark Armstrong

Not all European leaders reacted badly. In fact most issued perfunctory, low key congratulations and a desire to work closely with the new administration. That is not the case with the shell-shocked leaders of the EU. Both France and Germany, in addition to the top echelon of EU leaders are more than

of immigrants.

One of the first responses to the recent U. S. presidential election came from the French Ambassador to the United States Gerard Araud who wrote, "After Brexit and this election, everything is now possible. A world is collapsing before our eyes. Vertigo." He reportedly posted the comment

Holland was slightly more circumspect. After cursory congratulations, he described the result as a harbinger of "uncertainty." But the French Prime Minister, Manuel Valls went further in speaking before the National Assembly. He said, "Europe is in danger of falling apart... so France and Germany have a huge responsibility." He also railed against Great Britain and its decision to reclaim sovereignty from the European Union. "If they are able to have all the advantages of Europe without any of the inconveniences, then we are opening a window for others to leave the European Union."

Worrying about France's own elections next year, Valls expressed concern that electoral debate is "ignoring the danger posed by the far-right." The governing leadership of France is acutely concerned that Marine Le Pen, leader of the anti-EU, anti-immigration National Front may now have a shot of winning next year's election outright. He said, "We face a historic moment... perilous for the world, perilous for Europe and perilous for France." For her part, Marine Le Pen was quick to announce, "Congratulations to the new pres-



Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Francois Hollande.

a little concerned that their own citizens will take heart from what transpired first in Britain, and now the United States. Europeans are looking at a referendum and a presidential election where a majority rejected a labyrinth of regulations and boundless waves

on social media in what may have been an emotional moment. Perhaps thinking better of putting his panicky reaction out to the world, it was hastily deleted. But it was too late, his quote has seen wide distribution.

French President François

ident of the United States Donald Trump and the American people. Free!”

With president Obama only weeks from vacating office, Prime Minister Angela Merkel of Germany is being hailed as the primary remaining champion of “western values.” She spelled out what those are in her cloaked response to the Trump victory. “Germany and America are bound together by values — democracy, freedom, respecting the rule of law, people's dignity regardless of their origin, the color of their skin, religion, gender, sexual orientation or political views ... On the basis of these values, I am offering to work closely with the future President of the United States, Donald Trump.” Would it be too critical to say that she issued a list of conditions under which she would be cooperative? One source has it that two out of three Germans believe that relations with the United States will suffer under the circumstances.

Relations are already suffering with Britain in the aftermath of the “Brexit” referendum. British Prime Minister Theresa May traveled to Berlin in late November to work out an agreement covering British citizens living and working within the EU, and Europeans in the UK. But numerous articles reported that Merkel gave May “the cold shoulder.” Mrs. Merkel refused to consider any such arrangement until after Britain formally triggers “Article 50,” which is the legal step necessary to a formal withdrawal from the EU. Mrs. Merkel's abrupt denial of Mrs. May's re-

quest is another illustration of the resentment, anger, and yes fear among proponents of the EU in the wake of what they see as “populist revolution” in Britain and America.

Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi initially issued a statement of congratulations on the election of Donald Trump, just a matter of days before Italy was to vote in a national referendum on which he'd staked his politi-

cal career. The referendum was billed as a move toward “legislative reform” which would allow the Prime Minister's office to enact financial arrangements to do with banking debt bypassing the “smothering bureaucracy” of the Italian Senate. But Italians voted “no” in a crushing electoral defeat which has triggered Renzi's pending resignation.

The “no” vote in Italy is seen as a continuation of a wave of populism across western civilization that began with Britain's move to exit the European Union, and continued with Donald Trump's defeat of Hillary Clinton, which is viewed as an overthrow of nearly every “transformational” policy of the Obama years. Whether the Italian vote against Renzi's reforms leads to an eventual separation from the EU will be decided in subsequent elections. The EU is now in a po-

sition to have to intervene in the Italian banking crisis to prop up a faltering economy and its financial institutions.

The only bright spot for worried EU officials was the Austrian election, which threatened to see Austria reject immigration quotas, energy mandates and wide-ranging regulations required of European Union member nations. The anti-EU candidate, Norbert Hoffer of the “far-right” Free-

**“We face a historic moment... perilous for the world, perilous for Europe and perilous for France.”
- French Prime Minister, Manuel Valls.**

dom Party was defeated by former Green Party leader Alexander Van der Bellen. Supporters of continued membership in the EU are ecstatic, with one Austrian diplomat boasting, “Austria saved the world!”

Austria represents but a small population in relation to the rest of Europe. The fate of the European Union in the near term will rest on its ability to deal with multiple financial crises across southern Europe and the outcomes of upcoming elections, particularly in Germany and France.

Socialist president François Hollande has dropped out of contention in next year's election and Prime Minister Manuel Valls has thrown his hat into the ring.

After speculation about her candidacy, Angela Merkel says she'll defend her position in German elections in 2017. □



UN AND GLOBALISM CONDEMNED IN THE BIBLE

by Garner Ted Armstrong

The “United Nations” is made up of every conceivable false religion, repressive, dictatorial governments, single-party governments, theocratic, clerical governments, dozens of hating, warring, viciously opposing groups, and yet seeks nothing short of the dissolution of national sovereignty.

Member states believe in everything from ignorant tribal animism to voodoo; from Confucianism to Buddhism; from Judaism to Islam; from nominal Christianity to Hinduism, with a smattering of nationalistic and tribal superstitions. Within each of the major religions, dozens of sects and cults are recognized; each in turn forming the basis of each member’s bias and political tilt. Nominal Christianity takes the prize for the largest number of denominations and sects, closely followed by Islam, Judaism and the polytheism of India.

Like wide-eyed innocent children busily sucking on a pacifier, millions of ignorant idealists, lost in self-induced euphoric dreams of “one world” globalism — people like pacifists, nihilists, anarchists, some environmentalists,

gay and animal rights advocates — actually hope this disparate, chaotic, disagreeing, often cynical and sinister grouping of nations can bring this war-torn, sin-sick world PEACE!

Since its inception at the end of the Second World War, the farcical UN has proved it has utterly failed to live up to its own charter! The Preamble of the UN states, “WE THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DETERMINED

- to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and

- to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and

- to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and

- to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

AND FOR THESE ENDS

- to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, and

- to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and

- to ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and

- to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

HAVE RESOLVED TO COMBINE OUR EFFORTS TO ACCOMPLISH THESE AIMS.

Accordingly, our respective Governments, through representatives assembled in the city of San Francisco, who have exhibited their full powers found to be in good and due form, have agreed to the present Charter of the United Nations and do hereby establish an international organization to be known as the United Nations.”

Study each statement of resolve carefully, and ask yourself how successful this hodge-podge of irrelevant, bickering, warring states has been in its vaunted goals.

“Save succeeding genera-

tions from the scourge of war”? The ink had hardly dried on that pretentious statement when the Soviet Union clamped down an “iron curtain” over eastern Europe, blockaded Berlin (1946), and tried to take over Greece! In previous commentaries I have detailed the DOZENS of wars fought between member states, and highlighted the fact that the various secretaries-general, each from some irrelevant, non-aligned state, not only failed to halt such wars, but were often representatives of the very states involved.

“Reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights”? To document the incredible, ghastly violations of human rights among member states over more than four de-

acades would require an entire encyclopedia of many volumes! Try to jog your memory about Rwanda, Mozambique, Vietnam, Cambodia, China, the Soviet Union, Libya, Uganda, Nigeria, Chile, Yugoslavia, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Nicaragua, Iran and Iraq, to name but a few nations where brutal pogroms and mass murder have been carried out, killing millions!

“Social progress and better standards of life”? Instead, many member states are experiencing worse standards of life today than before they joined the UN, and social progress in such states as those mentioned above has become social regress instead.

To “live together in peace with one another as good neighbors”? More than sixty wars have been fought between such “neighbors.” Try Britain and Northern Ireland, Iraq and Iran, Iraq and Kuwait, all the Arab states and Israel as examples. Try Taiwan and China, Albania and Yugoslavia, Pakistan and India.

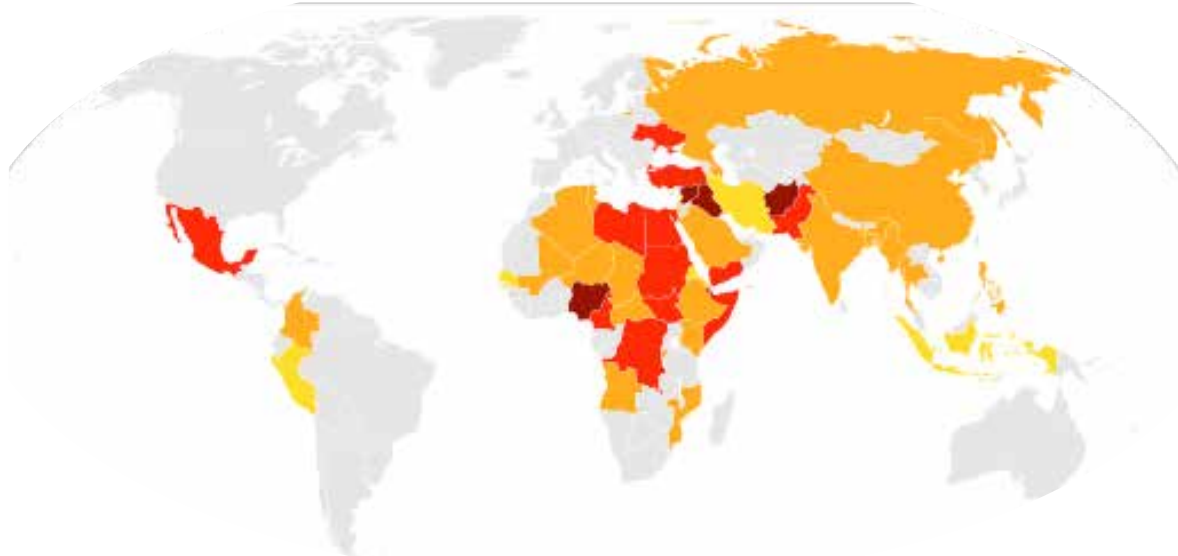
“Force not to be used except in the common interest”? Based upon its record in the light of history, there is no greater example of failure in the annals of time than the so-called “United Nations.”

Some of its greatest achievements? It has ousted the United States of America from its human rights commission, and put Libya and Cuba at the helm! It strove



New York, United States. September 20th, 2016: United States President Barack Obama holds a speech at the General Debate of the 71st Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Ongoing conflicts around the world:



■ Major wars, 10,000+ deaths in current or past calendar year;
 ■ Wars, 1,000–9,999 deaths in current or past calendar year;
 ■ Minor conflicts, 100–999 deaths in current or past calendar year;
 ■ Skirmishes and clashes, fewer than 100 deaths in current or past calendar year. Only the locations where the conflicts are taking place, not the warring parties, are coloured. For example, for the war in Afghanistan only Afghanistan itself is coloured.

mightily to leave Saddam Hussein in power in Iraq, and major member states such as France openly supported him. Today, it is working hard to destroy America's sovereignty; to bring the U.S. to heel, and force the U.S. to abandon all unilateral foreign policy, humbly acquiescing to UN authority.

Like all attempts at the amalgamation of nations, races and religions into a super world-ruling state, the so-called United Nations has utterly failed.

Of such man-made attempts at world government, God says "Associate yourselves, O ye people, and ye shall be broken in pieces; and give ear, all ye of far countries: gird yourselves, and ye shall be broken in pieces; gird yourselves, and ye shall be broken in pieces" (Isaiah 8:9).

Isaiah was God's prophet to

the nations. This warning shows that any attempt by the nations of "far countries" of the earth to form themselves together is doomed to destruction! The expression "gird yourselves" means rising up as if ready to take action, as if in preparation for battle, readying to take multilateral action.

He then says, "Take counsel together, and it shall come to nought; speak the word, and it shall not stand: for God is with us" (Isaiah 8:10). A truer prophecy has never been written. The United Nations have taken counsel together thousands of times. They have passed many hundreds of "resolutions." They have made many laudatory, high-sounding speeches. And it HAS NOT STOOD!

The enigmatic completion of

the verse, transliterated from the Hebrew, says "... for IMMANUEL." One of the divine titles of Jesus Christ is "Immanuel." In this prophecy, the feeble, failed efforts of man to "associate" himself in man-made organizations bent on world government is contrasted by the coming presence of Jesus Christ Himself at the helm of world government! This is what is meant by "it [man-made "associations"] shall not stand, FOR GOD IS WITH US!" Christ will soon replace all such man-made attempts, including the coming ten-nation coalition in Europe which will become the "BEAST" of prophecy and fight Christ at His coming (Revelation 17:12-14).

Now, look at the remainder of the prophecy, and see how it leads to the second coming of Christ, the establishment of the Kingdom

of God on earth, and the rebirth of the saved to rule with Christ for 1,000 years: “For the LORD spake thus to me with a strong hand, and instructed me that I should not walk in the way of this people, saying,

“Say ye not, A confederacy, to all them to whom this people shall say, A confederacy; neither fear ye their fear, nor be afraid [do not be misled by those who say ‘to confederate’; to ‘associate’; to ‘amalgamate’ is the only salvation of mankind!].

“Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself [to ‘sanctify’ means to acknowledge; to set apart as holy]; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread.

“And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel [read my book *Europe and America in Prophecy* to learn the identity of the US, Britain, and European nations in prophecy], for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem [the Jews, who have never accepted Christ].

“And many among them shall stumble, and fall, and be broken, and be snared, and be taken [see Jeremiah 5:15-19].

“Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples [God’s people “have not denied His name,” and have remained true to His laws, while false teachers have proclaimed the ‘law is done away.’].

“And I will wait upon the LORD, that hideth his face from the house of Jacob, and I will look for him.

“Behold, I and the children whom the LORD hath given me are for signs and for wonders in Israel from the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion” (Isaiah 8:11-18).

This prophecy shows Christ speaking of the newborn sons of God at the time of His second coming, who will be BORN OF THE SPIRIT “in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye” (1 Cor-

inthians 15:50-52) at the resurrection. Paul wrote of this: “But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

“To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect” (Hebrews 12:22, 23).

Comforting those who were brutally expelled from an apostate church, God promises:

“Hear the word of the LORD, ye that tremble at his word; Your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for my name's sake, said, Let the LORD be glorified: but he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed.

“A voice of noise from the city, a voice from the temple, a voice of the LORD that rendereth rec-

ompense to his enemies.

“Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child.

“Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children” (Isaiah 66:5-8). Zion is

Like all attempts at the amalgamation of nations, races and religions into a super world-ruling state, the so-called United Nations has utterly failed.

metaphor for the church, the Bride of Christ, the re-born saints who will RULE with Christ for 1,000 years. Christ promises: “And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

“And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father” (Revelation 2:26, 27).

Man-made attempts at world government, featuring tribalism, racism, xenophobia, false, heathen religions, along with human nature which is composed of vanity, jealousy, lust and greed will soon be replaced by the glorious world-ruling Kingdom of God! No wonder Christ commands His people to pray each day, “Thy KINGDOM COME – thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven!” □



For Crying Out Loud!

by Jim Josephsen

Until the day when the truth of God, the word of God as revealed in the Bible, can no longer be written, spoken or heard (Amos 8:11-12), the Church of God will continue its responsibility, its commission to preach the gospel of the Kingdom of God (Mark 1:14), the gospel of Jesus Christ (Mark 1:1). In fulfilling its commission, the Church of God is like a modern-day “Watchman” (cf. Ezekiel 3:17-19; Ezekiel 33; Jeremiah 6:17-19) to the modern-day children of Israel, those peoples specifically within Great Britain, the United States, Canada and Australia. In fulfilling its commission, the Church is to preach as a witness and warning of the events that will specifically, actually occur to these nations and of the events to occur to the world as a whole, explaining the reasons why, from God’s perspective, these prophetic future events will take place.

Jesus Christ commissioned the Church to “go into the world and teach all nations” all things that He taught (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15). In addition to this world encompassing command, Jesus Christ instructed His disciples to go specifically to “the lost sheep of the House of Israel” (Matthew 10:6).

It was “the lost sheep of the House of Israel” (cf. Ezekiel 34:11-16); known today as “the Ten Lost Northern Tribes of Israel,” for which Jesus Christ had and still today has great concern. The salvation of the Children of Israel is of vital significance to God, a dominant theme in the Scriptures and a primary purpose behind the coming of Jesus Christ (cf. Matthew 1:21; Luke 1:31-33; Acts 5:31 – “to give repentance to Israel”). Not to be forgotten, the gentiles (all the nations) will not be left out (cf. Jeremiah 16:19-21; Isaiah 49:6; 60:1-5; Luke 2:32; Acts 4:12; Acts 10:34-36). All humanity, all nations, all people are included in the whole plan of salvation and redemption (cf. John 3:16), which God, by the council of His own will, has determined the order of things.

From the beginning of His ministry until the day He went back to His Father’s throne, Jesus Christ emphasized repentance, requiring His disciples, His Church to preach and to teach the same. The primary objective, the central focus of the gospel message, of the witness and warning message, is repentance from sins and transgressions, emphasizing God’s forgiveness.

“Now after John was put into

prison [because John had stood tall and preached of sin and repentance cf. Mark 6:17-29 and Matthew 3:1], Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God, saying the time is fulfilled and the Kingdom of God is at hand: Repent and believe the gospel” (Mark 1:14-15).

“It’s not healthy people who need a doctor, rather sick people do. Go learn what is meant by the scriptures, ‘I will have mercy and not sacrifices.’ for I am come not to call the righteous, but the sinners to repentance” (cf. Matthew 9:12-13).

“And he said, Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah must suffer and die and rise again from the dead on the third day. With my authority, take this message of repentance to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem: there is forgiveness of sins for all who turn to me” (Luke 24:46-47 New Living Translation).

“The times of this ignorance God winked at but now commands all men everywhere to repent” (Acts 17:30).

Repentance is the central theme, a consistent, unwavering message expressed in both the Old Testament (e.g. Ezekiel 18:23, 32; Ezekiel 33:11) and New Testament (e.g. Matthew 4:17,

9:12-13; Mark 1:15; Luke 13:3, 5; Luke 15:7,10; Acts 2:38; Acts 26:18; 1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Timothy 2:25-26; 2 Peter 3:9). With great emphasis, the command from God, from Jesus Christ is that the message of repentance, as a witness and warning, must go out to “the lost sheep of the House of Israel” and to all nations.

Jesus Christ commissioned the Church of God to continue in the same path as the prophets of old, preaching repentance. The age-old question God has asked and still asks today is obvious and evident throughout the Scriptures. “Repent, for why will you die?”

Just as Jesus Christ did through the prophets of old (cf. 1 Peter 1:10-11), so He still does today through His Church, crying out specifically to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. “Therefore I will judge you O house of Israel, everyone according to his ways [his or her particular self-chosen lifestyle], says the Eternal God. Repent and turn yourselves from all your transgressions [sins, misbehavior, wickedness and disobedience]; so iniquity will not be your ruin” (Ezekiel 18:30). “I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from (repent of) his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will you die, O House of Israel” (Ezekiel 33:11).

The witness and warning message of repentance is required to go out to the Children of Israel. “Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet and show

my people their transgressions and the House of Jacob their sins” (Isaiah 58:1). Likewise Micah 3:8 - “to declare unto Jacob his transgressions and to Israel his sins.”

The message of repentance is so important to Jesus Christ; notice what He warned the Watchman would happen if the Watchman failed to preach the witness and warning message of repent-

ance. Still today, God warns the Watchman: “if you don’t warn the wicked to turn (to repent) from his wicked ways, that wicked person will die of his or her sins, but you, the Watchman will be guilty of the blood of the sinner” (cf. Ezekiel 3:17-19, Ezekiel 33:6,8). God holds the Watchman directly responsible and guilty, if the Watchman does not preach the witness and warning message of repentance, if the Watchman does not warn the wicked to repent from their wicked, sinful ways (i.e., lifestyle, behavior, and attitudes).

It is clear, as revealed in the book of Revelation, that the House of Israel and all the nations will be warned and the true message of repentance will be preached. As a result of that preaching, we see that during the time called the “great tribulation” and the Day of the Lord there

will be a collection of peoples, 144,000 (symbolically) from the children of Israel and those called a “great multitude” (Revelation 7), composed of people coming out from “all nations, and kindreds and peoples and tongues.” The Word of God reveals that these people repented and are given white robes, washed white in the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ. How did this happen?

From the beginning of His ministry until the day He went back to His Father’s throne, Jesus Christ emphasized repentance.

Obviously, at some point in their lives, they heard the true message of repentance, as preached by the Church of God, the gospel, the witness and warning message, instructing them of the need to repent. They repented. They were baptized, receiving the gift of God’s Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). They were washed, purged, purified, cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 9:14; 1 John 1:7). The witness and warning message of repentance was preached. They heard; they understood; they repented and were forgiven, being “saved.”

Too much is at stake to ignore the witness and warning message of repentance; especially as it pertains to “the lost sheep of the House of Israel.” The day is coming when God will “lay the land desolate and shall destroy the sinners out of it” (Isaiah 13:9). God

will “punish the world for their evil and the wicked for their iniquity” and God will “cause the arrogance of the proud [haughty] to cease and will lay low [humble] the haughtiness [pride] of the terrible [ruthless]” (Isaiah 13:11).

Of the modern-day House of

last days,” “in the end time,” “at the time of the end,” “in the latter days.” All these refer to the time in which we live now and the time soon ahead. God reveals the reasons for the judgment He is bringing upon “the lost sheep of the House of Israel,” the peoples

and the word [God’s truth] is not in them... Wherefore thus says the Lord God of hosts, because you speak this word, behold I will make my words in thy mouth fire and this people wood and it shall devour them. Lo, I will bring a nation upon you from far, O House of Israel says the Eternal: it is a mighty nation, it is an ancient nation, a nation whose language you don’t know, nor do you understand what they say. “But this people have a rebellious heart. . . your iniquities have turned away these things [God’s blessings] and your sins have withholden good from you... The prophets prophesy falsely and the priests bear rule by their means and my people love it that way...”

“Hear the word of the Eternal, you children of Israel: for the Eternal has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land... by swearing, by lying and killing and stealing and committing adultery, they break out and blood touches blood ... my people are destroyed for lack of knowledge [of God]” (Hosea 4).

Among the children of Israel, within their modern-day nations, God characterizes them as follows: “there is a conspiracy of her prophets [Evangelical ministers] in the midst thereof, they destroy lives, they preach for money, to feed themselves and their families. The priests [Christian ministers at large] have violated my laws and have profaned mine holy things and have put no difference between holy and profane. They

Unless an individual repents and is baptized, converted and forgiven, that individual is simply unacceptable in God’s sight.

Jacob, the children of Israel, “the lost sheep of the House of Israel,” God says, “all the sinners among my people will die by the sword, all those who say disaster will not overtake or meet us” (Amos 9:8-10 NIV). The reality of sin and its consequences needs to be revealed in plain and simple language to those who God calls, “My people.” It is understood “my people” are the modern-day Children of Israel (both the Southern and Northern Tribes), and specifically those known as “the lost sheep of the House of Israel.”

Prophecy reveals the events that will occur to the modern-day children — the descendants — of Israel. As Jesus Christ said, “All things which are written will be fulfilled” (Luke 21:22). All prophecy written will happen. Whether you want to believe it or not is immaterial. What the Word of God says will happen, will happen. And for a necessary reason, these things will take place.

The books of prophecy consistently use the terms, “In the

to whom Jesus Christ said must hear His witness and warning message of repentance.

This message reveals the reasons, from God’s perspective, why the modern-day Children of Israel will lose their national and personal blessings and be rejected by God. “For my people are foolish. They have not known me; they are sottish children; they have no understanding. They are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge” (Jeremiah 4:22).

Continuing in Jeremiah 5, “Their transgressions are many and their back-slidings are increased... the house of Israel and the house of Judah have dealt very treacherously against me, saith the Eternal ... They have belied [opposed, denied] the Eternal and say, It is not he [He doesn’t exist], neither shall evil come upon us, neither shall we see the sword or famine; and the prophets [the preachers, the modern-day Christian and Evangelical ministers] shall become wind

have shown no difference between clean and unclean. They have hid their eyes from my Sabbaths and God is profane among them. The princes (elected officials) are like ravening wolves to shed blood and to destroy and to get dishonest gain. The people of the land use oppression, exercise robbery, have vexed the poor and oppressed the stranger wrongfully” (Ezekiel 22).

It is painfully evident, specifically, within the cities, towns and villages of the nations wherein dwells “the lost sheep of the House of Israel” among governing bodies, communities, households and families (genuine or contrived); among businesses, social institutions, and among every religion that corruption, sin, and disobedience to God is evident and fully expressed. Righteousness, honor, respect for life and for others, including the “strangers among you,” is woefully absent. The truth of God is lacking and the true witness and warning message of repentance is for all intents and purposes non-existent among the churches (Christian or otherwise) blanketing the nations in which “the lost sheep of Israel” dwell.

The “lost sheep of the House of Israel,” when measured up to

the teachings and doctrines of Jesus Christ (all things that He taught; Matthew 28:20), are painfully short in obeying or performing. Jesus Christ spoke volumes when He taught “those things which come out of the mouth come from the heart and they defile the man. For out of the heart comes forth evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, theft, false witness, blasphemies” (Matthew 15:18-19).

Well said the prophet Hosea (5:5), “and the pride of Israel does testify to his face: therefore shall Israel and Ephraim fall in their iniquity: Judah shall fall with them.” God is not mocked; you reap what you sow (cf. Galatians 6:7). As long as the modern-day Children of Israel reject God and sow the seeds of sin and disobedience, they will reap corruption which will result in their destruction (Ezekiel 18:30) and ultimately to the time of their captivity, becoming refugees, taken away captive, scattered to other nations (cf. Ezekiel 5).

Unless an individual repents and is baptized, converted and forgiven, that individual is simply unacceptable in God’s sight. Henceforth the need for the Church of God to fulfill the commission given to it; to preach as

a witness and warning, the message of repentance.

God does not desire to see any perish; he has no pleasure in the death of the wicked (Ezekiel 33:11). His desire is that people repent and live. He will take no joy in seeing the nations in which dwell “the lost sheep of the house of Israel” go down in destruction, attacked and decimated. However, as God has declared, if Israel chooses not to repent, then their fate is sure.

God has given the responsibility to the “Watchman” to preach the witness and warning message of repentance, clearly revealing what behaviors, attitudes, lifestyles and ways of life God hates, as opposed to what He has declared is right and good for you; how He expects you to live. Every word of God, every teaching of Jesus Christ stands as a witness of the way, the lifestyle, and the right life God requires every human being to live.

You have an opportunity to repent and escape the sure fate of “the lost sheep of the House of Israel.” If you have not yet done so, then for crying out loud, what are you waiting for? Repent! And escape (Luke 21:36) the fate that is sure to come! □

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BIBLE STUDY

by Dr. James Ricks



How Can We Love CHRIST But Not Keep Christmas?

WHY DECEMBER 25?

If someone were to ask if you kept Christmas and you said no, they would assume that you are not a worshipper of Christ. You could explain that you really are a deep and true worshipper of Jesus Christ. You may disagree on dates and some customs, but love Jesus as well.

We happen to worship Him on correct dates as assigned by the Bible. Christ was not born on December 25. That date comes from pagan Rome and sun worship. Scholars do not doubt this fact. The Romans worshipped the pagan god Saturnalia on December 25, as the sun was declining. It is simply a date based on pagan sun worship to encourage the sun to come back.

Jesus' actual birthdate is not mentioned in the Bible. The December 25 date was chosen to appease the Roman population into accepting Christianity. You can tell friends that you worship Christ and honor His birth but not on an incorrect date using pagan customs. Remember, the Bible instructs us not to try to worship the true God using the practices that heathens use when worshipping their gods (Jeremiah 10:2-5). Practically all Christmas traditions and customs can be traced back to paganism from various nations.

Some feel the date is irrelevant. But do you believe that God wants false dates and customs associated with the true worship of His Son? As a good historian, Luke provides vital information and an orderly account of the time period surrounding Christ's birth.

First, in a long section from Luke 1:5 to 2:8, Zachariah, the priest, was of the priestly course of Abia or Abijah which began June 18 and extended until July 1 (see 1 Chronicles 24:10). The courses of priests start at the Passover and the eight course would be about three and a half months later. This would be in the summer.

After he returned home, his elderly wife Elizabeth became pregnant and hid herself 5 months. His son John was born six months before Jesus. This information allows us to calculate Elizabeth's sixth month as December, during which Mary also conceived Jesus. Note Luke 1:26-38. This means Jesus Christ would have been born in the fall. The Bible has spring and fall Holy Days to celebrate Christ's first and second coming.

A second point is that the sheep were outside the barn at night when Christ was born inside, in the manger. It would be too cold to have sheep outside at night in the fields in the winter. See Luke 2:8. It is clear Christ was not born on December 25 on a cold winter night; that date was a pagan influenced political choice. Let's worship Christ in *spirit* and *truth*.

BIBLE STUDY

LEARN NOT THE WAY OF THE HEATHEN

The early Christian Church did not celebrate Christmas! The Bible does not even mention Christmas. Early Christians did celebrate God's Holy Days. The *Encyclopedia Britannica, 11th Edition* states that even as late as AD 245 the Catholic theologian, Origen, still held that keeping Christmas was sinful.

God knew that pagan compromises would be detrimental to any society. Yehovah, or Jehovah (God), told Israel in Deuteronomy 12:30-31 not to inquire about the pagan rites and customs because He knew it would be spiritually debilitating for them. It would obviously separate them from God's blessings. They, like us, needed His protection and blessings.

Paganism leads to child sacrifice among other abhorrent practices. As our country becomes much more secular we have seen millions of babies aborted on the altar of parents' convenience, mainly to avoid the costs and responsibilities of raising a child. The apostle Paul said that pagan rites are under demonic influences (read I Corinthians 10:20).

Christmas is demonstrably of pagan origin, both the date — in the dark winter, chosen to worship the sun god — and other traditions. The Bible in no way intimates that Christ was born in the winter. Read both Luke 1:8 and Jeremiah 10:3-4.

CHRISTMASTIME: DEPRESSION, CRIME, AND COVETOUSNESS

People are led to expect peace and familial love and harmony — not to mention wonderful gifts. When these experiences prove so much less than that ideal, it leads to greater levels of depression and despair. Expectations are so high it is understandable that so many become desperate and disillusioned during the season.

The extreme materialism which is so hyped during this season is not good for people. It violates

the principles behind the tenth Commandment regarding coveting. Christmas does not have spiritual depth. Appealing mainly to man's greedy nature, Christmas usually brings more identity theft, domestic violence, counterfeiting, shoplifting, scams, vehicle theft, robbery, drunk driving, rape, sexual assault, and burglaries than any other time of the year!

THE RIGHT TO BE WRONG

If America truly has religious freedom, people have a right to be wrong. Otherwise, religious freedom does not exist. We know they are wrong theologically and yet we can say they have the right to be wrong. They mean well. Charity for the disadvantaged is a good work whenever it is done. Everyone has the right to express their Christian beliefs — even in the public square! However, it is especially hard to support the many who wish to celebrate the winter solstice or Christmas holiday but forbid any display of Christ, the Ten Commandments, or scriptural passages.

Rejection of Christianity is one of the most negative trends in our society. The Bible emphatically supports the celebration of Christ's death (New Testament Passover), His resurrection (Days of Unleavened Bread), and His second coming (Feast of Trumpets) to bring His rulership to the planet and with it, paradise (Fall Holy Days, culminating in the Feast of Tabernacles and Last Great Day). But we do not support the secularists, agnostics and Earth worshippers who want to keep the Christmas holiday but eliminate the name and even the thought of Christ and His birth in a manger in Bethlehem. American Christians have the right to celebrate as they believe (errors and all).

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION AND CHRISTMAS

The British military was the super power of 1776, and the American Revolution was in great

BIBLE STUDY

jeopardy. George Washington's army was being defeated repeatedly by the professional and well equipped forces of the British Empire. The Americans were easily defeated in Manhattan and faced almost certain destruction and/or capture. Their nighttime escape from Manhattan Island was enabled by a Dunkirk-like fog that tremendously reduced British visibility. Small boats secretly rescued the American army that night before the British could finish them off the next morning. Miraculously, the fog and the wind prohibited the British naval blockade from stopping

their escape into New Jersey.

Our army was then pushed further down into New Jersey by a flurry of defeats and withdrawals across the Delaware River. Then came winter. Public support for the revolution was fading. People began to think the British Empire was unbeatable. Washington was desperate for an event to turn public opinion. He needed a victory against the superior and better equipped professional military forces.

The American colonists did not keep Christmas. Many of the colonies outlawed Christmas in those days. They considered it

too rowdy and unbiblical. Washington knew that the British, and especially Hessian soldiers, would be drunk or hungover after their Christmas celebrations. He crossed the frozen Delaware River, surprised the enemy and won an easy victory. This same victory turned public opinion back toward the Revolution, thereby gaining support as well as much needed volunteers and supplies. The Christmas victory at Trenton, New Jersey was a vital key to American Independence. You could say that not keeping Christmas might have saved the American revolution! □



Washington Crossing the Delaware, December 25, 1776, by Emanuel Leutze, 1851.

What's RIGHT With America?

by John Mitchell

Ask that question of 1,000 different Americans and you would probably get 1,000 different answers. Ask many professional sports figures, politicians at the highest level of America's government, radical thug groups such as *Black Lives Matter*, illegal aliens who both curse and burn the flag, members of the media, or any of a host of others whose sentiment is prevalently anti-American and a majority of the answers would be there is nothing right with America.

Step into the classroom of most any secular College or University and you'll hear liberal, atheistic professors spewing forth venomous propaganda about America and her Godly heritage in an attempt to rewrite the history of our nation. Turn on the evening news and listen to all the stories about murder, about war, about our economic woes, the true unemployment rate, and one could but wonder if there really is anything right with America.

Well, it is time to remember that there is more right with America than wrong. The problem is we have forgotten the right people, the right purpose, and the right princi-

ples upon which this great nation of the United States of America was founded.

America Was Founded By the Right People

In the summer of 1787, representatives met in Philadelphia to write the Constitution of the United States. After they had struggled for several weeks making little or no progress, 81 year old Benjamin Franklin rose and addressed the discouraged men who were about to adjourn and go home. Here are the words Benjamin Franklin spoke to that assembly:

"In the beginning of the contest with Britain, when we were sensible of danger, we had daily prayers in this room for DIVINE protection. Our prayers, Sirs, were heard and were graciously answered. All of us who were engaged in the struggle must have observed frequent instances of a super-intending Providence in our favor. Have we now forgotten this POWERFUL FRIEND? Or do we imagine we no longer need His divine assistance? I have lived, Sirs, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth: that GOD governs in

the affairs of man. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid?"

One of the first official acts of our very first President was to designate a national day of Thanksgiving. President George Washington proclaimed:

"Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and to humbly implore His protection and favor... I do hereby recommend and assign Thursday, the 26th day of November, to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious BEING who is the beneficent AUTHOR of all the good that was, that is, or that will be... that we may then all unite in rendering unto HIM our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection."

Many years later, our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln said, "It is the duty of nations, as well as of men, to owe their dependence on the overruling power of God, and to recognize the sublime truth announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all his-

Continued next page

tory, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord.”

The pages of our History books are filled with numerous quotes such as these from our founding fathers — men who were not ashamed of their faith in Almighty God. We read in Proverbs 29:2 “When the righteous are in authority, the people re-

worship God according to the scriptures. When they arrived at Plymouth Rock they drew up what is now called The Mayflower Compact. In that document the Pilgrims stated:

“In the name of God, Amen. We, whose names are underwritten have undertaken for the Glory of God and the advancement

A 1643 publication said the school's purpose was "to advance learning and perpetuate it to posterity, dreading to leave an illiterate ministry to the churches when our present ministers shall lie in the dust." Perhaps they knew the meaning of Proverbs 29:18, which states “Where there is no vision, the people perish; but he that keeps the law, happy is he.”

“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people He chose for his inheritance.” - Psalm 33:12

joice; but when the wicked bear rule, the people mourn.” Had America been founded by Godless men, this nation would never have risen to greatness.

As the scripture in Psalm 33:12 says, “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people He chose for His inheritance.” Yes, America was founded by the right people.

For the Right Purpose

When we Americans look back upon our humble beginnings, we usually point to that little band of sea-weary travelers that landed in 1620 on Plymouth Rock. We have come to refer to them as Pilgrims. Those pilgrims did not come here for economic or political reasons, they came here for RELIGIOUS reasons.

Believing the liberal Church of England had strayed far from the scriptures, the 100+ Pilgrims boarded the Mayflower and made a perilous journey across the Atlantic to lay the groundwork for a new nation where they could

of the Christian faith, a voyage to plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia.”

It has been about 396 years since those Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock. Only half of the 102 passengers aboard the Mayflower even survived the first winter. We all owe a debt of gratitude to those brave men and women who came here to found this great nation for the right purpose, that Biblical Christianity might advance.

As this nation grew she became home to more churches, more Christian Private Schools, more Bible Colleges, and more Christian Orphanages than any other nation in history. This nation has also trained more preachers, sent out more missionaries, and printed more Bibles and Christian literature than any other nation on earth. Our most prestigious University, Harvard, was formed in 1636. The University's original motto, *Christo et Ecclesiae* ("Christ and Church"), later changed to *Veritas* ("Truth").

On the Right Principles

Listen to the words of one of our great American Forefathers, Noah Webster: “The moral principles and precepts contained in the scriptures ought to form the basis of all civil constitutions and laws. All the miseries and evils which men suffer from vice, crime, ambition, injustice, oppression, slavery and war proceeds from their despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible.”

Let's suppose you turned on the evening news tonight and heard Lester Holt or Scott Pelley or Chris Matthews report the following lead story "Today, in a shocking development, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, John Roberts, announced that “I conceive we cannot better express ourselves than by humbly supplicating the Supreme Ruler of the world... that the confusions that are and have been among the nations may be overruled by the promoting and speedily bringing in the holy and happy period when the kingdoms of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ may be everywhere established, and the people willingly bow to the scepter of Him who is the Prince of

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EUROPE'S PLANNED MIGRANT REVOLUTION

by Yves Mamou

with permission from Gatestone Institute

- Between 2005 to 2014, Germany welcomed more than 6,000,000 people.
- Two essential questions about integration must be put on the table: 1) What do we ask of newcomers? And 2) What do we do to those who do not accept our conditions? In Europe, these two questions of integration were never asked of anyone.
 - In the new migrant order, the host population is invited to make room for the newcomer and bear the burden not of what is an "integration," but the acceptance of a coerced coexistence.
 - "No privileges are granted to the Europeans or to their heritage. All cultures have the same citizenship. There is no recognition of a substantial European culture that it might be useful to preserve." — Michèle Tribalat, sociologist and demographer.
 - "We need people that we welcome to love France." — French Archbishop Pontier, *Le Monde*, October 2016.
 - When "good feelings" did not work, however, the authorities have often criminalized and prosecuted anti-immigration critics. The Dutch politician Geert Wilders is currently on trial for trying to defend his country from Moroccan immigrants whose skyrocketing crime wave has been transforming the Netherlands.

Everyone now knows — even German Chancellor Angela Merkel — that she committed a political mistake in opening the doors of her country to more than a million migrants from the Middle East, Africa and Asia. It was, politically, a triple mistake:

- Merkel may have thought that humanitarian motives (the war in Syria and Iraq, the refugee problem) could help Germany openly pursue a migration policy that was initially launched and conducted in the shadows.

- Merkel mainly helped to accelerate the defense mechanisms against the transformation of German society and culture into a "multicultural" space -- the "multi" being a segregated, Islamic way of life. The anti-immigration party Alternative for Germany (AfD) is now a big player on the German political scene.

- Merkel raised anxiety all over Europe about the migrant problem. She might even have encouraged the United Kingdom to Brexit and pushed central European countries such as Hungary to the point of seceding from

the European Union.

For many years, Germany was the country in Europe most open to immigration. According to Eurostat, the official data body of the European Union, between 2005 to 2014, Germany welcomed more than 6 million people.

Not all six million people came from the Middle East. The vast majority of them, however, were not from Europe. Clandestine immigration is not, of course, included in these figures.

Other countries also participated in a migrant race. In the

same time frame, 2005-2014, three million people immigrated to France, or around 300,000 people a year. In Spain, the process was more chaotic: more than 700,000 migrants in 2005; 840,000 in 2006; almost a million in 2007 and then a slow decrease to 300,000 a year up to 2014.

The "refugee crisis," in fact, helped to make apparent what was latent: that behind humanitarian reasons, a huge official immigration policy in Europe was proceeding apace. For economic reasons, Europe had openly decided years ago to encourage a new population to enter, supposedly to compensate for the dramatic projected shrinking of Europe's native population.

According to population

projections made by Eurostat in 2013, without migrants, Europe's population would decline from 507.3 million in 2015 to 399.2 million by 2080. In roughly 65 years, a hundred million people (20%) would disappear. Country by country, the figures seemed even more terrifying. By 2080, in Germany, 80 million people today would become 50 million. In Spain, 46.4 million people would become 30 million. In Italy, 60 million would decline to 39 million.

Some countries would be more stable: by 2080, France, with 66 million in 2015 would grow to 68.7 million, and England, with 67 million in 2015, would shrink only to approximately 65 million.

Is migration in itself a "bad" thing? Of course not. Migration from low-income countries to higher-income countries is almost a law of nature. As long as the number of births and deaths remains larger than the number of migrants, the result is considered beneficial. But when migration becomes the major contributor to population growth, the situation changes and what should be a simple evolution becomes a revolution.

It is a triple revolution:

1 — Because the number of migrants is huge. The 2015 United Nations World Population Prospects report states: "Between 2015 and 2050, total births in the group of high-income countries are projected to exceed deaths



Paris, FRANCE - OCTOBER 31, 2016 : Urban migrant camp in northeastern Paris near the Stalingrad subway station.

by 20 million, while the net gain in migrants is projected to be 91 million. Thus, in the medium variant, net migration is projected to account for 82 per cent of population growth in the high-income countries."

2 — Because of the culture of the migrants. Most of them belong to a Muslim and Arabic (or Turkish) culture, which was in an old and historical conflict with the (still?) dominant Christian culture of Europe. And mainly, because this Muslim migration process happens at a historic moment of a radicalization of the world's Muslim population.

3 — Because each European state is in a position of weakness. In the process of building the European Union, national states stopped considering themselves as the indispensable integrator tool of different regional cultures inside a national frame. On the contrary, to prevent the return of large-scale chauvinistic wars such as World War I and World War II, all European nation-states engaged in the EU process and decided to program their own disappearance by transferring more and more power to a bureaucratic, unelected and untransparent executive Commission in Brussels. Not surprisingly, alongside Islamist troubles in all European countries, weak European states have now to cope with the strong resurgence of secessionist and regionalist movements, such as Corsica in France, Catalonia in Spain, and Scotland and Wales in

United Kingdom.

Why did France, Germany and many other countries of the European Union opt for massive immigration, without saying it and without letting voters debate it? Perhaps because they thought a new population of taxpayers could help save their healthcare and retirement systems. To avoid the bankruptcy of social security and the social troubles of "dissat-

Politicians and economists seem blind to multicultural conflicts.

isfied retirees," the EU took the risk of transforming more or less homogenous nation-states into multicultural societies.

Politicians and economists seem blind to multicultural conflicts. They seem not even to suspect the importance of identity questions and religious topics. These questions belong to nations and since WW II, "the nation" is considered "bad." In addition, politicians and economists appear to think any cultural and religious problem is a secondary question. Despite the growing threat of Islamist terrorism (internal and imported from the Middle East), for example, they seem to persist in thinking that any violent domestic conflict can be dissolved in a "full-employment" society. Most of them seem to believe in U.S. President Barack Obama's imaginary jobs-for-jihadists solution to terrorism.

To avoid cultural conflicts (Muslim migrants vs non-Muslim natives) Germany could, of course, have imported people from the countries of Europe where there were no jobs: France, Spain, Italy. But this "white" workforce is considered "expensive" by big companies (construction, care-givers and all services...) who need cheap imported workers no matter the area

(Middle East, Turkey, Northern Africa) they are coming from. Internal migration inside the EU would not have solved either the main problem of a projected shrinking European population as a whole. Added to that, in a world where competition is transferred partially from nations to global regions, the might of European countries might be thought to lie in their population numbers.

Can Europe borrow a Muslim population from Turkey, Northern Africa, sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East, and become a European world power, based on a population that is multicultural and multi-religious?

In theory, one can do that. But to succeed and avoid being crossed, day after day, by racial and religious tensions, two essential questions about integration must be put on the table: 1) What do we ask of newcomers? And 2)

What do we do to those who do not accept our conditions?

In other words, integration is an asymmetrical process where the newcomer is expected to produce the effort to adapt.

Of course, if the flow of migrants is big, the host society will change, but that is evolution; the

but these values appear to be negotiable."

In France, in Germany, and in Sweden, it became rapidly clear that the growing flow of a radicalized Muslim population began to change the rules of the integration game. The migrants did not have to "adapt" and are free to

ties have often criminalized and prosecuted anti-immigration critics. The Dutch politician Geert Wilders is currently on trial for trying to defend his country from Moroccan immigrants whose skyrocketing crime wave has been transforming the Netherlands.

He may go to jail for as long as a year and could be fined a maximum of €7,400 (\$7,000 USD). [Update: On December 9, 2016 Wilders was found guilty of inciting discrimination, but cleared of inciting hatred.]

In France, the Paris prosecutor opened a preliminary investigation for an "apologia of terrorism" against the anti-immigration writer Eric Zemmour. In an interview with the magazine *Causeur*, published October 6, Zemmour said that "Muslims must choose" between France and Islam. He added that he had "respect for jihadists willing to die for what they believe." The Paris prosecutor chose to take this sentence out of context to prosecute him.

Will this double movement—the injunction to love Islam plus criminalizing anti-Islam critics—be enough to kill off any opposition to the EU's migration policy, and serve to Islamize the continent?

We shall find out. □

Yves Mamou, based in France, worked for two decades as a journalist for Le Monde.

Integration is an asymmetrical process where the newcomer is expected to produce the effort to adapt.

sense of cultural and historical continuity will not be demanded into a decline.

In Europe, these two questions of integration were never asked of anyone. According to Michèle Tribalat, sociologist and demographer:

"EU countries agreed at the Council of 19 November 2004, on eleven common basic principles to which to commit. When it is a question of integration they disclaim any asymmetry between the host society and newcomers. No privileges are granted to the Europeans or to their heritage. All cultures have the same citizenship. There is no recognition of a substantial European culture that it might be useful to preserve. The social bond is designed as a horizontal one, between the people in the game. Its vertical dimension in reference to history and to the past seems to be superfluous. They speak about values,

reproduce their religious and cultural habits. By contrast, the local "natives" were ordered not to resist "environmental" changes produced by immigration. When they tried to resist anyway, a political and media machine began to criminalize their "racist" behavior and supposed intolerance.

In the new migrant order, the host population is expected to make room for the newcomer and bear the burden of not what is "integration," but the acceptance of a coerced coexistence.

France's Archbishop Pontier declared to *Le Monde* in October 2016:

"We need people that we welcome to love France. If we always offer a negative view, they cannot love the country. However, if we see them as people who bring us something new, we get to grow together".

When "good feelings" did not work, however, the authori-

O.S.U. KNIFE ATTACKER, Poster Boy for Assimilation

by Mark Armstrong

There is tremendous sympathy for the family of the Somali student who rammed his car into a crowd of college kids, jumped out and went on a butcher knife rampage that grievously injured nearly a dozen people. A policeman happened to be nearby, responded to the commotion and shot the Somali student dead.

Soon after eleven students were rushed to area hospitals, ISIS claimed responsibility for the attack and said the Somalian perpetrator was their “soldier.” Everybody who knew the boy was astonished and in disbelief. In the case of his family, it really is disbelief. They refuse to acknowledge that their close relative had actually committed this brutal act of terror. They want to see a video of their boy in action before admitting that he could have done such a thing. If integration into western society is the comprehensive answer to potential terrorists, it would seem that the young Somali had gone above and beyond what is expected of immigrants.

The family's lawyer put out a statement on their behalf. “Abdul graduated from the Ohio community college last summer with cum laud. He was a polite and

hard working person who was spending most of the time either working at Home Depot or studying. The family told me he was a good man with a brighter future and they want to know to a large extent to see some kind of proof [sic].” He went on to say that they want to see proof on video before they'll accept his guilt.

But it's the statement of the president-elect saying the lad “should never have been in our country” that has them truly rattled. Why, they're afraid to go anywhere for fear of being attacked! The family's lawyer says they are traumatized, shocked, and they want answers. “They want to make sure that nobody else has to go through the pain, the suffering and the trauma they are going through.”

Maybe it seems too obvious a question, but what about the “pain, suffering and trauma” of the bludgeoned and stabbed students who were minding their own business when the “good man” decided to mow them down and try to stab them to death? How about their families? Should anyone be concerned about their grief and trauma? As far as we know, no news organization has sought out the victims or their families for comment thus far. Will it be a hate

crime if they do?

What about the families of tens of thousands of college students all across the United States who have plenty of “nice boys” in the mix with their sons and daughters? Do they have any cause for concern? What about the 300 cities and towns that are now home to some 132,000 Somali refugees? Do those citizens have any cause for concern about their safety when they go about their daily business? That's a question that is no doubt highly inappropriate to ask. After all, there have only been mass murder attempts by a couple of Somalis. Oh, and there have been several arrests of Somalis who joined ISIS.

According to Tucker Carlson, *Fox News* host, the “nice boy” was taking a class on “micro-aggressions” and is working on a project to illustrate just who in our society was targeted, demeaned or discriminated against. In the end we have to wonder. Was this “nice boy” pushed over the edge by ISIS' calls to use vehicles and knives to carry out jihad in the west? Or was it his college professor's class on “triggers” and “micro-aggressions” that put him over the edge? Maybe it was some combination of the two.

Continued next page

By all accounts, he was the cream of the crop of Somali refugees. He was polite, a hard worker and a good student who got along with everybody. Until he did this. Never mind the pain and trauma of parents and grandparents whose children are hospitalized, and may never be the same. The Somali community is suffering FEAR that someone will look at them with suspicion. That, according to the family's lawyer, much of academia and many in the press, would be a real crime.

While certain organizations are dedicated to searching out examples of "hate crimes" against minorities, they'll point out words or symbols that showed up on

a wall or the side of a shed. But who's to say how the slur originated? There have been very visible examples of "activists" who would write themselves a death threat just so they could go public with "proof" of their cause.

There was the example of the Black Lives Matter protester who was trying to get the top administrators to resign or be fired for failing to create a safe campus environment. She "tweeted" death threats against all black students at Kean University in New Jersey, and targeted them directly to the Campus Police. It caused a major stir, as you would imagine. State and local police descended on the case as did the Department

of Homeland Security. The hoax threats were tracked back to the activist using them as ammunition, and now she's got serious legal trouble. The "tweets" were able to be tracked down. Spray paint scrawled on a wall can be more difficult, and is sometimes bogus.

The claim that many people in the heartland of America are white supremacists, xenophobes and bigots because they hope that some semblance of their traditions and their children's future can be saved from the overwhelming transformation of recent years is equally bogus. How many violent demonstrations have we seen protesting against the millions of immigrants that have been imported and hidden out of sight all across the United States? How many have been maimed and murdered by citizens angered by the fact that national resources have been used to support immigrants on a scale where they don't even need to find gainful employment to live comfortably? What's that? None? In the aftermath of the Ohio State University attacks by an apparently well-adjusted, completely assimilated refugee, we have only to ask, "What more do the refugees, illegal immigrants and their advocates in the media want from the citizens of the United States?"

They want a confession to all the imagined slights, malicious thoughts and unconscious bias that characterize white American citizens, and they're not about to stop demanding it. It's beginning to look as though they may just be disappointed, again. □



Police respond to attack at Ohio State University.



GERMANY SUBMITS TO SHARIA LAW

"A PARALLEL JUSTICE SYSTEM HAS ESTABLISHED ITSELF IN GERMANY"

by Soeren Kern

with permission from Gatestone Institute

A German court has ruled that seven Islamists who formed a vigilante partol to enforce Sharia law on the streets of Wuppertal did not break German law and were simply exercising their right to free speech.

The ruling, which effectively legitimizes Sharia law in Germany, is one of a growing number of instances in which German courts are — wittingly or unwittingly — promoting the establishment of a parallel Islamic legal system in the country.

The self-appointed "Sharia Police" sparked public outrage in September 2014, when they distributed yellow leaflets which established a "Sharia-controlled zone" in the Elberfeld district of Wuppertal. The men urged both Muslim and non-Muslim passersby to attend mosques and to refrain from alcohol, cigarettes, drugs, gambling, music, pornography and prostitution.

The vigilantes are followers of Salafism, a virulently anti-Western ideology that openly

seeks to replace democracy in Germany (and elsewhere) with an Islamic government based on Sharia law.

Salafist ideology posits that Sharia law is superior to secular, common law because it emanates from Allah, the only legitimate lawgiver, and thus is legally bind-

ing eternally for all of humanity. According to the Salafist worldview, democracy is an effort to elevate the will of humans above the will of Allah, and is therefore a form of idolatry that must be rejected. In other words, Sharia law and democracy are incompatible.

Wuppertal Mayor Peter Jung



A German court has ruled that a group of Islamists who formed a vigilante patrol to enforce Sharia law on the streets of Wuppertal did not break German law and were simply exercising their right to free speech. They were charged under a law that prohibits the wearing of uniforms at public rallies -- a law originally designed to ban neo-Nazi groups from parading in public.

Continued next page

said he hoped the police would take a hard line against the Islamists: "The intention of these people is to provoke and intimidate and force their ideology upon others. We will not allow this."

Wuppertal Police Chief Birgitta Radermacher said the "pseudo police" represented a threat to the rule of law and that only po-

however, the Wuppertal District Court ruled that the vests technically were not uniforms, and in any event did not pose a threat. The court said that witnesses and passersby could not possibly have felt intimidated by the men, and that prosecuting them would infringe on their freedom of expression. The "politically correct" decision, which may be appealed,

ia child marriages in Germany.

The case came about after the couple arrived at a refugee shelter in Aschaffenburg in August 2015. The Youth Welfare Office (Jugendamt) refused to recognize their marriage and separated the girl from her husband. The couple filed a lawsuit and a family court ruled in favor of the Youth Welfare Office, which claimed to be the girl's legal guardian.

The court in Bamberg overturned that ruling. It determined that, according to Sharia law, the marriage is valid because it has already been consummated, and therefore the Youth Welfare Office has no legal authority to separate the couple.

The ruling — which was described as a "crash course in Syrian Islamic marriage law" — ignited a firestorm of criticism. Some accused the court in Bamberg of applying Sharia law over German law to legalize a practice that is banned in Germany.

Critics of the ruling pointed to Article 6 of the Introductory Act to the German Civil Code (*Einführungsgesetz zum Bürgerlichen Gesetzbuche*, EGBGB), which states:

"A legal standard of another State shall not be applied where its application results in an outcome which is manifestly incompatible with the essential principles of German law. In particular, it is not applicable if the application is incompatible with fundamental rights."

This stipulation is routinely ignored, however, apparently in the interests of political cor-

German courts are increasingly deferring to Islamic law because either the plaintiffs or the defendants are Muslim.

lice appointed and employed by the state have the legitimate right to act as police in Germany. She added:

"The monopoly of power lies exclusively with the State. Behavior that intimidates, threatens or provokes will not be tolerated. These 'Sharia Police' are not legitimate. Call 110 [police] when you meet these people."

Wuppertal's public prosecutor, Wolf-Tilman Baumert, argued that the men, who wore orange vests emblazoned with the words "SHARIAH POLICE," had violated a law that bans wearing uniforms at public rallies. The law, which especially prohibits uniforms that express political views, was originally designed to prevent neo-Nazi groups from parading in public. According to Baumert, the vests were illegal because they had a "deliberate, intimidating and militant" effect.

On November 21, 2016,

effectively authorizes the Sharia Police to continue enforcing Islamic law in Wuppertal.

GERMAN COURTS AND SHARIA LAW

German courts are increasingly deferring to Islamic law because either the plaintiffs or the defendants are Muslim. Critics say the cases — especially those in which German law has taken a back seat to Sharia law — reflect a dangerous encroachment of Islamic law into the German legal system.

In May 2016, for example, an appeals court in Bamberg recognized the marriage of a 15-year-old Syrian girl to her 21-year-old cousin. The court ruled that the marriage was valid because it was contracted in Syria, where such marriages are allowed according to Sharia law, which does not set any age limit to marriage. The ruling effectively legalized Shar-

rectness and multiculturalism. Indeed, Sharia law has been encroaching into the German justice system virtually unchecked for nearly two decades. Some examples include:

In August 2000, a court in Kassel ordered a widow to split her late Moroccan husband's pension with another woman to whom the man was simultaneously married. Although polygamy is illegal in Germany, the judge ruled that the two wives must share the pension, in accordance with Moroccan law.

In March 2004, a court in Koblenz granted the second wife of an Iraqi living in Germany the right to remain permanently in the country. The court ruled that after five years in a polygamous marriage in Germany, it would be unfair to expect her to return to Iraq.

In March 2007, a judge in Frankfurt cited the Koran in a divorce case involving a German-Moroccan woman who had been repeatedly beaten by her Moroccan husband. Although police ordered the man to stay away from his estranged wife, he continued to abuse her and at one point threatened to kill her. Judge Christa Datz-Winter refused to grant the divorce. She quoted Sura 4, Verse 34 of the Koran, which justifies "both the husband's right to use corporal punishment against a disobedient wife and the establishment of the husband's superiority over the wife." The judge was eventually removed from the case.

In December 2008, a court

in Düsseldorf ordered a Turkish man to pay a €30,000 (\$32,000) dowry to his former daughter-in-law, in accordance with Sharia law.

In October 2010, a court in Cologne ruled that an Iranian man must pay his ex-wife a dowry of €162,000 euros (\$171,000), the current equivalent value of 600 gold coins, in accordance with the original Sharia marriage contract.

In December 2010, a court in Munich ruled that a German widow was entitled to only one-quarter of the estate left by her late husband, who was born in Iran.

The court awarded the other three-quarters of the inheritance to the man's relatives in Tehran in accordance with Sharia law.

In November 2011, a court in Siegburg allowed an Iranian couple to be divorced twice, first by a German judge according to German law, and then by an Iranian cleric according to Sharia law. The director of the Siegburg District Court, Birgit Niepmann, said the Sharia ceremony "was a service of the court."

In July 2012, a court in Hamm ordered an Iranian man to pay his estranged wife a dowry as part of a divorce settlement. The case involved a couple who married according to Sharia law in Iran, migrated to Germany and later

separated. As part of the original marriage agreement, the husband promised to pay his wife a dowry of 800 gold coins payable upon demand. The court ordered the husband to pay the woman €213,000 (\$225,000), the current equivalent value of the coins.

In June 2013, a court in Hamm ruled that anyone who contracts marriage according to Islamic law in a Muslim country and later seeks a divorce in Germany must abide by the original terms established by Sharia law. The landmark ruling effectively legalized the Sharia practice of "triple-talaq," obtaining a divorce

The existence of parallel legal structures in Germany is an "expression of globalization." - Islam expert, Mathias Rohe

by reciting the phrase "I divorce you" three times.

In July 2016, a court in Hamm ordered a Lebanese man to pay his estranged wife a dowry as part of a divorce settlement. The case involved a couple who married according to Sharia law in Lebanon, migrated to Germany and later separated. As part of the original marriage agreement, the husband promised to pay his wife a dowry of \$15,000. The German court ordered him to pay her the equivalent amount in euros.

In an interview with *Spiegel Online*, Islam expert Mathias Rohe said that the existence of parallel legal structures in Germany is an "expression of globalization." He added: "We apply

Islamic law just as we do French law."

SHARIA COURTS IN GERMANY

A growing number of Muslims in Germany are consciously bypassing German courts altogether and instead are adjudicating their disputes in informal Sharia courts, which are prolifer-

example, it is estimated that fully one-third of the Muslim men living in the Neukölln district of the city have two or more wives.

According to an exposé broadcast by RTL, one of Germany's leading media companies, Muslim men residing in Germany routinely take advantage of the social welfare system by bringing

grown up here or have only just arrived."

In practice, however, German leaders have tolerated a parallel Islamic justice system, one which allows Muslims to take the law into their own hands, often with tragic consequences.

On November 20, 2016, for example, a 38-year-old German-Kurdish man in Lower Saxony tied one end of a rope to the back of his car and the other end around the neck of his ex-wife. He then dragged the woman through the streets of Hameln. The woman, who survived, remains in critical condition.

The newsmagazine, *Focus*, reported that the man was a "strictly religious Muslim who married and divorced the woman according to Sharia law." It added: "Under German law, however, the two were not married." *Bild* reported that the man was married "once under German law and four times under Sharia law."

The crime, which has drawn renewed attention to the problem of Sharia justice in Germany, has alarmed some members of the political and media establishment.

Wolfgang Bosbach, of the ruling Christian Democratic Union (CDU), said: "Even if some people refuse to admit it, a parallel justice system has established itself in Germany. This act shows a clear rejection of our values and legal order."

On November 23, *Bild*, the largest-circulation newspaper in Germany, warned that the country was "capitulating to Islamic law." In a special "Sharia Report"

Polygamy, although illegal under German law, is commonplace among Muslims in all major German cities.

ating across the country. According to one estimate, some 500 Sharia judges are now regulating civil disputes between Muslims in Germany — a development that points to the establishment of a parallel Islamic justice system in the country.

A major reason for the growth in Sharia courts is that Germany does not recognize polygamy or marriages involving minors.

The German Interior Ministry, responding to a Freedom of Information Act request, recently revealed that 1,475 married children are known to be living in Germany as of July 31, 2016 — including 361 children who are under the age of 14. The true number of child marriages in Germany is believed to be much higher than the official statistics suggest, because many are being concealed.

Polygamy, although illegal under German law, is commonplace among Muslims in all major German cities. In Berlin, for

two, three or four women from across the Muslim world to Germany, and then marrying them in the presence of a Muslim cleric. Once in Germany, the women request social welfare benefits, including the cost of a separate home for themselves and for their children, on the claim of being a "single parent with children."

Although the welfare fraud committed by Muslim immigrants is an "open secret" costing German taxpayers millions of euros each year, government agencies are reluctant to take action due to political correctness, according to RTL.

Chancellor Angela Merkel once declared that Muslims must obey the constitution and not Sharia law if they want to live in Germany. More recently, Justice Minister Heiko Maas said:

"No one who comes here has the right to put his cultural values or religious beliefs above our law. Everyone must abide by the law, no matter whether they have

it stated:

"The 2013 coalition agreement between the CDU and the Social Democrats promised: 'We want to strengthen the state's legal monopoly. We will not tolerate illegal parallel justice.' But nothing has happened."

In a commentary, Franz Solms-Laubach, *Bild's* parliamentary correspondent, wrote:

"Even if we still refuse to be-

lieve it: Parts of Germany are ruled by Islamic law! Polygamy, child marriages, Sharia judges — for far too long the German rule of law has not been enforced. Many politicians dreamed of multiculturalism....

"This is not a question of folklore or foreign customs and traditions. It is a question of law and order.

"If the rule of law fails to estab-

lish its authority and demand respect for itself, then it can immediately declare its bankruptcy."

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Right With America

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Peace."

What do you think the reaction would be to such an announcement? While we Christians would applaud such an announcement it would likely set off a religious war and persecution of Christians unlike anything we have ever seen before. After all, one must be politically correct, and not do or say or write anything that might even in the smallest way offend other religions, especially that of ungodly Islam, its perverted prophet, and its Muslim followers.

Would you believe that announcement was actually made in a Fast Day Proclamation is-

sued by Gov. Samuel Adams, Massachusetts, March 20, 1797? The Bible was the original American reading primer for school children. What a novel concept!

Christians, we must never forget that America was founded upon Biblical principles. It appears they also understood the wisdom of Ecclesiastes 12:13, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."

America was founded by the right people, for the right purpose and on the right principles. Why, then, are there so many things wrong with America today? The answer is obvious!

There was a time in our nation's past when we stood by and allowed the wrong people who

lived by the wrong principles to use this Nation for their own wrong purposes. And now, this once great nation is reaping what it has sown.

But there is yet hope for America. It is found in 2 Chronicles 7:14 "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

Therefore, we need to pray for our nation, ask God to grant America a time of national repentance, and trust the Sovereign God who reigns in the affairs of men to return America and her people to her right purpose and her right principles! God bless the United States of America. □

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Peace & Prosperity

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prevailed throughout the lifetimes of the living.

Recently, however, it has felt like the country is faltering. Controversial moral issues, enor-

regard His admonitions both personally and collectively.

The Ten Commandments are the basic behavioral requirements God has given to man. Prohibition of murder and theft are nearly universal today. Many have been imprisoned for perjury or “bearing false witness.” After

all the nations of the earth” in Deuteronomy 28:1 and were further informed of the benefits of obedience and the consequences of disobedience.

This is not a unique sentiment expressed only in the books referred to as the “law.” The thousands of years of history contained in the Old Testament detail personal or national behavior in relation to God’s will and the inherent result, be it good or bad. The New Testament, the life of Christ and the beginnings of the church, reiterate the same ideals. Christ was without sin. What is sin? 1 John 3:4 reads “whoever commits sin also transgresses the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.”

A Christian by definition would be an adherent to His teaching, emulating His example as much as possible and consequently obeying the law. In the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew chapters five, six, and seven) Christ illustrated the spiritual intent of the laws about murder and adultery, extending their authority even into human thoughts.

Over and over Christ and His disciples preached that people need to repent — meaning to be truly, deeply sorry — ask God’s forgiveness, and prove their sincerity by continuing their lives in accordance to His will. Even at the very end, in Revelation 12:17, the “just” are described as those “which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”

This law, these Command-

mous national debt, racial tensions, and the threat of terrorism have caused many to wonder how long this divided house can stand. Preserving the greatness of the United States, how to do it, and even what constitutes greatness, has been a major source of contention. All would benefit from a look at what led to this country’s unique place in the world, as well as the basic principles that bring peace and prosperity.

God is the source of all our blessings. Those who believe in Him, His son Jesus Christ, and the Bible have an enormous head start. There is no denying the physical laws that govern our movement and communication; the spiritual and moral laws He put in place are every bit as immutable. The Bible contains these precepts as well as numerous examples of the rewards for obeying and the punishment for ignoring them. If we desire His blessings, joy and peace, we must

being given the Commandments the people were told, “So be careful to do what the LORD your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left. Walk in obedience to all that the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess” as seen in Deuteronomy 5:32-33.

While establishing the nation of Israel, God gave them a detailed set of laws to live by. These laws included rules for civil as well as religious conduct. Many of its principles, such as protection of property, reparation in cases of wrong-doing or negligence, the right of the accused to face their accuser, are commonplace in civilized nations today. The people were told “if you faithfully obey the voice of the LORD your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above

**“Whoever commits sin also transgresses the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.”
- 1 John 3:4**

ments, are God's intent for all humanity. He does not change. His plan for mankind has not changed. The effects are evident in history and around the world today. The founders of these United States acknowledged this, they held it to be "self evident," obvious and universal, needing no explanation. In declaring independence from Great Britain, and listing the causes, they cited transgressions against the "Laws of Nature" and "Nature's God." One of their main concerns before doing so was whether the people were moral enough for self government. Benjamin Franklin wrote, "Only a virtuous people are capable of freedom. As nations become corrupt and vicious, they have more need of masters."

George Washington said in his farewell address, "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens..."

Is that advice being followed today? According to a Gallup poll 77% of Americans still identify as Christians. Of those, around 25% say religion is not important in their daily lives and 37% seldom or never attend religious services.

A separate survey focusing on church attendance reports that 37% of the population attends religious services weekly or near-weekly. This number is

thought to be artificially high as it relies on self-reporting and other studies suggest the actual figure may be as low as 22%. After peaking in the 1950s, the trend has been downward. More people view religion as irrelevant to modern life, unable to address today's problems.

Collectively, we want the blessings of God, the peace, prosperity, and well being only He can provide. Yet many refuse to even acknowledge His existence.

God does not ask *how* we will worship Him but *whether* we will worship Him.

We desperately need to heed His warnings against coveting, lust, hate, murder, and putting anything in life before Him. As Garner Ted Armstrong said, "God does not ask *how* we will worship Him but *whether* we will worship Him." While every individual has free moral agency, the ability to do, say, or think whatever they wish, God is the arbiter of what is right and wrong. Human action will be judged accordingly even though man, in his vanity, often considers himself more righteous than God. Trust in self or institutions is misplaced if truths so basic as to be "self evident" are rejected.

Can man do it alone, without God's guidance and contrary to His plan? The founders of this country knew it to be impossible. Samuel Adams wrote, "The sum

of all is, if we would most truly enjoy the gift of Heaven, let us become a virtuous people; then we shall both deserve and enjoy it. While, on the other hand, if we are universally vicious and debauched in our manners, though the form of our Constitution carries the face of the most exalted freedom, we shall in reality be the most abject slaves." James Madison also asked, "Is there no virtue among us? If there be not, we are in a wretched sit-

uation. No theoretical checks, no form of government, can render us secure."

The onus is on us. Do we wish for peace? Do we wish for prosperity, for posterity to enjoy the ascendancy among nations and the personal blessings many have known in their own lives? Then study God's word. Expound its truths to the uninitiated. Exemplify its ideals, providing proof of its relevance in every action. If we the people of the United States look for solutions, we need look no further than the mirror. Let us take hold of the wisdom in Proverbs 3, "My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments; for length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee." □



The United States of America should be the great HOPE for the world, instead of an example of every kind of hedonistic abandon. Will we ever see an end to the attacks against the Constitution and the family? Will we see honor, dignity, integrity and Godly humility once again in the highest office in the land? Will Americans shed their cynicism and acknowledge that every great gift of freedom and prosperity comes from GOD?

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UNELECTABLE

***Why Our Founding Fathers Wouldn't
Stand a Chance in Today's America***

by Garner Ted Armstrong

