

TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

WATCH

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COMMENTARY

ANY GRAVEN IMAGE

by Mark Armstrong

Our cover depicts the pope clutching a golden image in his hands which are wrapped in a cape that is draped around his neck. It sounds a little weird al-

right, but there it is, just look at the picture. As this cover photo was being described in a public meeting we recently held in Springfield, Mo., a lady piped up

from the back of the room.

The first impression was that we had an interruption from a heckler. But it turned out that she was simply trying to explain the false impression. The “sacred artifact” was not a depiction of the sun, with rays emanating at all! No, the golden disc is simply a depiction of the wafer provided to the faithful during communion, and the tentacles that appear to be sun rays to the uninitiated observer, are actually intended to depict the Holy Spirit ra-

diating from the wafer, which of course becomes the actual body of Christ as it is consumed by believers according to the “faith.”

That all sounded very interesting, but never convinced me that the golden idol was anything more than an obvious depiction of the sun, and therefore another acknowledgment of the pagan origins of symbolism and practices which are presented with complicated arguments that we are to accept at face value. I later lamented that, although I accepted the lady’s explanation of the official line for the sun idol, wasn’t quick enough to add, “Yes, and I understand that rabbits also scurry into the garden to lay and conceal Easter eggs.” Another missed opportunity!

Everyone seemed quick to want to give Bergoglio, the Italian from Argentina, every benefit of the doubt. World media were charmed when he went out of his way to demonstrate humility. Why, he insisted on toting his own luggage! He purportedly drove his own car, an aging



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Are You “Under the Law” or “Under Grace”?

Millions have been asked this question—never realizing that the question itself can be totally misleading. Did you know that millions who think they are “under grace” are actually “under the law”—and don’t know it!

by Garner Ted Armstrong

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God; Not of works, lest any man should boast...” (Eph. 2:8-9).

How many times have you seen or heard these words quoted? Perhaps dozens, or even hundreds! But are you sure you really understand these inspired words of the Apostle Paul?

First, what do WE believe? Perhaps some few have thought we believe in salvation by works. So, at least, it has been said of us.

But we don’t. We believe, thoroughly, every letter of that scripture you just read.

What’s more we do NOT believe any individual can EVER be saved by keeping any law—whether Ten Commandments, or any other law.

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE?

But what about YOU? And how can you be sure? How can you come to really know the answer to this vitally important

question—one that has aroused almost endless controversy among professing Christians.

There is only one source to which you can go. There is only ONE way you can really be sure. That way is to check up—yourself—in your own Bible!

So right now, at the outset of this article, make up your mind to do just that. Perhaps you don’t really bother to “check up” on most of what you read, but just this once—for your own satisfaction—check up!

The Apostle Paul urges, “Prove all things, hold fast that which is good.” (I Thes. 5:21). “To the Law, and to the testimony,” orders God through Isaiah, “if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them” (Isa. 8:20).

Be sure you read each scripture you see quoted! That way you’ll know your belief and your faith does not rest in men, but in the Holy Word of God.

JUST WHAT IS GRACE?

The place to begin is to understand the *meaning* of the terms with which we are speaking. What IS Grace?

This is a vitally important question. Important because your Bible plainly foretold there would be a great conspiracy to deliberately change the meaning of this simple word—make it become confusing to most people—unclear. Today, there is endless argument among many religionists over the meaning of the term “grace.”

What does it mean to you? Does it imply permission to sin? “Certainly not!” you might answer. Well, then—does it mean you do NOT have to keep God’s Laws? “Of course!” many would immediately reply.

But wait a minute! What IS sin? “Sin is,” the Bible answers, “the transgression of the Law” (I John 3:4). Well, then—if that’s what sin is, if sin is the breaking of God’s Laws, sin is, then, fail-

ing to KEEP God's Laws!

Well, then—if that IS true—and your Bible says it is—and if “grace” means you do NOT have to obey God's Law—then does not “grace” mean to many of you that you may sin?

“Of course not!” you might answer—but then—isn't it all a little confusing?

It certainly is! Satan and his ministers (II Cor. 11:13) have confused the meaning of grace in most men's minds. This whole world, according to your Bible, has been deceived (Rev. 12:9; 20:3).

Just what, then, is grace? Grace is, according to *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary*, “Favor, kindness, mercy, etc.,” and, the ecclesiastical usage, “divine mercy or forgiveness.”

Yes—that's just it! Grace is FORGIVENESS! Grace is MERCY. Grace is PARDON.

But forgiveness from what? Why, what is a Christian, but one who has through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, obtained mercy and pardon from his past sins? It is through the blood of Jesus Christ we must obtain grace! Christ died, then, to show grace toward us—didn't He?

“Of course,” you would answer. Well, if this is true, and the Bible certainly says it is—then may we go on sinning after Christ has shown us grace?

Let's let the Bible answer—not the ideas of men!

Paul was inspired to write, “What then? Shall we sin [that is, shall we break any one of God's Ten Commandments] because we

are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid” (Rom. 6:15). There is the Bible answer! Paul plainly reveals that we must not think we may sin, that we can ignore, or live contrary to God's Ten Commandments, just because God has shown us some of His great mercy.

Why did God have to show us His mercy? Why did we need “grace”?

God answers, “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned” (Rom. 3:23.)

Remember, it is the breaking of these laws, as they are applied in principle, and as they are magnified by Christ in His teachings, that IS sin.

Yes—every human being has broken God's Holy Laws, the Ten Commandments. Remember, it is the breaking of these laws, as they are applied in principle, and as they are magnified by Christ in His teachings, that IS sin (I John 3:4).

Every human being has, because of his very nature of basic hostility toward God's laws (Rom. 8:7) been convicted of God's law as guilty of sin. The penalty of sin is death (Rom. 6:23). Christ died in order to erase our past sins. (Rom. 5:8).

THAT is what Grace is. It is the unlimited mercy of our God—the unearned, unmerited pardon of our God, when we totally repent, of our past sins.

Notice it. “In whom (Christ)

we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His GRACE.” (Eph. 1:7).

Grace, then, is God's loving willingness to forgive us of our past sins.

THE MODERN DECEPTION

Even before the close of the New Testament canon, Almighty God inspired Jude to write, “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that you should earnestly contend

for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

“For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ” (Jude 3, 4).

The actual history of what happened from that time to this time is now available. Remarkable, almost unbelievable discoveries are rapidly being made which shall amply prove that, true to the prophecies of your Bible, certain men DID creep in “unawares”—men who deliberately, with planned forethought, attempted to undermine the pure truth of God which was once de-

livered to the saints.

This, remember, was a prophecy of many centuries ago! Jude went on to describe these men as those who had a basic resentment and hostility toward all government, and the symbols of government, those in authority. “Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities.” (Jude 8).

What is in the minds of most professing Christians concerning their relationship to God today?

Basically, it is simply this: they have become convinced

ing for God.” It means living a “good” life, rather than an “evil” life. It means to think “good” thoughts rather than thinking “evil” thoughts. In a sort of vague, nebulous way, most professing Christians realize there must be a certain change in their lives when they “repent” or receive, or accept Christ.

To most—Grace is the state of a Christian who is “living for God.” Grace has come to falsely mean, to MOST professing Christians, a condition of the individual, rather than a quality of God.

In other words, instead of

Let’s clear the air. Let’s not be confused. Let’s come to understand!

WHAT REPENTANCE IS

“Repent ye therefore, and be converted” (Acts 3:19), said the Apostle Peter. To be converted means to be CHANGED!

This change of which the Bible speaks is far from a nebulous or vague sort of change. It is a very definitely described change, a complete and total change, a change that God requires in every facet of your individual lives. Jesus said, “Except you repent, ye shall all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3, 5).

To repent means to be deeply broken up and sorry over having sinned. Peter continued, as you read in Acts 3:19, “...and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.”

Surely every one of you know that Jesus Christ died for the express purpose of taking upon Himself our sins? Surely you all know, as a matter of basic, practical, Biblical FACT, that the sinner must call upon Almighty God to apply the sacrifice of Jesus Christ in order to forgive his sins.

David, experiencing the real depths of repentance, cried out, “Have mercy upon me, Oh God, according to thy loving kindness, according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

“Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.” (Ps. 51:1, 2.)

Many people think once a person is “justified” he is “made right” from then on. But this is simply untrue.

that a person should live a “righteous life.” They have become convinced that they have been a “sinner”—which usually means a person who has lived an “unrighteous life.” To most, an “unrighteous life” merely means having various “worldly” habits and interests, perhaps attending motion picture theatres, dancing, drinking, or playing cards. It may even involve the various modes and styles of apparel.

There are dozens of different categories in the minds of men as to what actually constitutes sin. But whether it involves various of these habits, indulgences, or “worldly acts”—most professing Christians would say that conversion, to them, means “liv-

understanding the true meaning of the word grace as revealed in your Bible, many of you have come to feel that grace is merely a Biblical term which vaguely means the Christian is in a “saved” condition. It means that God has smiled on the individual, “chosen” him, put him “under grace” and made him a “Christian.”

How have YOU thought about it?

Have you ever really been clear on the subject? Have you ever been able to really track down, in your own Bible, your beliefs regarding your present state? Have you ever really proved, in your own Bible, the true meaning—that is, the Bible meaning—of sin?

David was calling for the mercy of God. He was pleading with God to extend Grace because of his past sins. Later, David said, “Oh how love I thy law. It is my meditation all the day” (Ps. 119:97).

When you repent—you repent of having sinned. And to repent from sin means not only to be totally broken up and sorry over having sinned—it means to come to a deep resolve and determination, with the help of God’s Holy Spirit, not to sin again.

Never forget—what is sin? “Sin is the transgression of the law” (I John 3:4).

When you have totally repented and been forgiven, then God says “Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in the lust thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin, but yield yourself unto God . . . for sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under the law but under grace” (Rom. 6:12-14).

Do you see? A repentant person is a person who has been sorry that he has sinned. That means he is totally convicted of having broken God’s law, is sorry that he has broken God’s law, and has now determined, with God’s help, never to break God’s law again!

Paul goes on to answer a question which might immediately arise in the minds of some who do not know the meaning of the term “grace.” He says, in the scripture immediately following the one you just read, “What then? Shall we SIN because we



are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.” (Rom. 6:15).

Can you now begin to see?

When your Bible speaks of being “under the law,” it means, by its very context, under the “PENALTY OF” the law—not obedience to the law. To obey the law is to be “within the law.” To sin—disobey—is to become “under the law.”

HOW SINNERS ARE JUSTIFIED.

Another very important clarification of terms is to come to understand the meaning of the word “justified.”

Why is it that many of you have not really known the plain truth about such terms as “grace,” “justification,” “sanctification,” “redemption,” “conversion,” “dedication,” “confirmation,” and other such “theological-sounding” terms?

Simply because there has been a great conspiracy to deliberately confuse these terms in the minds of people—keeping the precious truth of Almighty God about the most important subject

in your life—that of your personal salvation—obscured behind spiritual drunkenness!

To many people, justification means vaguely the same thing “grace” has meant to so many thousands of deceived persons. It means, to many deceived ones, a “condition” permanently attributed to a Christian.

Many people think once a person is “justified” he is “made right” from then on. But this is simply untrue.

Again, let’s go to the only source to understand these all-important points.

“For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law SHALL be justified” (Rom. 2:13).

But how could this be? Simple. It is just as Almighty God says. It is only those who not only hear, but actually do and perform the laws of Almighty God, just as Jesus said they should in the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5:19) who shall be justified.

I have heard my father, Mr.

Herbert W. Armstrong, say many times “God will not save a single person he cannot govern!” While there is no scripture which says these words directly—there are many scriptures which uphold this basic principle by direct inference. The one you have just

His holy laws, are those who are now eligible for such justification!

Justification comes as God’s free loving gift, through the quality of God which is called “grace.”

Notice, “being justified freely by His grace through the redemp-

justification is the “condition” of the newly repentant sinner which is the result of God’s grace.

Neither grace nor justification comes by the works of God’s law. They do not come by obedience to God’s law, or to any other law.

Rather, your Bible plainly shows, that God will extend His unmerited pardon, His grace to those who have been totally repentant because they have disobeyed. They have now resolved to begin obeying. Once they have made this resolve in their minds, God says such persons can BE justified. Once Almighty God ascertains that basic attitude of total surrender toward God, He will now extend His righteous and merciful grace toward that sinner, by forgiving him of all his past sins!

Now return to the scripture I quoted at the beginning of this article. “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast.”

This is where most theologians always end the quotation. But let’s read all of it. “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus [the “new man” as a result of God’s Holy Spirit] unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” (Eph. 2:8-10.)

Of course! We are the handiwork of God, created as new creatures, once we have been converted, “in Christ Jesus” for the express purpose of living by every word of God. Living by every word of God means liv-

But neither justification nor grace are a “condition” of a Christian which shall be perpetually attributed to him.

read is a very good example. Those who have now come to stand in awe and in fear of the holy laws of God, and do now realize they have been convicted of sins in the sight of those laws, have now become totally repentant of having broken those laws, shall be—as a result of their repentance—justified.

Justification is not a permanent “condition” of a Christian. It has to do with the removal and the forgiveness of past guilt.

JUSTIFIED BY LAW?

God plainly says that the works of the law, the works and deeds of the law—any law—whether the Ten Commandments or any other law, will NOT justify anyone! “Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law” (Rom. 3:28).

Of course! God did not say in Romans 2:13 that it is by the doing of the law that individuals can be justified. He merely said that those who are willing to do

tion that is in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 3:24).

But neither justification nor grace are a “condition” of a Christian which shall be perpetually attributed to him. The Apostle Paul, foreseeing this confusion and deliberate conspiracy to obliterate the plain truth of this simple doctrine, went on to say “whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past through the forbearance [grace] of God” (Rom. 3:25).

Could anything be plainer? Grace is not a permanent “condition” of a Christian, but is a quality of Almighty God, expressed toward a repentant sinner who now realizes his guilt before God’s law, and now wants, with all his heart, soul and mind, to obey God’s laws and principles.

Justification is not a permanent “condition” of a Christian, but is the immediate condition at the exact time of his total repentance and surrender to God; that is,

ing in obedience to God’s laws. It means living in humility. It means living a “good” life—but Almighty God is the One who tells us what a “good” life is!

He tells us by the perfect example of the life of Jesus Christ! Jesus Christ obeyed, PERFECTLY, all His Father’s commandments.

Peter says, “...because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps, who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth” (I Pet. 2:21-22).

Did you notice it? Jesus Christ, by doing NO sin, DID obey all of God’s Ten Commandments. He set you, and He set me, an example. Are you willing to follow His example?

GOD’S LAW MUST BE OBEYED!

Now read these plain scriptures, and come to your own private decision as to what you shall do with them. Jesus said plainly, “...but if you will enter into life, KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS.” (Matt. 19:17). Paul wrote, “Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandments holy and just and good” (Rom. 7:12).

Paul went on to say, “For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin...if then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law, that it is good” (verses 14 and 16). “For I delight in the law of God after the inward

man” (verse 22). “I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh of the law of sin” (verse 25). “If you fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, ‘Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thy-

nant of God’s true Church at the precise moment of their persecution in the wilderness, just immediately prior to the second coming of Christ!

“And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed,

“He that saith, ‘I know Him,’ and keepth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.”

self,’ ye do well, but if ye have respect to persons ye commit sin, and are convicted of the law as transgressors. For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of ALL.” (James 2:8-10).

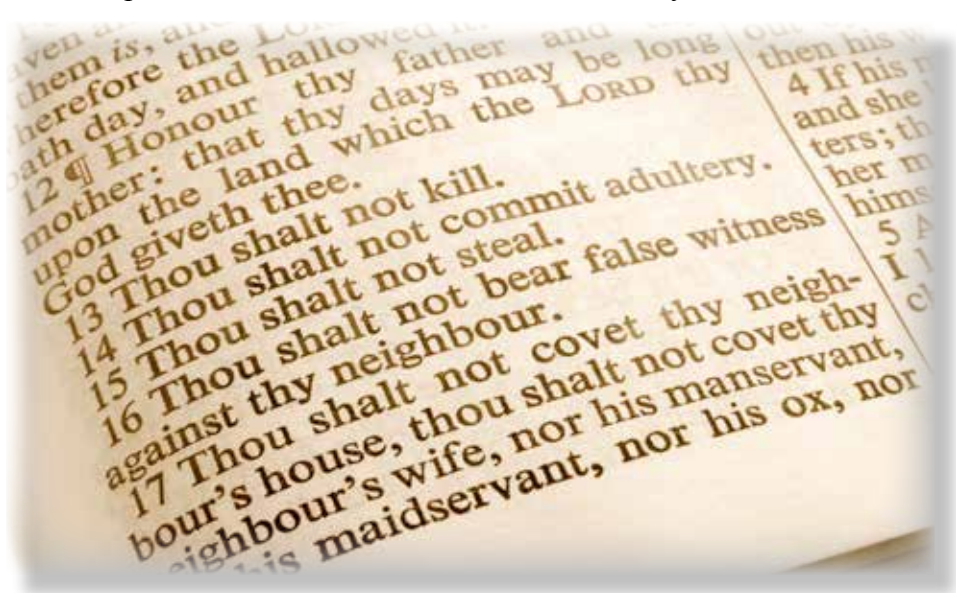
“And hereby do we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He that saith, ‘I know Him,’ and keepth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him” (I John 2:3-4).

Finally, read the definite description of the end-time rem-

nant of God’s true Church at the precise moment of their persecution in the wilderness, just immediately prior to the second coming of Christ!

“And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” (Rev. 12:17).

Can you now come to see? The truly converted Christian is not “under the law OR under grace!” Rather, he is living within God’s law, and has experienced God’s loving grace in being granted forgiveness for his past transgressions of God’s law. May God help you to come to see, in your own Bible, these plain truths. Be honest with yourself. What will you do about it?





The Burqa

RELIGIOUSLY MANDATED DRESS CODE OR TOOL OF FEMALE OPPRESSION?

by Murray Allat

The western world in recent decades has been inundated with Islamic immigration, whether claiming “refugee” status fleeing their oppressive homelands or by means of normal process, migrating for better opportunities. It is plain however with many of these “migrants” there is no interest in assimilation with the cultures of host populations. Rather the opposite. They demand that host populations tolerate Islamic culture, resist at the risk of being branded “islamophobic.”

There are a number of aspects of Islamic culture obnoxious to many in the West. Apart from female genital mutilation and the endemic labeling of food items with “*halal*” accreditations, the wearing of the *burqa* by a section of Muslim women must be the most obvious affront. Seeing figures walking around shopping malls covered head to toe

in a black coverall garment is for many a confronting sight indeed. In Europe, the UK, USA, Canada and Australia it is becoming a more common sight, no less. As you will read further on, it is also on the rise in Muslim countries where a few years ago the burqa was fringe.

POLITICAL STUNT OR SOCIAL POINT?

On August 17, 2017 in the Australian Senate, Senator Pauline Hanson, Leader of the One Nation Party, entered the Senate wearing a burqa. She had prearranged with the Parliamentary attendants what she proposed to wear to the Senate and, her identity being known, was not impeded in entering the Senate chamber.

Senator Hanson later removed the coverall garment to ask the Attorney General, Senator Brandis, whether he and his

government would legislate to ban the wearing of the burqa in Australia. Brandis said “No.” He then launched into Senator Hanson in these terms:

“I can tell you it has been the advice of each director-general of security with whom I have worked and each commissioner of the Australian Federal Police that it is vital for their intelligence and law enforcement work that they work cooperatively with the Muslim community,” Senator Brandis said.

“And to ridicule that community, to drive it into a corner, to mock its religious garments is an appalling thing to do and I would ask you to reflect on what you’ve done,” (this delivered with quavering voice and, it is reported, close to tears).

He went on to say, “I am not going to pretend to ignore the stunt that you have tried to pull

today by arriving in the Chamber dressed in a *burqa* when we all know that you are not an adherent of the Islamic faith. I would caution and counsel you with respect to be very, very careful of the offense you may do to the religious sensibilities of other Australians.”

For his tremulous trouble the Attorney General received a standing ovation from the Greens, and the socialist Labor Party Senators. No such standing ovation from his own side, the Liberal/National Party coalition government (so called conservative) side of the Senate.

Senator Hanson later said that her “stunt” was designed to start a conversation that would, she hoped, lead to the banning of wearing the *burqa* in public. She noted that before that conversation got going Brandis had stopped it.

In many countries—including dozens of Muslim majority countries—the wearing of the *burqa* and *niqab* (eyes shown) has been banned in public to various degrees and in only a few (eg Saudi Arabia) is the *burqa* (or *niqab*) a required item of attire. In the USA there is no ban, based upon First Amendment rights to freedom of religion and expression. Many Muslim women wear a *hijab* (a scarf over the hair) but many also wear no material head covering at all.

In Australia, judges and magistrates in courts struggle to get female defendant *burqa* wearers to remove the garment despite laws requiring such in some jurisdictions. But then, they also struggle to get Muslim defendants (male and female) and their “supporters” to stand in court when required—that is when the

judge enters or when spoken to. Invariably both objectionable behaviours, *burqa* wearing and the lack of respect shown by not standing, are claimed as “against my religion” and ‘religious’ duties.

IS THE BURQA A RELIGIOUS GARMENT?

Brandis, in his retort to Hanson, had admonished her for mocking Islam’s “religious” garments. But is the *burqa*, an item of clothing that entirely disguises the wearer, in fact a religious garment? Is its wearing in public, or at all, a requirement of Islam? Must a female adherent of Islam wear it to be a “good muslim”?

For many, if not the vast majority of those born and raised in Western democracies, the appearance of the *burqa* in those western democratic nations in recent decades has been both confronting



Pauline Hanson, Senator and leader of the One Nation Party, entered the senate wearing a burqa.

Continued next page

and an affront. Indeed, to paraphrase Brandis, the appearance of the *burqa* has caused offense—cultural offense—to a large number of Australians (as well as Americans and Europeans).

In a number of situations covering or disguising a person's identity is recognized legally as just not culturally insensitive but a plain security risk.

In a number of situations covering or disguising a person's identity is recognized legally as just not culturally insensitive but a plain security risk. We don't allow motor bike riders to wear helmets or face coverings into banks, or other businesses, or courts (well, as noted above in Courts we still do). And we frown upon wearers of bike helmets and bandanas in public places without a good reason, such as riding a motorbike. But to complain of a *burqa* wearer entering a bank, a restaurant, or even a court house completely unrecognizable, well, that's just "an offense to the religious sensibilities of other Australians," based upon the Brandis approach.

But is the *burqa* (or *niqab*) a required religious garment?

DOES THE QURAN STIPULATE THE WEARING OF THE BURQA?

The simple answer to that question is, no. The Quran instructs men and women to behave modestly in society (24:31). That's it. A couple of other references from the Quran

add nothing to the proposition that adherents of Islam are to behave and dress modestly.

According to one source, Chris Moore of the "True Islam" website, the authority cited by

Muslim authorities today for the wearing of the *burqa* comes from the collected traditions of life in the days of Muhammad. They do not come from any command contained in the Quran. The instruction to women is: cover your chest (24:31); lengthen your garments (33:59). There simply is no Quranic instruction to cover a woman head to toe.

WHAT DOES THE BURQA ACTUALLY REPRESENT?

There are women of Muslim background who seem to understand what the *burqa* actually is, more so than many self serving western politicians. One such is Elham Manea, of Yemeni/Swiss nationality. Elham Manea is an Islamic scholar in the Department of Political Science at the University of Zurich, Switzerland, a former government commissioner and author of *Women and Sharia Law*.

Manea was in Australia recently and commented on the Pauline Hanson parliamentary *burqa* "stunt". She said in an article published in the *Sydney*

Morning Herald, "The *burqa* (*niqab* in Arabic) is a symbol. When you see it in a community, it indicates that an ideology and a radical form of Islam are spreading. In my field research on women and sharia law in Britain, South Africa and Middle eastern countries, I heard this sentence a lot: "Ten years ago, we only had a few women with the *burqa*. Today there are plenty."

She went on to say, "Let's get something straight. The *burqa* is not Islamic. It is a custom imported from Najd, a region in Saudi Arabia and the power base of its Salafi's fundamentalist form of Islam. Within Muslim countries it is very contested and considered fringe. Even conservative Mufti of Al Azhar—the highest religious authority in Sunni Islam—said in a 2010 TV program that the *burqa* is a 'custom', not a 'religious requirement.'"

Manea went on to say that until 1979 the *burqa* was not even mandatory in other regions of Saudi Arabia. She says it was the norm in Najd of course. But in other areas of Saudi Arabia pre-1979 the women worked with men in the field, danced together in their celebrations and did not cover their faces.

It is the year, 1979, that is significant. Manea notes that 1979 was the year of the Iranian revolution, the occupation of the Kabaa in Mecca by radical Salafis, and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. These three events Manea states led to an active Saudi policy, enforcing the dogmas of its politicized fundamentalism with-

in its own borders and spreading it worldwide. Manea says, “Religion was a tool to fight communism and to claim leadership of the Islamic world. But it was not any religion that was promoted. It was a fringe fundamentalist interpretation of Islam.”

Manea writes, “Women according to this world view are a source of evil that should be covered head to toe to protect men from seduction. They are perpetual minors, obedient to their male guardians. Husbands have the right to discipline their wives by beating.” She further states that this fringe fundamentalism, that includes *burqa* wearing, has a significant political dimension that wreaks havoc in any society in which it “metastasises”. “It functions as a sect, demanding from its supporters to separate themselves from their wider society, which it brands apostate. Separation is not enough; one has to hate the ‘unbelievers’ in heart and behavior.”

Manea concludes “So when you see women in a burqa, think of the ideology that is mainstreaming it. We should confront it—Muslims and non-Muslims alike.”

Finally, Manea notes that it helps to think of this issue of the *burqa* from the perspective of the tradition that produced it. She writes, “In Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, and IS controlled areas women are forced to wear it. Why do you think women activists have launched this year a campaign with the hash tag ‘the *niqab* (*burqa*) does not represent

me’? I am sure many of them are wondering why on earth some Australian politicians are defending ‘Muslim women’s right to wear the *burqa*.’ Think of enslavement as synonymous to *burqa*, and their marvel will become clear.”

It is troubling indeed that Australia’s chief law officer, the Attorney General demonstrated by his rebuke of Senator Hanson’s “stunt” of wearing a *burqa* into the parliamentary chamber, an astonishing ignorance of the place of the *burqa* in Islam. And to forgo the opportunity to affirm that the *burqa* has no place in public life or public places in Australia.

DOES THE BIBLE MANDATE A WOMAN’S “COVERING”?

To close, what does the Bible have to say about a woman’s covering? Certainly the Bible extols female modesty of dress and female virtue. But as to head coverings, the Apostle Paul had this

to say:

“Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered?

“Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?

“But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.

“But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God.” 1 Corinthians 11:13-16.

Biblically, a woman’s hair is her covering. She has no need of scarfs or other material coverings of her head in public to fulfill any “religious” duty. Properly understood, neither do the Muslim women who insist on appearing in public, completely anonymous, in their head to toe black garb. As Elham Manea concluded, “So when you see women in *burqa*, think of the ideology that is mainstreaming it. We should confront it—Muslims and non-Muslims alike.” □



Subtle Temptation

Search



by Michael Armstrong

There is no denying this world is a dangerous place. Apart from disease, crime, and poverty that have always plagued mankind, modern technology allows us to communicate so rapidly that geopolitical concerns, incidents of social unrest, terror attacks, and so on, pervade our daily lives. This non-stop consumption of information currently foisted as “normal” demands a continuous escalation to trigger emotion and generate interest.

Media is, in the end, a competition to get as many people to look as possible. Think about it. If somehow nothing truly important or controversial happened for a day, or better yet a week, would the news cease to report? Would they take a day off? Can television or print and online publications even do that?

Of course not! Getting you to pay attention, to watch or read, is their business! It is how they make their money, and the more people view their product the more they can charge advertisers and the more of it they make. They need you to look at them, to care, to worry, to be genuinely interested. When it takes sensationalism or misrepresentation to find that emotional trigger truth is often the first casualty.

So, should we ignore the world as it crumbles around us? Is this a call to completely tune out and become the proverbial ostrich? Quite the opposite. It is our Christian duty to watch, to be informed that we may be ready to inform and to educate when opportunity arises.

Jesus Christ said to His disciples, after warning them of the events that would precede the establishment of His kingdom, “Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near:

“So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors.

“Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done.

“Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

“But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.

“Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.

“For the Son of Man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to

his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch.

“Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:

“Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping.

“And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch” (Mark 13:28-37).

This command cannot be ignored, nor can the many others our Lord has laid upon us. He commended the humble, the meek, those who show mercy and make peace. He demands that we abandon hatred and unnecessary anger, lust, hypocrisy, and greed. He said “Not every one that saith unto me Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 8:21).

Ours is an active calling. It requires the walk to back up the talk. There are things we must strive for and others we must avoid.

“Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

“Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath,

strife, seditions, heresies,

“Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

“Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

“And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

“Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another” (Galatians 5:19-26).

To live life by these precepts is not easy. Jesus Christ called the path that leads to life straight and narrow and said few would find it. The requirements of the righteous have never changed but today we are exposed to the perfidious vagaries of the world in a manner likely unimaginable by previous generations.

Ideological challenges can be presented across the globe in real time. Never before has mankind been exposed to so much. Never before have we been so connected and yet at times it seems we have never been so divided. These tools of communication that can, and have been, used for good also challenge us in an unprecedented manner.

The internet especially provides temptation for the darkest parts of human nature. It offers



adultery and fornication at the touch of a button. It is a venue for hatred, wrath, and strife with the benefit of anonymity, taking the danger of physical confrontation completely out of the equation.

Never before have men and women had to confront these temptations this way, to have access to the darkest reaches of human nature in the palm of your hand or the privacy of your home. The tool or technology does not bear the blame, but the evil use to which men put it. Jesus Christ said, “because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold” (Matthew 24:12).

Even a cursory study of the bible illuminates the gross errors of man. We are required to watch, but what we see is so often sickening. We are provoked and put upon by the sources we rely on to inform us. We are baited, switched and swindled. Our love, joy, and peace are tested as our longsuffering is measured.

It is difficult to restrain our own wrath and hatred when looking on the grievous sins around us, to condemn the sin and not the

sinner. How much less restraint have we seen from the incensed mobs that have recently been taking to the streets? Should the righteous emulate the sinners?

God forbid. Ours is a delicate balancing act. As it says in Ephesians 4:26-27 “be ye angry and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: neither give place to the devil.” Remember that, above all, we are to have love and that love, as it says in 1 Corinthians 13:5, “is not easily provoked.”

These are the challenges we face as Christians in the twenty-first century. The battles we face are the same as in any other generation but the battleground is ever changing. We have information, luxury, and convenience like never before but it is accompanied by abundant opportunity to veer from that straight and narrow path.

If we suffer because we see the direction the world is going, and because we cling to God’s way of life as we endure temptation, then let us rejoice because we suffer as Christians. □

UPDATE : Kim's Escalating Provocations

Since we featured Kim Jong-un applauding a nuclear explosion on our last cover, he has been increasingly bold. In an act of fearsome provocation, he fired missiles that over-flew the Japanese islands. He also tested a nuclear detonation, claiming that it was a hydrogen bomb. Whether it was an actual hydrogen bomb or not, the detonation was calculated to be nearly ten times more powerful than anything North Korea had previously tested. It created an earthquake that registered 6.3 according to the USGS.

Had it not been for the disastrous hurricane Harvey, and the startling images from the streets and neighborhoods of Houston, this would have been front and center in the news, along with the constant outpouring of disgust of media pundits with everything to do with President Trump.

As we go to press, reports claim that North Korea has moved a long-range ICBM to a launch pad, and is prepared to demonstrate the full range of its capability. Many fear that the continental United States is already within range of North Korea's ICBMs, with the only remaining question being whether they also have nuclear weapons small enough to be delivered

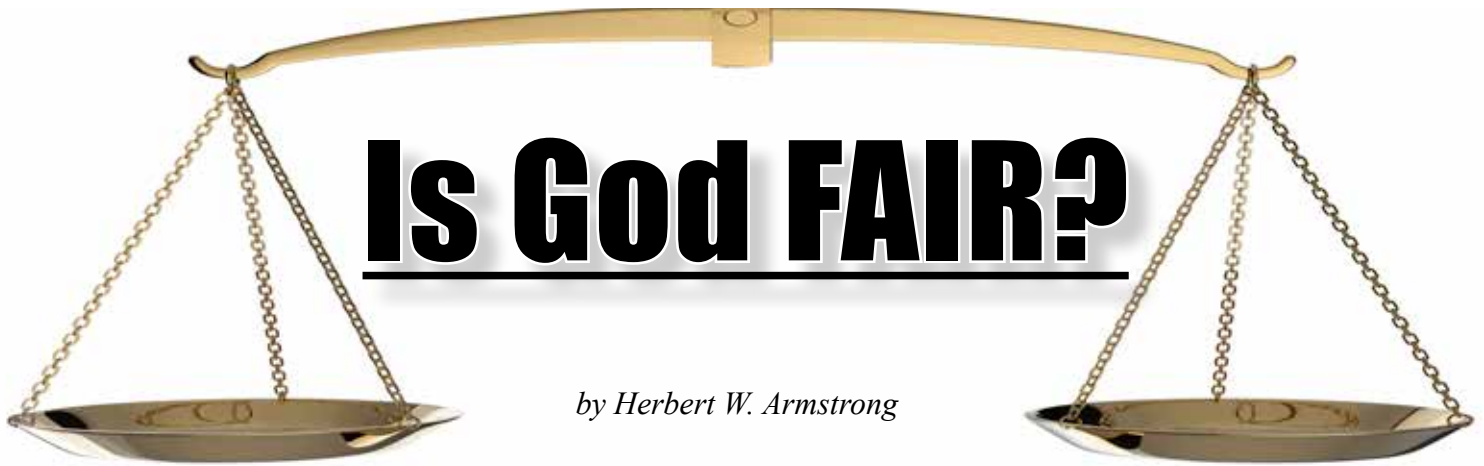
atop a missile.

Rhetoric from the President, Secretary of Defense and Secretary of State have been all over the map, from the "fire and fury" warning uttered by President Trump, to milder talk of diplomacy. Of all the experts to have commented on the situation, not one believes that a war can be conducted against North Korea without the prospect of massive loss of life to South Koreans and Japanese that are within easy range of conventional rockets and mortars dug in and concealed by the thousands over a period of decades.

Most seem to think that China is the only power with the clout to reign in the little dictator, but there has been no progress on that front. Now there is talk that the United States may have no choice but to threaten the trade relationship with China, which opens up another whole can of worms with implications yet to be considered.

It is an untenable standoff without a solution that doesn't involve a death toll of massive proportions, and the only North Korean with a weight problem just keeps upping the ante.





Is God FAIR?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

Look at the world today. War, famine, pestilence. Poverty, inequality, hunger, want. Sickness, disease, suffering, death! Crime, graft, dishonesty, corruption. Insanity, degeneration, decay. Unhappiness, fear, wretchedness and woe.

How, so many are asking, can a supreme, all-powerful God of love permit it?

Why does God allow devil-inspired terrorists to run amok? Why is He permitting civilization itself to crumble?

Is God FAIR?

Listen! Some men are saying, "God isn't fair!"—or "Is there a God, after all?" But what do you suppose men would say if God took away their right to think and do as they please? For God could never stop this awful carnage without forcing men to act according to His will—denying them a free will of their own!

It is men's ways, so contrary to God's ways, that have brought this unhappy state. And they have brought on all the world's sorrows and anguish in spite of the pleadings of God. He says, "Your ways are not my ways."

God's ways, had they been followed, would have led inevitably to peace, happiness, prosperity, and joy. God always has revealed to men His ways. Always He has pleaded with the human family.

Suppose God had taken out the only alternative. Suppose He had forced men, against their wills, to have lived according to His laws?

Can't you almost hear the defiant, rebellious, stiff-necked human race indignantly screaming at the Almighty: "You can't

have accused God of injustice, demanding freedom to follow their own ways.

God's plan has for its purpose the creating of perfect character in beings that are separate entities from God yet members of the very family of God. Character cannot be created automatically by fiat—it must be developed through experience.

Nor could character be instilled without free moral agency. To achieve this great purpose—that of producing the supreme pinnacle of all God's creation,

Character cannot be created automatically by fiat—it must be developed through experience!

cram your religion down my throat!" For it IS a matter of religion. Can't we see that, had God followed that course, more than ever men would have shouted, "God isn't fair!"

For six thousand years men have lived in defiance of God's laws. Had God denied them this right to be wrong, men would

sons of God having perfect character, man has to be convinced, of his own free will, that God's laws are just, and that His ways are the only right ways for man. Man must turn to them, voluntarily. This lesson could be learned only by experience.

In the beginning, Satan appeared to contest the wisdom of

God's law. This law is, simply, love for God, and love for neighbor, as defined in the ten broad principles of the Ten Commandments. A fundamental, spiritual, eternal law. The philosophy

day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God; in it thou shalt not do any work." Six thousand-year days have been permitted Satan for his labor of deception. Even then his dominion has been limited to the

flood. He set up a nation of His own on earth, pledged to follow HIS laws, dedicated voluntarily to God's way of life. But Israel turned from God's ways, and persecuted and killed God's prophets!

God sent His only begotten Son to point men back to the true paths. And Him, too, men rejected and killed.

During these six thousand years since Adam, men continually have spurned God's love, rejected His law, turned a deaf ear to His prophets and His true ministers. They have built a world after the false philosophy of Satan, replete with its pagan customs, traditions and beliefs. Today people are hopelessly engulfed in these false ways, but, being deceived, realize it not at all!

Satan is revealed as the "god of this world" (II Cor. 4:4). The original inspired Greek should be properly translated, "the god of this age." And this worldly civilization worships its god. The appalling fact unrealized by the world is that Satan, not the Eternal, is its god! The Creator God "is not the author of confusion," we read in I Cor. 14:33. Its real author is Satan, the world's god! And he has so many denominations and sects, all striving in a babylon of confusion.

"God's LAW," they chorus in unison, "is done away!" Yes, they have to tell that in order to draw their salaries!

Christ taught is that it is more blessed to GIVE, than to receive. But Satan argued for the getting way. Competition, he argued, is the life-blood of activity. Self-desire provides incentive to endeavor. Vanity spurs to action. And so, in Satan's philosophy, self-desire, competition, strife, provide the root-principle for accomplishment. The way of getting is the way to progress and advancement.

Had not God permitted this selfish way to be tried, tested, and demonstrated, God's creatures could argue throughout eternity that they had been denied the better way.

THE DEVIL'S WEEK

And so God turned over to Satan one week, consisting of seven thousand-year days, in which to demonstrate the falsity of this way—the way of greed.

During this week of seven thousand years Satan was permitted to retain dominion over all the earth. "Six days," God said, "thou shalt labor and do all thy work" - his work of deception and hate—"but the seventh

power of influence and suggestion. Never has God permitted even Satan arbitrarily to force men against their wills.

And so for six thousand years men have been left free to accept the self-seeking competitive philosophy of Satan, or to follow the Golden Rule of God. And for six thousand years Satan has labored. And mankind has fallen for his delusion!

Satan's philosophy is the philosophy of the world today. On it our present civilization has been built. A civilization men love and cherish, and for which they patriotically sacrifice their lives! A civilization developed on desire for self-gain, competition, strife! In it success is determined by how much a man has been able to get, not on how well he has served.

God has never left men in ignorance of the TRUE way of life. Always He has made known the true values—the way of His spiritual law of Love. Continually God has pleaded, with patience and in love. He pleaded with Noah in the days before the

THE DEVIL'S WORK

There is just one thing, it seems, that all Satan's ministers can agree upon. "God's LAW," they chorus in unison, "is done away!" Yes, they have to tell that in order to draw their salaries! Today the people of organized re-

ligion refuse to hear the Law of the Lord (Isa. 30:8-11). They demand that their ministers preach the soft and smooth things—the deceits. They have turned away from the truth, and are accepting and believing fables (II Tim. 4:2-4). They are bitter against God's Law, and against the few who proclaim the PLAIN TRUTH of God's Word.

Yes, Satan has organized religion. He himself appears, not as a devil with horns and a tail bearing pitch fork, but “is transformed into an angel of light” (II Cor. 11:14). His ministers are transformed as the ministers of righteousness, appearing as the apostles of Christ! (Verses 13, 15). But they are preaching “another Jesus” (Verse 4), in the power of “another spirit,” and deceiving men with “another Gospel” than the true Gospel of the Kingdom which Christ brought and Paul and all the apostles preached! (Gal. 1:6-7).

Satan's congregations go in for much form. “Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away,” plainly warns God's Word. (II Tim. 3:5). The present worldly order—its competitive principle, its customs and traditions, its political systems—are upheld by Satan's churches within every land. Truly, ALL nations are deceived. (Rev. 17:2, 18:3).

Jesus Christ appeared as a messenger bearing a Message from God. He brought to an unhappy world steeped in false ways the “good news of the Kingdom of God.” A kingdom now,

soon, to replace these crumbling governments of earth.

That Kingdom today is near at hand—even at the doors (Luke 21:31).

Thank God, we are near the END of the six working days allotted to Satan's dominion. God's thousand-year Sabbath day is just about to dawn.

There is a saying that it is darkest just before dawn. Now we see on every hand the final

fruitage of men's ways. Written in unerasable blood, in human misery, anguish and despair, is the six-thousand-year record of experience!

Even now men will not heed this horrible lesson—not until they are FORCED to see it!

But, as Satan's sixth “working day” closes, God is about to step in and supernaturally to interfere!

The coming of the seventh millennium—typified by the Feast of Tabernacles—shall see Satan restrained. Christ will return to rule the earth with all the power of God. God's New Order for the next thousand years will restore peace, happiness, and joy.

Then men may look back over this present world, and compare. Never will God FORCE a single human being, against his own will, into salvation and eternal life.

But, with the seven-thousand-year record of experience set plainly before seeing eyes, do you think anyone will want to return to these ways we seem now to love? Not many, you will be sure of that! Yet some, even then, will rebel.

Finally the world shall acknowledge, of its own free volition, that God's ways are right. “Christ,” says the Scripture, “learned obedience by the

They are bitter against God's Law, and against the few who proclaim the PLAIN TRUTH of God's Word!

things which He suffered!” (Heb. 5:8). Even He who never did wrong! “And being made perfect” - through experience - “He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him.”

Some day we shall look upon God's plan with breath-taking admiration and awe. The suffering of this present time shall have faded completely from mind. The lessons of experience we shall have with us for eternity.

Finally humanity shall accept God's ways of life, KNOWING that they are right ways. The happiness and joy we shall experience cannot be conceived by our minds today. Thru all eternity we shall worship and praise the Eternal God for His wisdom, His mercy, His love!

Do you think anyone, then, will look back and say, “God isn't fair?” □

EUROPE'S MIGRANT CRISIS:

Views from Central Europe

"We are not going to take part in the madness of the Brussels elite."

by Soeren Kern, with permission from Gatestone Institute

- Many so-called asylum seekers have refused to relocate to Central and Eastern Europe because the financial benefits there are not as generous as in France, Germany or Scandinavia. In addition, hundreds of migrants who have been relocated to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, which rank among the poorest EU countries, have since fled to Germany and other wealthier countries in the bloc.
- "It needs to be said clearly and directly: This is an attack on Europe, on our culture, on our traditions."—Poland's Prime Minister Beata Szydlo.
- "I think we have a right to decide that we do not want a large number of Muslim people in our country. That is a historical experience for us."—Viktor Orbán, Prime Minister of Hungary, referring to Hungary's occupation by the Ottoman Empire from 1541 to 1699.

The European Union has initiated legal action against the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland for failing to comply with a controversial order to take in thousands of migrants from Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

The so-called infringement procedure, which authorizes the European Commission, the powerful executive arm of the European Union, to sue member states that are considered to be in breach of their obligations under EU law, could lead to massive financial penalties.

The dispute dates back to September 2015, when, at the height

of Europe's migration crisis, EU member states narrowly voted to relocate 120,000 "refugees" from Italy and Greece to other parts of the bloc. This number was in addition to a July, 2015 plan to redistribute 40,000 migrants from Italy and Greece.

Of the 160,000 migrants to be "shared," nine countries in Central and Eastern Europe were ordered to take in around 15,000 migrants. Although the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia voted against the agreement, they were still required to comply.

Since then, several Central

European EU member states have vehemently refused to accept their assigned quotas of migrants. Poland, for example, has a quota of 6,182 migrants, not one of whom has been admitted. The Czech Republic has a quota of 2,691 migrants, of whom only 12 have been taken. Hungary has a quota of 1,294, none of whom have been admitted.

In the EU as a whole, so far only around 20,000 migrants have been relocated (6,896 from Italy and 13,973 from Greece), according to the EU's latest relocation and resettlement report, published on June 13, 2017. Of

the 28 EU member states, only Malta has taken in its full quota — 131 migrants.

Many so-called asylum seekers have refused to relocate to Central and Eastern Europe because the financial benefits there are not as generous as in France, Germany or Scandinavia. In addition, hundreds of migrants who have been relocated to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, which rank among the poorest countries in the EU, have since fled to Germany and other wealthier countries in the bloc.

Meanwhile, the enforcers of European “unity” have sought to shame the Central European holdouts into compliance by appealing to nebulous concepts such as European “values” and “solidarity.” French President Emmanuel Macron, for example, recently warned:

“European countries that do not respect the rules should pay the full political consequences. There is a double betrayal. They decide to abandon EU principles, turn their back on Europe and have a cynical approach to the union which gives them money, without respecting its values.”

Leaders in Central and Eastern Europe have held their ground. In Poland, Prime Minister Beata Szydło said her country would not be blackmailed by European Union officials. In a speech to Parliament on May 24, two days after the jihadist attack in Manchester, England, in which a Polish couple was killed, she said:

“We are not going to take part in the madness of the Brussels

elite... Rise from your knees and from your lethargy or you will be crying over your children every day.

to European Union quotas would “certainly be worse” than any punishment meted out by Brussels:

“We must not forget the terror attacks that have taken place in Western Europe, and how—in the bigger EU countries—these are unfortunately now a fact of life.”

“If you cannot see this—if you cannot see that terrorism currently has the potential to hurt every country in Europe, and you think that Poland should not defend itself—you are going hand in hand with those who point this weapon against Europe, against all of us.

“It needs to be said clearly and directly: This is an attack on Europe, on our culture, on our traditions. Do we want strong politicians who can see the danger and can fight against it efficiently?”

Polish Interior Minister Mariusz Błaszczak said that agreeing

“We must not forget the terror attacks that have taken place in Western Europe, and how—in the bigger EU countries—these are unfortunately now a fact of life. Remember, that the now very numerous Muslim communities in Western Europe started out as relatively small numbers...

“I tell my counterparts in Western Europe that the relocation strategy only intensifies illegal migration because traffickers get even more customers when would-be migrants hear that people delivered to Europe are being



Polish Prime Minister Beata Szydło said her country would not be blackmailed by European Union officials.



The Parliament's hemicycle (debating chamber) during a plenary session in Strasbourg.

given refuge in EU nations other than Italy and Greece.”

Henryk Kowalczyk, a Polish member of parliament, said:

“Poland makes a contribution to the EU... We are doing what the bloc says, what the treaties say. If the French president was thinking of refugees, well that issue is not mentioned in the treaties and when we joined the European Union we were not taking on that commitment.”

Poland's European Affairs Minister Konrad Szymański added:

“There is no conflict on values between the Commission and Poland—it is about how to interpret these values.”

In the Czech Republic, Prime Minister Bohuslav Sobotka said that “given the deteriorating security situation in Europe and the non-functioning of the quota system, the Czech government will not participate in it.” He added: “We are ready to defend our position in the EU and the relevant judicial institutions.”

Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs Lubomír Zaorálek said that EU should focus on “economic and social convergence among EU countries, rather than attempts to distribute migrants with forced quotas.” He pointed out that in some Eastern European countries, “the most vulnerable inhabitants are often poorer than the incoming migrants themselves.”

Zaorálek added that “people



Protest against migrants in Czech Republic.

who are coming have no real interest in being integrated” and want to live with their “partners from similar cultural, ethnic, religious backgrounds.” He said that people in Central and Eastern Europe do not want to “repeat the mistake of the Western countries” which have “neighborhoods full of thousands and thousands of people living in imperfect living conditions” and which are “very risky, not only during the night but also during the day.” He pointed out that “there are no suicide bombers among Ukrainians or Vietnamese,” two long-established communities in the Czech Republic.

In Slovakia, Prime Minister Robert Fico said that mass migration and forced multiculturalism would change the essence of his country:

“I think it is the duty of politicians to talk about these things very clearly and openly. I do not want to see a Muslim community in Slovakia. I do not want there

to be several tens of thousands of Muslims who gradually begin to promote their ideology. We do not want to change the traditions of this country, which are built on the Christian tradition. It has been like this for centuries. Sovereignty and national pride must be part of our ruling coalition.”

Fico added that 95% of so-called refugees were actually economic migrants:

“We will not assist in this folly with arms opened wide with the notion that we will accept them all regardless of whether they are economic migrants or not. We must start telling the truth about migration.”

In Hungary, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán has warned of the “explosive consequences” of a culture clash between Europe and migrants from the Muslim world:

“To understand what we must do, we need to grasp the true nature of the situation we are facing. Europe is not in the grip of a ‘refugee problem’ or a ‘refugee situation,’ but the European continent is threatened by an ever mounting

wave of modern-era migration. Movement of people is taking place on an immense scale, and from a European perspective the number of potential future immigrants seems limitless.”

With each passing day we see that hundreds of thousands have been turning up and clamoring at our borders, and there are millions more intending to set out for Europe, driven by economic motives...

“We must acknowledge that the European Union’s misguided immigration policy is responsible for this situation. Irresponsibility is the mark of every European politician who holds out the promise of a better life to immigrants and encourages them to leave everything behind and risk their lives in setting out for Europe. If Europe does not return to the path of common sense, it will find itself laid low in a battle for its fate...

“Let us not forget that those arriving have been raised in another religion, and represent a radically different culture. Most of them



Robert Fico, Slovakian Prime Minister.

are not Christians, but Muslims. This is an important question, because Europe and European identity is rooted in Christianity. Is it not worrying in itself that European Christianity is now barely able to keep Europe Christian? If we lose sight of this, the idea of Europe could become a minority interest in its own continent.”

Referring to Hungary’s occupation by the Ottoman Empire from 1541 to 1699, Orbán said:

“I think we have a right to decide that we do not want a large number of Muslim people in our country. We do not like the consequences of having a large Muslim community that we see in other countries and I do not see any reason for anyone else to force us to create ways of living together in Hungary that we do not want to see. That is a historical experience for us.” □



Refugees in Belgrade, Serbia.

Erasing History

by Mark Armstrong

Today it's statues and historical monuments. Tomorrow...? Who's afraid of the snowflakes? Apparently every university and municipality that is challenged. As we saw in the embarrassing and ultimately tragic events that unfolded in Charlottesville, VA, the mainstream media demands that Americans take a side. Are you on the side of the neo-Nazis, or do you support the masked anarchists that destroy historical monuments on the basis that they honor "racism"? And that's precisely what the mainstream me-

dia has done. Pick a side, America. Either you're a supporter of the Confederacy, having lost the American Civil War fighting for slavery, or the triggered, offended anarchists threatening to burn everything down. "Which side are you on?" they demand to know.

Really? We have to choose between the most uneducated dregs of society? No, we don't. No, we won't. Some of us reserve the right, bestowed upon us by God Himself, to recognize manipulation when we see it. We're

not at all sure that the events in Charlottesville weren't choreographed. It appears that one idiot group was herded by police into the teeth of "counter-protesters" where the brawl celebrated by the mainstream media was unavoidable. Will we ever know exactly what went down or why? Hopefully so, but probably not. If the truth goes against the narrative pushed by the race-baiting network anchors, they'll never tell it.

Yes, we know that many of the so-called conservative ilk in government have been baited into the discussion and have been toppled like a Civil War monument into buying into the convoluted logic that antifa is fighting against racist symbols. Lilly-livered, panty-waisted politicians, terrified of the prospect of being called "RACIST" by the self-righteous homosexuals that dominate national prime-time, topple like dominoes. They can't give up historical monuments fast enough, because they know they'll be the next target. They run like little girls, lest the black-masked snowflakes with baseball bats come calling outside their offices.

Isn't it odd that the party



Memphis, TN—Protestors prepare to cover a statue of Nathan Bedford Forrest.



Empty base where a statue of Jefferson Davis once stood.

that erected the monuments and statues is the same party that pretends to be outraged by their existence? Look it up. See which legislatures were the ones that passed laws erecting those monuments in the first place. Take a look at which presidents in our recent history praised the likes of Robert E. Lee, and called him a righteous, courageous Christian man. They are the most revered icons of the left. Is any president in recent American history more revered by the socialist left than Franklin Delano Roosevelt?

Buying into the emotional convulsions of the offended classes demands that we be ignorant of our own history. They obviously are, and they demand that we suspend logic, reject the nuances of history and support their mindless tirades. Otherwise, we are RACIST!

“President Donald Trump is a RACIST,” they constantly claim. He’s a LIAR, he’s unhinged, he’s unfit for office, and on and on

it goes by the barrels of ink, by the thousands of hours of prime-time and around the clock, twenty-four seven. But that’s not where it stops. If you dare support him, or let’s just say you realize that he’s a human being with some flaws but support some aspects of his agenda policy-wise, YOU, yes you, are supporting racism! That means you deserve to be attacked, physically, if caught in the wrong place at the wrong time, and too bad for you.

You should have known better than to have put in with such a despicable human being. That’s what passes for log-

ic among the anarchists and the mainstream media that justifies the idiocy playing out somewhere almost daily.

Under the banner of “Social Justice,” the radical left employs the tactics of the French Revolution and hopes for similar results. If only they could have finished the job on the United States while Barack Obama was president! And it’s not as if they didn’t try. Identity politics was front and center. Law enforcement agencies were declared “stupid,” and racist by the former president



New Orleans, LA—Statue of Robert E Lee removed.

while angry mobs, driven into a frenzy by deliberately inaccurate reporters, rampaged, burned and looted. We saw several incidents like St. Louis, and Baltimore, where the anarchy, theft and destruction were deemed excusable by the false reporters of fake news.

It was the logic of the radical, progressive, anarchist left that led to the mindless, mob driven riot and butchery of the French Revolution. If you look it up on your gizmo, you will find a highly sanitized version on Wikipedia. It avoids the public dismemberment in the streets of the bodies of those who didn't support the goals of the "revolution." It glosses over the children who kicked human heads like soccer balls in the streets, no doubt to the delight of the true believers for whom the degradation of their ideological opponents made that desecration a deserved punishment.

That's the kind of hatred that's currently being ginned up on America's university campuses. Tearing down the statues and monuments is only the first phase. Make no mistake. They're coming after George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and Benjamin Franklin as well. And since they were the authors of the Declaration of Independence and our Constitution, they're coming after those documents that created and have sustained our nation, too.

How dare we retain our Declaration and Constitution which reference the Creator, His Divine

Laws and His plan for mankind? They've absconded with the rainbow, which may be an even greater desecration than we realize. At its conclusion, this movement will require that we renounce God and His Word, because it conflicts with their Social Justice agenda. It also renders recent pronouncements of the "humble" little pontiff utterly illegitimate.

God's Word offends homosexuals, and nobody's more deserving of respect than those who demand reverence for their perversions, not in this society. So ultimately they're coming after our Bibles. They don't believe in Biblical history, they don't believe in God's Word, so they'll demand we reject it. Even the pope wants us all to ask the homosexual activists for forgiveness for failing to recognize the superiority of Sodomites!

If that's what they demand, they just might have to come after us. They may have the den of

homosexuals who run media on their side. They may have the universities and the know-nothing safe-space crowd on their side. They may have the illegal alien community on their side. They may even have the Muslim Jihadists on their side. But they don't have God, at all.

They can scream, cry, and throw Molotov cocktails. They can break windows, chain themselves across highways, throw bottles of urine at police or defecate on police cars, as they did in New York City. We're sticking with God's Word.

And for now at least, we have a president who is sticking up for our right of religious freedom, and our right to love our country as one that was founded according to God's promises with His Laws at its core. The angry left will have to kill us all if they want that overthrown. Regardless, they lose in the end. □



“YOU WILL SEE RIOTS”: U.S. TOLD TO BRACE FOR “MESSY” CAMPUS UNREST

College president warns of ‘ideological fascism’ exploding across America

by Greg Corombos, reprinted with permission by World Net Daily

As colleges and universities prepare for the return of students in the coming weeks, one of the few administrators willing to criticize the tidal wave of intellectual intolerance on campus is expecting “a mess” when the new semester dawns.

Oklahoma Wesleyan University President Dr. Everett Piper gained tremendous notoriety in 2015 when he wrote an opinion column decrying universities for coddling student demands for safe spaces and the eradication of ideas that don’t mesh with the orthodoxy of political correctness. In that column, he famously declared that a college is not a daycare.

He is now author of “Not A Day Care: The Devastating Consequences of Abandoning Truth.” Piper said America needs to brace for more campus unrest.

“Oh, it’s going to be a mess,” Piper told WND and Radio America. “You will see protests. You will see riots. You will see the results of teaching victimization and vice for decades. When you teach victimization, you don’t get anything but vengeance and violence.

“The only thing that rescues us from this vicious cycle is to start teaching virtue. Virtue is



Safe Space sign on classroom door.

selfless. Victimization is selfish.”

He fears many Americans still don’t see how dangerous this campus intolerance and groupthink really is.

“What we see on the college green from Berkeley to Brown is going to consume our whole culture. What’s taught today in the classroom will be practiced tomorrow in your courtrooms, in your living rooms and in your communities,” Piper said.

“The proof of that is turn on the news, listen to your show, go Google the news and you see these angry, red faces of 21-year-olds who are demanding that any contrary idea, anything they don’t like and makes them feel

uncomfortable, be silenced.

“It’s ideological fascism. It isn’t academic freedom. We must confront this with the truth. Otherwise, we will not be a free society and a free culture,” he said.

Piper rejects the idea of safe spaces at college, often referring to the quote from C.S. Lewis in “The Chronicles of Narnia” that the great lion, Aslan, is not safe but he is good. Piper said the same approach ought to be applied to today’s culture.

“There’s a huge difference between goodness and safety,” Piper said. “I’d much rather have good education than safe education. Safe education will coddle you and comfort you. Good

Continued next page

education will challenge your character and ask you to grow up. That's what the university is for."

Piper said that challenge ought to come from the pursuit of truth. But he said the left has made "truth" an ugly word.

"In days gone by, the academy

cumb to fascism over time."

But he said the result of no longer valuing truth gets far uglier.

"We've dumbed down the definition of hate to nothing but a disagreement. When you dumb down hate to nothing but disa-

are afraid to express their views. They're afraid to disagree because they'll be labeled a phobic or a hater as the result of a simple disagreement on a behavioral choice."

The question over truth is nothing new. The Gospel of John recounts a critical exchange between Jesus Christ and Pontius Pilate shortly before Pilate consented to the crucifixion of Christ.

"Therefore, Pilate said to Him, 'So You are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.' Pilate *said to Him, 'What is truth?'" (John 18:37-38).

Piper said the standard for truth hasn't changed.

"I define truth as an objective reality," he said. "It is out there. It can be known. It can be embraced. It can be pursued. It's something other than your opinion or mine. It's not a social construct. It's a revelation of God. Even outside of scripture, it's defined that way in our seminal documents, where we are told that we are endowed by our Creator with certain self-evident truths.

"These truths that give us a free society, constitutional republic, are given by God. They aren't made up of power," Piper said.

And he said history proves that terrible things happen when opinions trump truth.

"Pol Pot and Mao (Zedong) and Robespierre and all the despots of history had opinions, and

"This is very dangerous, and it squelches debate because people are afraid to express their views."

recognized that there was an objective truth to judge the debate, not the power of the professor and not the pout of the pupil," Piper said. "It was objective truth that judged the debate. When we started disparaging objective truth and dumbed it down to nothing but a collection of opinions, we started losing the battle, and it was inevitable that this intellectual freedom would suc-

agreement, you make hate meaningless and disagreement dangerous," said Piper, who noted that America sees this on sexual issues in a disturbing way.

"Right now, just because people disagree on issues of sexual behavior and morality, that makes them haters in the minds of the general public," Piper said. "This is very dangerous, and it squelches debate because people



Oklahoma Wesleyan University President Dr. Everett Piper.

it didn't end well. Christ told us, 'You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free,'" he said.

Political correctness is just the beginning. The situation on college campuses is worse than you could ever imagine – and America's future is at stake. Don't miss the political blockbuster of 2017 – "No Campus For White Men" by Scott Greer.

Piper realizes his critics will reject his argument, but he said their logic only proves his point.

"If anybody disagrees with me and says, 'That's just your opinion of education. I think you're wrong,' the very claim that they're making – that I'm wrong and they're right – presupposes an objective standard ... that makes them right and me wrong. Therefore, they've agreed with me without even knowing it," he said.

Piper also has a strong warning for parents who honor the truth as they search for the right college for their children.

"Stop sending your kids off to institutions that teach this pabulum. Why would you do this?"

"You're spending tens of thousands of dollars to send your kids off to an institution, that after you spend 18 years of your life

training up a child in the way he should go, in the first 18 minutes while you're driving off campus, they take pride in tearing his heart, mind and soul out. Why are you paying for that? Don't do it," Piper advised.

"Seventy percent of your sons and daughters will walk away

"Seventy percent of your sons and daughters will walk away from their faith and their convictions before they're juniors."

from their faith and their convictions before they're juniors. There's a reason for it. You're paying money to make it happen. Stop it," Piper said.

To avoid this frustration, Piper offered key questions to ask at any college visits.

"Ask the president, 'What's your view of truth and what's your view of scripture?' Then be quiet and listen. If truth is an objective reality, good answer. If scripture is a revelation of God and not just an interesting literature book constructed by man, good answer. If he doesn't say that, why are you spending your money?" Piper asked.

While Piper suspects "ideo-

logical fascism" is about to engulf American culture, he said he and others who love and pursue truth have no choice but to stand and fight back.

"I'm gonna wave the banner of the truth of Christ and of the truth of scripture," Piper said. "I'm going to wave the banner that scrip-

ture is inerrant and revealed and that truth is an objective reality. If I win waving that banner, that's great. That's God's grace. If I lose waving that banner, frankly, I don't care. It's the right banner to wave. I'll go down fighting."

Piper has no illusions about how this struggle could damage U.S. culture, but he knows who wins in the end.

"I know the end of the story," he said. "I believe that truth will prevail. Between now and then, there may be discomfort. There may be dissonance. Iron may have to sharpen iron. God may have to redeem for good what others have intended for evil." □

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Any Graven Image

Continued from page 2

clunker (not him, but his car). Then there began to be troubling hints that he viewed capitalism in a disparaging light, and was partial to socialism.

This pope doesn't come right out and say he's a socialist, dedicated to the destruction of capitalism. He just says he's known a lot of socialists, and they're really nice people.

He'd gone to a refugee center in Southern Italy, only days after the suicide bomb attacks at the airport in Brussels, Belgium. The pope denounced the attacks as having been carried out by "bloodthirsty people beholden to the weapons industry." Yes, we know. It's not nice to question the pious pontiff, particularly when

he's engaged in such "holy" endeavors. But really? The Muslim suicide bombers who blew themselves up killing unsuspecting travelers at the airport were "beholden to the weapons industry?" That requires a leap of logic that is simply impossible. But who could doubt his humility after

he'd washed and then bent down to kiss the feet of who knows who?

He said the Brussels attacks were an attempt to disrupt the "brotherhood of unity represented by the migrants." Obviously, the "migrants" know nothing of this so-called "brotherhood of unity." They despise westerners, our so-

ciety, and culture and intend to claim it in due time.

These actions and statements preceded the great Muslim invasion of Europe, and were undoubtedly at least part of the reason that Europe felt obliged to open the floodgates. The pope said they all wanted "to live in peace, integrated." To pack that many falsehoods into so few words must require a special talent.

The Muslims who've invaded Europe have made it abundantly clear that they have no intention of integrating or living in peace. Some may have escaped the mayhem of battle zones, but those battle zones involve Muslim-on-Muslim violence, and they all seem to believe that killing people in a blind religious rage will bring them to an opulent afterlife.

They didn't leave their violent philosophies in the Middle East—they brought them to Europe. And that's not the half of it. Their religion tells them not to integrate with non-Muslims. It tells them they are free to kill or rape infidels, and they themselves are not confused about their mission. It is to conquer Europe by every possible means, employing the short-sighted empathy of their hosts.

The pope had already gone to great lengths to gain support from Islamic high holy men, Protestant ministers from the United States, and leaders of the Orthodox churches of Europe and Russia. Now he's cast himself as the patron saint of refugees and lec-



Paris, France—Garbage accumulates in a river where refugees have been camping.

tured Europe, the United States and the world that bringing them into our societies and supporting them financially is a Christian duty! Many churches in the U. S. have made up for lack of membership and income by taking government subsidy money to provide food and housing for people from Northern Africa and the Middle East.

The floodgates in America were opened under the administration of Barack Obama, and it wasn't only Africans and Middle Easterners who were being transported and settled all over the United States, largely in rural areas and otherwise conservative communities. It was also "unaccompanied children" and "families" from El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico and elsewhere. They walked across the border only to be loaded onto chartered airplanes and Homeland Security buses with the windows blacked out to be transported under cover



of darkness so as not to awaken the media or alarm the citizen population.

Maybe it didn't all work out exactly as the pope had planned. It's likely he didn't realize that the blight he and Angela Merkel unleashed upon the UK would lead to its exit from the European Union. And we can be fairly confident that he had no idea that the same sentiment in the

United States would result in the election of one Donald Trump. He probably had no idea that he was touching off something that he would then have to rail about constantly.

This pope doesn't come right out and say he's a socialist, dedicated to the destruction of capitalism. He just says he's known a lot of socialists, and they're really nice people. He resides behind the Vatican walls, and denounces the concept of walls and fences, particularly as they've become necessary to protect the citizens of Eastern Europe from the onslaught of Muslim "refugees." But he's also sending a not-so-veiled message to America; resist the call for a Southern border wall! It seems the very concept of a society trying to protect itself from invasion (from whatever source) is inherently evil. Easy for him to say, from behind the Vatican walls.

Francis has even caused tremendous consternation from among Catholics. We were



Genoa, Italy—Migrants searching dumpsters for food.

all taken aback when the pope claimed that we all owe the LGBTQ community an apology. More than that, we need to ask their forgiveness! For what, we're not sure. He says since some nations and communities view these issues differently that he's in no position to judge. Of course he's in no position to judge—God has already done that! His Word is re-

But not all. The fact is that the pope has alarmed many even within the fold. The former pope, who took the unheard of step of resignation, has dared criticize. The German Ratzinger, who called himself Benedict, is quoted as having said the institution under Francis, "has taken on so much water as to be on the verge of capsizing."

for him or his "faith," despite photo-ops with Imams) to go. If it weren't for those who have worked to provide the prosperity of western society, the pope would have no one to lecture and no orderly "sanctuary" for them to occupy.

They could have been sent to one or several of the wealthy Gulf kingdoms, couldn't they? There's plenty of space, plenty of money, and don't they share beliefs and sentiments as well? We've never seen this question debated, and the humble pontiff has apparently not lectured the Saudis, Kuwaitis or the United Arab Emirates. No, for some reason they are the responsibility of the West.

One prominent Catholic skeptic is Marcello Pera, who co-authored a book with former pope Benedict (Ratzinger) and is a former president of the Italian senate. Pera has openly expressed some reservations and observations about the motives of pope Francis that were quoted by *The Australian* in an article headlined, "Pro-migrant Pope 'Destroying Christianity?'" He is quoted as saying, "Bergoglio just wants to do politics, the Gospel doesn't matter at all."

On the subject of unlimited Muslim immigration into Europe, Pera says, "It's evident to all that an indiscriminate welcoming is not possible. There is a critical point that cannot be reached. If the Pope does not make reference to this critical point, if he insists in a massive and total welcoming, I ask myself; 'why does he say it? What is the true end of

The activities for which the pope is in no position to judge have all been condemned in God's Word, without the slightest ambiguity.

plete with judgments, Old Testament and New, and very specific concerning the subject at hand. The activities for which the pope is in no position to judge have all been condemned in God's Word, without the slightest ambiguity. So we all owe the "gay" activist community a hearty apology and we need to ask their forgiveness for having heeded God's Word?

This pope has been tremendously destructive to all of Western Civilization. He's worked to try to make it seem as if everyone and every culture on earth is the same, and only a brainwashed radical snowflake would agree. The fact that the Islamic religion instructs good Muslims to kill Christians and occupy their lands is an obvious problem that the pope stubbornly refuses to acknowledge. But he's so "holy" and "humble," most dare not take issue.

Francis complained that the G-20 summit might not do enough to promote the cause of immigrants. Since when did the "cause of immigrants" have anything to do with anything? He also urged Europe, already reeling from the influx of aggressive Muslim men, move quickly to erase borders and, "take, as soon as possible, a strong federal structure." Those familiar with Bible prophecy know that a "strong federal structure" among ten nations in Europe bears a disturbingly close resemblance to the "beast" power described in the book of Revelation. And the pope is urging that it be brought about?

The pope's closest advisors have gone public to condemn capitalism. It's particularly curious, because if it weren't for the capitalist West, there would be nowhere for his beloved Muslims (who have absolutely no respect

his words? Why does he lack a minimum of realism, that very little that is requested of anyone?" The answer I can give myself is only one; 'the Pope does it because he hates the West, he aspires to destroy it, and he does all he can to reach this end. As he aspires to destroy the Christian tradition, Christianity as it has realized itself historically.'"

Obviously, he's concerned about the role Catholicism has played historically, rather than the kind of personal relationship Jesus exemplified as true Christianity. Pope John Paul II played a role politically in the encouragement of the people of Poland and other eastern European countries to rise up against the

abusive communist police state that had enslaved them since the end of World War II. But Francis (Bergoglio) is enamored with socialism. He's bought into the false narrative of government as master over everything, dispensing "equality" by taking from

paperwork.

European culture is being torn asunder as its streets have become dangerous to walk, particularly for Western women. The number of attacks, muggings and rapes is unknowable as authorities have done everything possi-

"The Pope does it because he hates the West, he aspires to destroy it, and he does all he can to reach this end."

those who've earned their way of life and redistributing wealth as it sees fit. He's cast that philosophy as "Christian," making it a Christian imperative to import millions of backward, poverty stricken "immigrants" and "refugees" into Western nations regardless of the consequences to the host nations.

Many Western leaders have fallen into line, with Germany, France, Spain and Italy recently agreeing to set up "immigration shop" in places like Libya, Chad and Niger to confer legality on vast numbers who can then be "safely" transported to Europe with pre-approved

able to hide these crimes and the identities of the "foreign youths" who commit them. But there's no hiding the many terrorist events that have stricken London, Paris, Nice, Berlin, Brussels and Barcelona, where scores of innocent people are being slaughtered by the angry strangers they've taken in as their "Christian" duty.

It's clear that Europe has changed, and will never be the same again. The same is true of the United States. Western culture is under a sustained assault justified by a false concept of "social justice." If you don't believe that Western culture should be broken down completely, its assets devoured by endless streams of the most primitive, backward "immigrants" to be found on planet earth, prepare to be branded racist, selfish, cruel, heartless and an enemy of "Christianity." The current pope has decreed it, and Europe has committed cultural, if not societal, suicide. □



Marcello Pera, former Italian Prime Minister.

BIBLE STUDY

by Dr. James & Natalie Ricks

Who *Really* Changed The Sabbath to Sunday?

THE CHURCH FOUNDED BY JESUS KEPT THE SABBATH

The commentaries usually agree that the primitive church of the first century, in which the apostles lived, kept the Sabbath and Holy Days. It wasn't until much later that it was altered to the day of the sun god. When Saul wanted to find Christians to persecute in the first century where did he go to find them? He went to the synagogues, which met obviously on the Sabbath.

Acts 9:1-2, "Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest

And asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem." (NKJV)

Like a predator looking for prey, Paul knew exactly where to find Christians. They were considered a sect within Judaism for years, in part, because they also obeyed God's Laws and kept the Sabbath.

Acts 11:26, "And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch."

It is beyond doubt that if the church had changed the Sabbath day to the day of the Sun God, the debate about allowing an exception to the circumcision law would have been ridiculous. The Sabbath was a much bigger issue than exception for adult gentiles regarding circumcision. Paul circumcising Timothy proves that he was not trying to cancel the law regarding Israelites. It instead shows how law abiding the church was in the days of the apostles. This of course, would include the Sabbath, or the New Testament would be filled with the debate as it is regarding circumcision. Nowhere in the Bible can any discussion about changing the Sabbath be found. Note that at the end of New Testament Church history, the Church is still considered a sect within Judaism.

Acts 28:22, "But we desire to hear from you what you think; for concerning this sect, we know that it is spoken against everywhere."

THE CHANGE CAME FIRST FROM WITHIN THE CHURCH ITSELF

Apostasy grew within the true Church of God. God allowed false ideas to exist in the Church to test the brethren. It was a method of seeing who would stand up for the truth. It also helped the truth

BIBLE STUDY

stand out.

1 Corinthians 11:18–19, “For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it. For there must also be factions among you, that those who are approved may be recognized among you.”

Jude 1:3, “Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.”

The struggle for maintaining the pure doctrines began early in the New Testament times. Nearing the end of the Apostolic Age, many had branched away into apostasy over a number of doctrines. The second generation Christians are even more vulnerable to doctrines that are more acceptable to the outside world.

1 John, 2:19 “They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.”

During the Emperor Hadrian's reign, in the second century, many Christians in Rome adopted both the Sabbath and Sunday. Those that apostatized in our day went through the same process before accepting the world's day of worship, Sunday. The book, *The True History Of The True Church*, stated that the second generation was vulnerable to falling away. Over time the majority ended up following the false groups and the True Church is left small and scattered and somewhat underground.

If one were searching for signs of the True Church in the annals of history, the Sabbath and Holy Days would be major markers. The True Church of God (primitive church) of the first century was unrecognizable by the second and third centuries because of all the worldly changes. Montanism (strict asceticism), Gnosticism (knowledge, secret teaching), Arianism (Christ not co-eternal) and many other divisions arose at this time.

Many of the false doctrines came from within, but some came from without the church. False

teachers infiltrated the church to push errors. One of the most law breaking and defiant would have been to change the Sabbath to the day of the sun god.

1 John 2:22–23, “Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is Antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.

Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.”

Jude 1:4, “For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The Sabbath was altered by apostate churches that wanted to be more acceptable to the Roman Empire's population. These groups grew larger and eventually became the Roman Catholic (Universal) Church.

2 Timothy 4:2–4, “Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all long suffering and teaching.

“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears they will heap up for themselves teachers; And they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.”

Paul predicted this attraction to the worldly pagan ways and the influence it would have on the Church of God. Some of the pressure was positive. Join us and be accepted, and some was fear based. The anti-Semitic pressure led some to want to change the Sabbath out of fear of looking too Jewish.

SUNDAY WORSHIP IS ACCEPTANCE OF CATHOLIC AUTHORITY

The Catholic church states that the Bible does NOT change the Sabbath! The only authority the Protestants have for Sunday worship is the Catholic

BIBLE STUDY

Church. They claim that those who try to argue that the change in Sabbath days is based on the Bible are dishonest. The Catholic Church based on their power made the change. Protestants are acknowledging the authority of the Catholic Church when they worship on Sunday, so say Catholic leaders.

Albert Smith, chancellor of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, replying for the Cardinal February 10, 1920, stated that, "If protestants would follow the Bible, they should worship God on the Sabbath Day, that is Saturday. In keeping Sunday they are following a law of the Catholic Church."

Daniel 7:25, "He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time."

This is an end time prophesy, however some of the Law-defying work has already been done. The Sunday traditions are now so ingrained that it will be difficult to get people to even consider changing. Constantine as Emperor, co-opted Christianity to help strengthen his rule over the Empire.

The "Church" was given power. Over the years they used that power to force the smaller True

Church underground. Sort of like the Church of God in China; It has been underground for over a century. It is spiritually strong but small in numbers. Holding on to the truth would be a struggle, said Paul in his last visit to Asian Churches he founded.

Acts 20:28-31, "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

"For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.

"Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.

"Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears."

The true Sabbath, sign of the true Creator God, then and now, is the doctrine put in the most jeopardy by wolves and others who want their own following. Obviously the pressure for these changes comes from human nature itself and Satanic influences. □

Further scriptures to study regarding the Sabbath.

GENESIS 2:3

EXODUS 20:11

EXODUS 31:13

NUMBERS 28:25

ISAIAH 56:2

LUKE 4:16

MARK 2:27-28

ACTS 17:2

ACTS 18:4

HEBREWS 4:8-10

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VENEZUELA STARVING

by Mark Armstrong

Venezuela is Starving, blared a recent *Wall Street Journal* headline. The drop head went on to say. "Once Latin America's richest country, Venezuela can no longer feed its people, hobbled by the nationalization of farms as well as price and currency controls." Then the article begins by describing the one year old child who "has drawn the face of an old man and a cry that is little more than a whimper. His ribs show through his skin. He weighs just 11 pounds." It goes on to describe the efforts of his mother to feed him with scraps found pilfering through discarded garbage...

Then there is this, from the otherwise Fake News network CNN. But this is CNN's Money division, which apparently had a momentary diversion from every theme presented by the flagship's political panels. **Venezuela: How a Rich Country Collapsed,** reads the headline above the drophead, "Venezuela is running out of food. Hospitals are overcrowded with sick children while doctors don't have enough medicine or X-ray machines. Electricity isn't guaranteed."

It describes how Venezuela was a cash flush, oil rich, prosperous country that was plunged into



Empty shelves in the government-run grocery stores.

poverty and starvation thanks to the imposition of state control to make everything fair. "But inequality grew extreme. A small elite class controlled everything while the increasingly impoverished masses fumed."

"The country turned toward socialism in 1999 and elected Hugo Chavez president...But his government overspent on welfare programs, and it fixed prices for everything. It declared farmlands state property and then abandoned them, and instead made the nation dependent on selling its oil abroad." There you have it. The government seized pri-

vate property and internationally owned and operated factories and companies and then... And then the price of oil fell sharply, and monstrous debts had been acquired from the likes of Russia and China. The Chavez regime printed paper money like crazy, causing run-a-way inflation. "Prices could rise an astounding 2000% next year."

Chavez, is of course, long since dead. But his handpicked successor, Nicolas Maduro has doubled down on the socialistic policies of his predecessor, and accuses the United States as being responsible for Venezuela's

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Nicolas Maduro assuming Presidency.

collapsed economy. Maduro, the CNN Money article says, has chosen to service debts acquired from Russia and China rather than using it to import food. That has resulted in widespread starvation in a nation with vast, rich farmland.

From the *DAILY WIRE*, “Once South America’s richest country, Venezuela implemented a socialist agenda. Now people are starving to death.” That is followed by the grim statistics, showing the highest inflation on earth along with a severely shrunken economy. “Huge numbers of Venezuelans bring their children as they rummage through garbage for food; farm crops are routinely stolen; groceries are looted. It carries a report of 75% of the population having lost nearly twenty pounds

in the last year. Meanwhile, scores have been reported killed in riotous clashes with government forces.

The Washington Post writes, Venezuela’s paradox: People are hungry, but farmers can’t feed them.

Forbes reports: Venezuelas Starving People are Now Eating the Zoo Animals... It’s an article that justifies milder socialist impositions, but says Venezuela went overboard with price-fixing which completely destroyed the economy, calling it “bad management.”

“That’s what bad economic management can do for you, reduce the country with the world’s largest oil reserves to a nation of dumpster di-

vers. Well done there, well done.”

From *The Telegraph*, “Starving Venezuelans pour across the border to Colombia, as Caracas braces for more protests following deadly clashes.” It tells of the humanitarian crisis which has engulfed Venezuela amid hyperinflation and critical shortages of food and medicine, with an accompanying photograph showing people streaming on foot into Columbia in hopes of finding food.

These are examples of but a fraction of the articles, largely from the mainstream press, detailing the abject misery, hunger and poverty that big government socialist policies implemented on the basis of “fairness and equality,” have visited upon a nation that was abundant in food and international trade, until the government, in it’s great wisdom, took control of everything.

But here’s the corker. Pope



Venezuelan protester covered in fake blood with a sign which reads, “Venezuela Agonizes.”



Francis supports Maduro, even though some Catholic publications say that he's angry about what's happened in Venezuela, and has a solution that, given time, can work. From the reports of immediate suffering and starvation, the people of Venezuela seem to have run out of time. Check out this column from the *Miami Herald*, under the headline: Pope Francis, get out of Venezuela. You're only making things worse. "Many of us have praised Pope Francis for his humbleness and for his tolerance toward victims of discrimination who had long been neglected by the Vatican, but it's time to tell him loud and clear: Get out of Venezuela."

It goes on to show that the Vatican under Francis legitimized the dictatorial rule of Nicolas Maduro, "throwing him a lifeline when millions of protesters were demanding his

resignation on the streets in October 2016. And it has helped him get back on his feet by further cracking down on the opposition."

As followers of the news will know, Maduro has invalidated the constitutional rights of citizens, and made all opposition illegal

and dangerous. Opposition forces are standing down because of the Vatican's support for Maduro.

Meanwhile, the pope humbly seeks to impose the "fair and equal" benefits of socialism upon every nation on earth, under his "humble" leadership. □



Pope Francis meeting with Nicolas Maduro.

"BE SOBER, BE VIGILANT; BECAUSE YOUR ADVERSARY THE DEVIL, AS A ROARING LION, WALKETH ABOUT, SEEKING WHOM HE MAY DEVOUR." 1 PETER 5:8

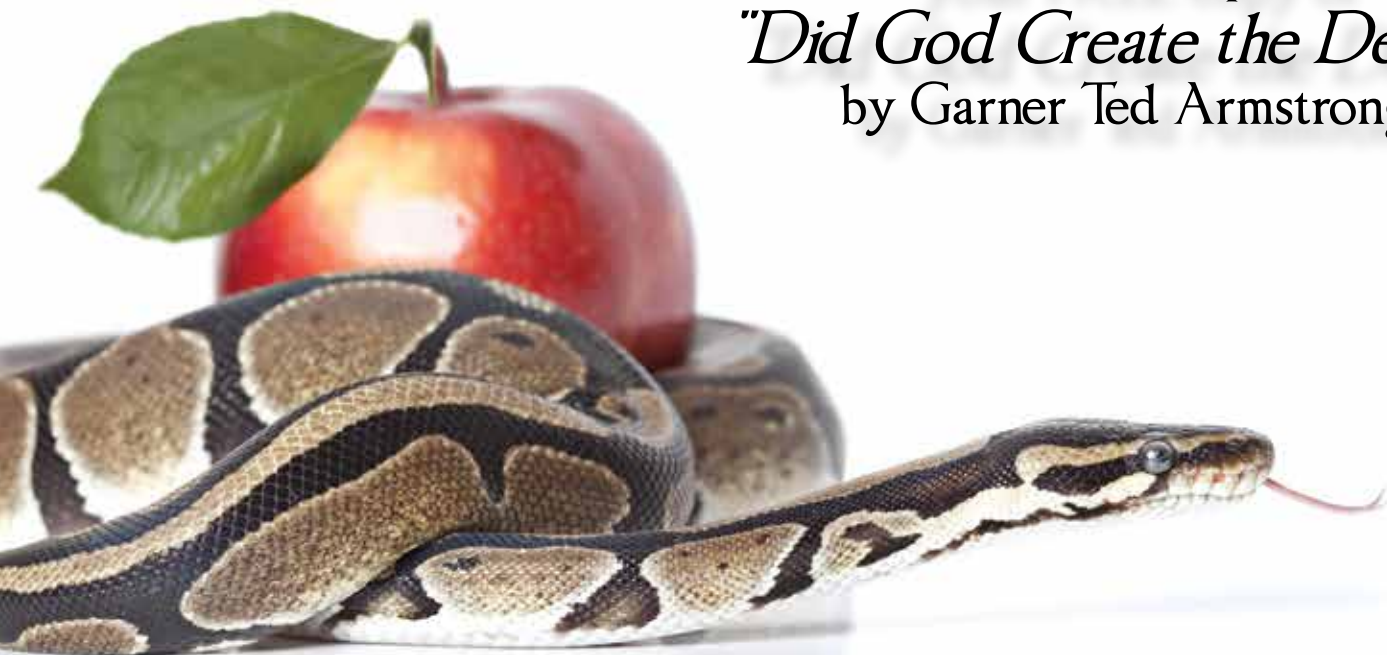
Is there a devil? If so, where did he come from?

Did God create a devil to tempt us?

If God is LOVE, and if God wants all men to be saved, then WHY does God allow the devil to deceive the world? WHY does God allow the devil to tempt mankind?

Here is the truth about Satan; his origin, his present evil work, and his ultimate fate.

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