

TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

WATCH

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COORDINATED DESTRUCTION

All By Design

by Mark Armstrong



Everybody's talking about the mass shooting in Uvalde, TX. We thought we had enough bad news to dwell on, but this is terrible. We think about our own kids and grandkids, and the evil person who carried out this crime against young children and two teachers. Who are we going to lash out at? The perpetrator is dead, but so are nineteen perfectly innocent children and two teachers. Our hearts break for the families. We don't know all the details yet. It seems like a scandal may be in the developmental stages as the local and national agents try to piece together a timeline amid conflicting information.

Apparently the eighteen year old perpetrator had all kinds of problems. Not having a mom and dad is a pretty big deal. He had them, but was not living with them. You don't suppose the lack of a loving relationship with his parents helped screw him up?

Then you've got the predictable reaction of the Pretender-in-Chief, rasping about being sick and tired. Really? A tragedy of this magnitude is just the latest political football? You mean the mass shooting

was the fault of the NRA and millions of law abiding gun owners? The anti-gun nuts are going crazy. How many bodies will it take? Of course they want to crack down on us. That will make everybody in the gun-control camp feel better.

Somebody showed up at the Texas governor's press conference and was raging like a lunatic at the assembled dignitaries. They got him away from the stage and he turned around to shout some more. Turns out it was Beto O'Rourke. He and his supporters must be very proud. But they've all gone bonkers. If there's a shooting, the pretender and the individuals in his party rush before the cameras to demand that new laws be placed on the books. When told that their plans violate the Constitution, they talk about "control," not confiscation. The tragedies are painful to contemplate. But that doesn't mean we have to listen to lunatics who've been singing this tune forever.

There are so many mass shootings it's getting hard to keep up. Buffalo, Tulsa, Uvalde, and that's just lately. The response is, "We've got to get rid of



The massacre at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas has reignited the gun control debate.

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Six Days Shalt Thou Work...¹⁴

by Garner Ted Armstrong

Are you denying Christ? “Certainly not!” you hasten to answer. But wait!

Jesus Christ came to this earth to set us an example that we should follow in His steps. He lived an active, vigorous life — a life filled with zeal, with robust health, and real live vitality. It may come as a shock to realize that perhaps you have been denying your very Savior!

First and foremost, Jesus Christ came teaching obedience to God the Father. His message was concerned with a way of life. That way of life was not only taught by Jesus — it was LIVED by Him — perfectly! The ten great commandments, which are living, irrevocable laws, express the very root and foundation of that way of obedience. Christ said, “If you love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15). One of those commandments is a sign of identification between God and His true people. And yet, it seems that some have overlooked a part of this great law. Piercing the very core of all human disregard and laziness

comes the reverberating thunder in the voice of the great creator of this universe! “Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work” (Ex. 20:9).

Dare we disobey this direct command?

A MESSAGE ABOUT WORK

The most well-balanced man who ever lived was Jesus Christ, the son of the living God. Had you ever realized that fact? Jesus said He was sent to this earth to “work the works of the Father,” who had sent Him! (John 9:4.) His message was concerned with zealous work!

Read again an example Christ used to illustrate His message in Matthew 21:28-31. Notice, “... a certain man had two sons; and he came to the first and said, Son, go work today in my vineyard. He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went. And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not.”

Christ’s next question was,

“Which of the two did the will of the Father?” Read the answer in your own Bible. The first, of course! Even though he had first refused, he repented, and then did something about it. But the other son — though professing to obey — did not work.

Some of you may be in danger of showing God by your works that you belong in the same status as the second son.

Perhaps you have seen the truth. Being able to see the difference between the pagan doctrines of demons and the very precious truth of God, you nod your head — you’re willing to “go along” with it. Many have been able to see the truth of God by the reasoning of their minds, but in actual practice they deny the very truth which they profess — because they refuse to work at the business of being a Christian, to show God they really mean it! (Titus 1:16.)

PAUL’S ADMONITION

The Apostle Paul, in writing to the Thessalonians, exhorted them to either work or not eat!

“For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread... and if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed” (II Thes. 3:11-14).

Of course, many brethren leave their jobs because they have found they must keep God’s weekly and annual Sabbaths. That is unfortunate, but absolutely right in God’s sight. However, after being without a job for some time, they get into wrong habits. They begin to relax, to “take it easy.” Discouragement comes with the lack of work and human nature begins to play its old tricks once more. With the time being wasted as it drifts by, they begin to find fault with others. This is invariably the result of idleness.

The life of idleness and ease leads to gossip and roots of bitterness! (I Tim. 5:13.) Some of your brethren have been living in idleness. Can you take correction? Can you receive chastisement? (Heb. 12:1-11.)

God commands us to be quiet — to quit criticizing others — to do our own business and to work with our hands that we may have, in order to give! (I Thes. 4:11-12.)

The life of a Christian is not easy. Christ did not say it would be easy. He said we are to “count the cost” of living in the only way which can bring real happiness

(Luke 14:28). God has promised to supply every need of those who put their faith in Him. But that faith cannot be a dead faith. Read again the second chapter of James. It was the works together with Abraham’s faith that really counted.

HOW TO SOLVE YOUR WORK PROBLEMS

If you have left your former job because of the Sabbath, God expects you to find another. Perhaps you must take a lower salary at first. The question is: Do you believe God? He says He’ll supply all your needs — but He demands proof of your intent. God

God has promised to supply every need of those who put their faith in Him.

wants to see some works along with that faith! He will supply every physical need, but only as you really deserve them.

Take for example the man who was forced to quit work in a factory which manufactured implements of war. After quitting his job, he realized he must find another. He chose farming, since he felt he could best put his talents to work in that field. A drought came — he lost everything. With winter approaching, the situation was desperate. But he didn’t gripe! He didn’t begin to criticize others. He set his jaw and said, “I will make it, somehow!”

Perhaps you’ve heard it said before that any old dead fish can float downstream. But it takes a

very lively fish to swim upstream, fighting the many cataracts and falls in its path! Yes, it’s easy to go along the line of least resistance — lazily allowing others to keep pushing us along. But the man who will look coldly at his problem, analyze it, and do something about it, is the man God will bless abundantly!

There may be instances when obtaining a job will be quite difficult. Perhaps a man is forced to occupy himself in some manner of work which is out of his particular line. But, in throwing himself completely into the task at hand, in determining to make it somehow, he will find the oppor-

tunities opening before him, and blessings he had never dreamed were possible. Whatsoever you do, whether it’s your particular line or not, DO IT WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT! (Eccl. 9:10.)

THE EVIDENCE OF A CHRISTIAN: HARD WORK!

Christ said we are to become shining lights in the world, that others may see our good works, and through our brilliant, purposeful, positive example they, too, may be turned to the truth of God.

But too often, it seems, such is not the case. Instead of being a light to the world, God’s people want to be in the darkness. The very ones to whom God

has revealed His all-important, precious truth want to take it for granted. Instead of becoming entirely different persons than they were — instead of diligently working at their jobs, and showing God they're thankful for His truth — they want to wipe their feet on every principle of God's word, reject and deny Christ by neglecting to really live as He lived (I John 2:6), by zealously applying themselves to work harder than any other people on Earth.

This negligence and lack of concern brings reproach and scorn on the very Work of God — and God's people.

The common philosophy of this present world of “do as little as possible and get as much as you can for it” is a far cry from the dynamic, vigorous life of the God-fearing person who is busily engaged in being a Christian.

God's people are not called so they can have it easy. None

of you were chosen so you could relax. Read John 16:33, where the recorded words of your Savior, “In the world, you shall have tribulation,” show again the message which He brought. It wasn't a message concerned with living a life of ease. But it's well worth the effort. “For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Romans 8:18). God tells us to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling (Phil. 2:12).

Some of God's people are willing to allow others to take care of them. Some are undaunted at becoming a burden to others, and are so very concerned with self they feel no compunction at living from the labors of others. Those in God's Church who ALLOW them to conduct themselves this way are doing them a great injustice. By permitting them to continue living in this

manner, they actually encourage their wrong habits!

Those who may be unwilling to change — unwilling to really repent — may say, “I have faith.” You have faith you say? Faith that God will take care of you? And certainly He will, but unless or until you prove to God you really mean business by doing something about your own situation, he will let you starve! Abraham's faith, as evidenced by his works, was what really counted! (James 2.)

It's time to wake up, and quit kidding ourselves. It's time to get busy and stay that way! Read from the word of the Almighty Ruler of this entire universe — the One who has the power of life and death over you — these powerful words! “But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel” (I Timothy 5:8). □

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Is Sabbath Observance Optional?

by Garner Ted Armstrong

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ESG

Anything but TOLERANT

by Michael Armstrong

The acronym stands for Environmental, Social and Governance. It is typically applied to businesses, particularly large publicly traded ones, and is used to rate their performance in these three categories. “Environment” grades a company’s emissions and sustainability commitments. “Social” includes diversity and inclusion practices as well as community engagement. “Governance” applies those standards to the company’s board and officials in addition to addressing problems of misrepresentation or fraud among management. The push for standardized ESG reporting is characterized as a groundswell from concerned investors. Is this really the case? Or are we really witnessing an attempt to impose a radical agenda on society?

Corporations have a practical reach far beyond that of government. Not in overall authority but commonplace, daily interactions. For instance, which is higher, the percentage of people who vote or the percentage of people who buy groceries? Add to that any other financial transaction

you can think of. Our elected officials have the disadvantage of being subject to removal every few years. Agendas can be reversed, policies undone. But corporations, like many bureaucratic, unelected government agencies that have been politicized in recent years, are in a position to force an agenda in a way that politicians can only dream of.

To the uninformed, corporations might have an air of neutrality. Why should they be involved in issues beyond delivering a quality product to their customers? While a business owner could expect a measure of freedom to promote and support issues they feel strongly about, ESG goes far beyond that. A measure to require ESG reporting passed in the House of Representatives (H.R. 1187) by the narrowest possible margin against bi-partisan opposition last summer, illustrating how extreme and invasive some of the requirements are. The bill stood no chance in the Senate.

Since then, the ball has been picked up by the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)

which has the power to make rules for publicly traded corporations. Now in the final stages of public comment, a new rule for “The Enhancement and Standardization of Climate-Related Disclosures for Investors” will likely go into effect in the near future. The underpinning logic, according to SEC Chair Gary Gensler, is that investors “support climate-related disclosures because they recognize that climate risks can pose significant financial risks to companies.” This allows them to cast their actions as mitigating risk rather than forcing compliance.

Companies will be required to report about potential impact to their business models due to climate change as well as what measures they have taken to alleviate those problems. Additionally, they will have to report on their own emissions annually. Scope 1 will cover greenhouse gas emissions by the company itself. Scope 2 documents additional emissions from electricity usage, etc. Scope 3 goes even deeper, covering emissions over the entire supply chain of the product or service.

Continued next page

While not technically forcing a company to change any portion of its operations, this reporting mechanism tacitly forces the acceptance of “man-made climate change” dogma. It will open companies up to fines and penalties for “green washing” their data, as has already happened to many

who self-report. It will also make it easier for activists/investors to target those who do not comply.


Obviously investors, like consumers, should be allowed to make their own decisions about what kinds of businesses they support. However, many investments are not made by individuals.

Sovereign Wealth Funds, Pension Funds and Hedge Funds often have deep enough pockets to literally move markets. These are the types of firms that will be forced to give the most consideration to ESG concerns. For instance, the Government Pension Fund of Norway, considered the world’s

The S&P ESG Indices: Defining the Sustainable Core

The **S&P 500 ESG Index, S&P MidCap 400 ESG Index, and S&P SmallCap 600 ESG Index** select companies based on S&P DJI ESG Scores, a robust dataset that accounts for industry-specific, financially material ESG opportunities and risks. The indices are designed to maintain broad benchmark-like industry exposure while increasing exposure to ESG characteristics, and exclude companies with activities in key negative ESG areas.


Research & Insights



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The S&P Europe 350 ESG Index: Defining Europe’s Sustainable Core

How can investors track the broad European market while accounting for sustainability issues across the ESG spectrum?


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Exploring a Higher Conviction Approach to ESG

With appetite for higher conviction ESG strategies on the rise, how could these darker green approaches help market participants align investments with ESG values?


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Building a Sustainable Core with the S&P 500 ESG Index

How and why are investors implementing ESG at the core?

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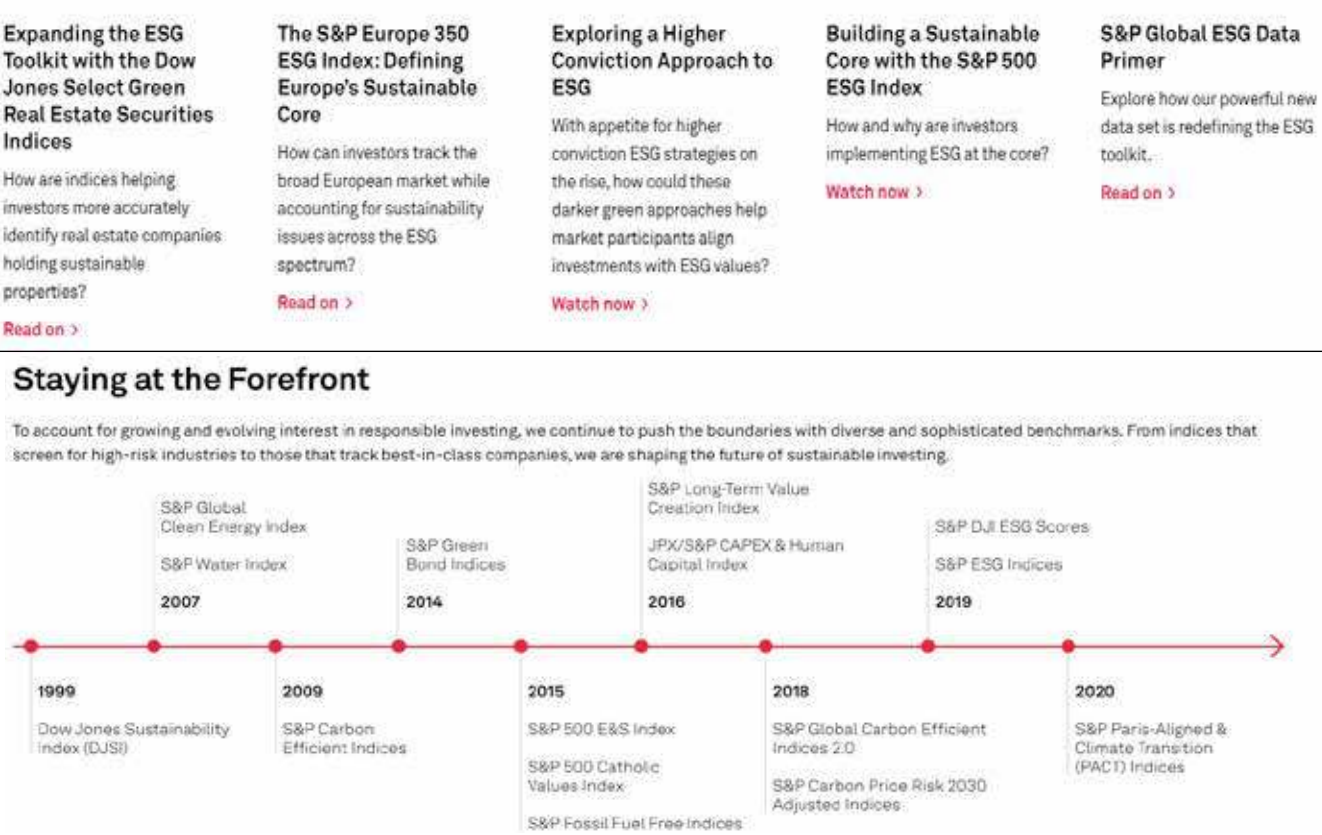
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Staying at the Forefront

To account for growing and evolving interest in responsible investing, we continue to push the boundaries with diverse and sophisticated benchmarks. From indices that screen for high-risk industries to those that track best-in-class companies, we are shaping the future of sustainable investing.



Year	Index Name
1999	Dow Jones Sustainability Index (DJSI)
2007	S&P Global Clean Energy Index S&P Water Index
2009	S&P Carbon Efficient Indices
2014	S&P Green Bond Indices
2015	S&P 500 E&S Index S&P 500 Catholic Values Index S&P Fossil Fuel Free Indices
2016	S&P Long-Term Value Creation Index JPX/S&P CAPEX & Human Capital Index
2018	S&P Global Carbon Efficient Indices 2.0 S&P Carbon Price Risk 2030 Adjusted Indices
2019	S&P DJI ESG Scores S&P ESG Indices
2020	S&P Paris-Aligned & Climate Transition (PACT) Indices

Screenshots from the S&P Global website touting their history of commitment to ESG issues.

largest with assets valued at over \$1 trillion, makes many of its decisions for “ethical” reasons. They have boycotted many stocks over environmental concerns and even dropped Walmart in 2006 for “breach of human and labor rights.”

That is the proverbial tip of the iceberg. Companies are controlled by their board of directors but can be obligated to specific actions by shareholder resolutions. Reuters reported an increase of over 20% in the total number of shareholder resolutions based on ESG issues in the first quarter of 2022. Additionally, board members who are not inclined to concur with arbitrary stipulations that negatively affect the bottom line can be removed. This is exactly what happened to Exxon’s director last year.

Massive investment firms such as BlackRock or Berkshire Hathaway have, or control, enough assets to force these types of shareholder resolutions virtually on their own. They publicly brag that they are doing so. The results? Resolutions for “Paris Aligned Climate Lobbying” at FedEx, “Racial and Gender Board Diversity” at a major medical equipment supplier, “Wealth Inequality” at PetMed Express... The list goes on and on.

Morgan Stanley has been prohibited from lending to any company that might develop new fossil fuel assets. Amazon is in the cross-hairs over political lobbying, sustainable packaging and gender and racial pay gaps. Chevron has been targeted over its holdings in Myanmar, Facebook for

“exacerbating systemic discrimination” with its advertising algorithms and Twitter is being forced to nominate a board member with human/civil rights expertise to “avoid causing or contributing to widespread violations of human or civil rights, such as voter suppression, disinformation, or violence.”

Many other investment firms tout their ESG friendly assets in an attempt to attract new investors. Other funds only buy stocks that meet certain criteria. Have you noticed the changes in advertising over the last year? Featuring “underrepresented” communities, minorities and windmills is not meant simply to attract a specific clientele. It is a way to pad ESG metrics and protect share values in this brave new world!

ESG ratings can and have been weaponized for purposes far beyond the issues they claim to address. Electric car maker Tesla was kicked out of the S&P 500’s ESG index recently for “lack of a low carbon strategy.” Strange isn’t it? Aren’t electric cars constantly touted as a green solution for the future of our planet? Tesla’s stock shed 6% that day. And there is a certain individual whose wealth is primarily based on that stock...

Should the full scope of ESG reporting become mandatory it could cause serious capital flight from corporations that do not embrace a radical leftist agenda. It goes far beyond allowing investors to make informed decisions. It requires businesses to function inside of a social justice paradigm. It would grade a board of directors not on its effectiveness, but on its



Gary Gensler, SEC Chairman, has been a director at Goldman Sachs. Later he served under Presidents Clinton and Obama and was involved with the Clinton 2016 and Biden 2020 campaigns.

diversity. To reward businesses that embrace inclusion and the queer agenda with a “higher score” than those who do not is the antithesis of freedom.

It is a blatant attempt at social engineering. It shifts the conversation from “Should we?” to “Do it or else!” It has far more to do with punishing non-compliance than it does with diversity or acceptance. In its current form, our government could never force through such radical changes. Supranational jurisdiction is part of the plan. Finance ministers from the G7 countries already agree on a framework for worldwide reporting standards. Implementation is one of the last hurdles. Should the endeavor to enshrine ESG ratings prove successful, the future will be anything but tolerant. □

IF GOD JUDGED ANCIENT NATIONS

for Sacrificing Children, What Will He Do to Us Who Sacrifice So Many More?

by Rolaant McKenzie, The Western Journal



More than a decade ago, I was doing IT support work at a local Jewish community center. The Jewish librarian, knowing I was a Christian, asked me what I thought of the abortion issue. She was in favor of keeping the practice legal. I think I gave her an answer that she did not expect, because it was not really a political one.

I told her that 150 years ago, people who looked like me were considered less than fully human. Therefore, it was permissible to enslave them. Seventy-five years ago in much of Europe, people like her were declared less than fully human, the cause of the ills of society. Therefore, it was permissible to exterminate them.

Today, there is another group that has been similarly dehumanized because they are not considered useful or convenient. Tens of millions of them have been killed already. They are babies in the womb. I do not know if the librarian ever changed her mind regarding abortion, but I could tell that what was said gave her something to seriously consider.

One of the reasons God found so many of the inhabitants of Canaan so detestable that he sent the children of Israel to utterly destroy them was that they sacrificed children as burnt offerings to their false pagan gods (such as Molech). They adopted a view of human life that allowed them to see their

own children as sacrificial commodities by which they could “purchase” benefits from their gods.

As the Israelites prepared to enter the Promised Land, the Lord through Moses gave strict warnings not to imitate the abominable practices of the nations they were commanded to drive out (Deuteronomy 18:9-12). If the Lord so judged those nations that engaged in child sacrifice, I wonder what will become of nations today that do so on a far greater scale through abortion.

Much of Western society, however imperfect, previously had a strong Judeo-Christian foundation. It held to a belief in God, our accountability to Him, and the biblical view of humanity. Consistent with being God’s special creation made in His image, human beings were more than physical bodies plus breath. There was an immaterial aspect to each person that made human life unique and sacred. But when Western society adopted Darwinian evolution and rejected God, materialism became the prevailing view. Human beings were no longer made in God’s image but were formed by random chance. In time, this view contributed to the idea that a person is not alive until birth. Children in the womb could be sacrificed when deemed inconvenient or profitable.

**SINCE 1973, THERE HAVE BEEN OVER
63 MILLION ABORTIONS
IN THE UNITED STATES.**

Today, there are even some openly promoting and working to pass laws allowing babies to be killed after they are born.

Of all the kings of Judah and Israel, Manasseh of Judah was probably the wickedest one of all. His story can be found in 2 Kings 21 and 2 Chronicles 33.

He engaged in the kind of evil that characterized the nations that God had driven out before Israel. He erected altars to pagan gods, worshiped the host of heaven and built altars for them in the temple courts, shed much innocent blood from one end of Jerusalem to the other, practiced witchcraft and divination, and took part in sorcery and consulted mediums. He even made his own sons pass through the fire. His reign misled the people of Judah to sin more than the nations that the Lord had destroyed.

Even though God spoke to Manasseh and the residents of Judah, they refused to listen and turn back from their downward spiral into depravity. In response, the Lord sent the nation of Assyria against Judah. Manasseh was captured, bound and carried off in humiliation to Babylon. But in Manasseh's affliction, something wonderful happened.


"When he was in distress, he entreated the favor of the LORD his God and humbled himself

greatly before the God of his fathers. He prayed to Him, and God was moved by his entreaty and heard his plea and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD was God" (2 Chronicles 33:12-13).

The rich grace and forgiveness of God led Manasseh to genuine repentance. For the remainder of his reign he worked to undo all the evil he had done. He destroyed the pagan idols and altars and called upon the people of Judah to serve the LORD God of Israel (2 Chronicles 33:15-16). This return to the Lord set the stage for the great national revival that took place under his grandson King Josiah (2 Chronicles 34:33; 2 Kings 23:21-25).

Many of us may have previously held to false religious or philosophical worldviews that over time developed into acceptance of, or participation in, some very evil things. But thanks be to God for the grace and forgiveness that is found in Jesus Christ.

Just how big is God's forgiveness? It is big enough to forgive the worst of sins and the worst of sinners. How great is the cleansing power of Jesus' blood? It can make the most deeply embedded crimson stain of sin whiter than snow. □

A photograph of a pregnant woman lying on her back on a white surface. She is wearing a pink, sleeveless, form-fitting dress. Her hands are resting on her belly. To her left is a wicker basket filled with baby items, including a teddy bear, a blanket, and a small framed photograph. A small green plant is visible to her right. The background is a plain white wall.

“Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee...”

EU, U.K. Join U.S. in Launching Online “Disinformation” Policies, Prompting Concerns About “One-World Governance” of Social Media



by Michael Nevradakis, Ph.D, Children’s Health Defense

The European Union’s Digital Services Act (DSA) and the U.K.’s proposed Online Safety Bill are among the latest government policies designed to hold social media companies responsible for hate speech and “disinformation” posted by users.

Experts interviewed by The Defender expressed concerns about the potential slippery slope of regulations — in the U.S. and overseas — which, under the guise of “combating disinformation,” stifle the spread of information deemed inconvenient for governments and other powerful actors.

As reported by The Defender, in the U.S., these proposals include a government “disinformation board” and a bill pending before Congress, the Digital Services Oversight and Safety Act.

The EU’s new regulations, experts said, may have far-reaching impacts beyond Europe.

Michael Rectenwald, author of “Google Archipelago: The Digital Gulag and the Simulation of Freedom,” said he can foresee a future in which such regulations might affect all speech — not just speech on social media platforms.

Rectenwald told The Defender:

“[T]he EU’s DSA represents a major step toward one-world governance of social media and Internet search and one step closer to global government.

“Since the distinction between ‘on-line’ and ‘off-line’ activity will lose all meaning as the Internet includes the Internet of Things and Bodies, the DSA may become the law of the land.”

IS EU’S DIGITAL SERVICES ACT ON COLLISION COURSE WITH MUSK’S TWITTER PLANS?

In timing that coincided with Elon Musk’s intent to purchase Twitter, the EU announced April

23 the passage of the Digital Services Act (DSA).

The DSA seeks to tackle the spread of “misinformation and illegal content” and will apply “to all online intermediaries providing services in the EU,” in proportion to “the nature of the services concerned” and the number of users of each platform.

According to the DSA, “very large online platforms” (VLOPs) and “very large online search engines” (VLOSEs) — those with more than 45 million monthly active users in the EU — will be subject to the most stringent of the DSA’s requirements.

Big Tech companies will be obliged to perform annual risk assessments to ascertain the extent to which their platforms “contribute to the spread of divisive material that can affect issues like health,” and independent audits to determine the steps the companies are taking to prevent their

platforms from being “abused.”

These steps come as part of a broader crackdown on the “spread of disinformation” called for by the Act, requiring platforms to “flag hate speech, eliminate any kind of terrorist propaganda” and implement “frameworks to quickly take down illicit content.”

Regarding alleged “disinformation,” these platforms will be mandated to create a “crisis response mechanism” to combat the spread of such content, with the Act specifically citing the conflict between Russia and Ukraine and the “manipulation” of online content that has ensued.

The DSA also will ban certain types of advertising on digital platforms, including targeted ads tailored to children or to people of specific ethnicities or sexual orientations.

Tech companies also will be required to increase transparency in the form of providing regulators and researchers “access to data on how their systems recommend content to users.”

This latter point appears similar to Musk’s plans to make Twitter’s algorithms “open source to increase trust.”

Companies violating the provisions of the DSA would risk fines of up to 6% of their total global annual revenue, while repeat offenses may result in the platforms being banned from the EU — despite the “open internet” principle professed by the principle of “net neutrality” enshrined in EU law.

According to Techcrunch, the DSA will not fully come into effect until early 2024. However,

rules for VLOPs have a shorter implementation period and may be enforced by early 2023.

A spokesperson for the European Commission — the EU’s executive branch — said the new regulations will ensure Big Tech’s “power over public debate is subject to democratically validated rules, in particular on transparency and accountability.”

Margrethe Vestager, the vice president of the European Commission, added, “With today’s agreement we ensure that platforms are held accountable

welcome but these are our rules. It’s not your rules which will apply here.”

Breton’s warning to Musk bears a striking resemblance to the statements of then-German finance minister Wolfgang Schäuble, who in 2015 warned the newly elected left-wing Greek government not to entertain thoughts about renegotiating the austerity measures imposed on the country by the EU and International Monetary Fund, stating, “Elections change nothing. There are rules.”

These steps come as part of a broader crackdown on the “spread of disinformation”...

for the risks their services can pose to society and citizens,” and, “With the DSA we help create a safe and accountable online environment.”

Directly addressing Musk, the European Commission’s internal market commissioner, Thierry Breton, tweeted, “Be it cars or social media, any company operating in Europe needs to comply with our rules — regardless of their shareholding. Mr. Musk knows this well,” adding, “[Musk] is familiar with European rules on automotive [referring to Musk’s ownership of Tesla Motors], and will quickly adapt to the Digital Services Act.”

Separately, Breton stated, “We welcome everyone. We are open but on our conditions. At least we know what to tell him: ‘Elon, there are rules. You are

Voice of America, a media outlet reflective of official U.S. government policy, reported “the job of reining in a Musk-led Twitter could fall to Europe,” referring to the DSA.

According to Gizmodo, the EU’s new legislation “could have global reverberations,” adding, “Lawmakers are also hoping it could serve as a model for other countries like India and Japan.”

However, Gizmodo warns the success of the DSA in accomplishing its objectives is far from guaranteed, referring to the example of the EU’s General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR): “Some predicted [the GDPR] would fundamentally shift online privacy protection worldwide, and instead [it] basically just gave us those insufferable cookie permission pop-ups.”

Continued next page



The Online Safety Bill would give the Office of Communications the power to block certain websites and services in the UK.

While the DSA would apply to all 27 EU member states, some of these countries have already enacted similar domestic legislation. For instance, Germany has regulations in place that require digital platforms to remove hate speech within 24 hours or face fines of up to €50 million (\$56 million).

Techcrunch, in reporting on the passage of the DSA, referred to legislation in countries not frequently noted for their democratic traditions or respect for free speech, such as China, Turkey, India and Nigeria.

As Techcrunch stated, platforms in these countries found to be “non-compliant” with domestic mandates may face fines, police raids, shutdowns and prison sentences for their executives.

SIMILAR REGULATIONS PENDING IN U.K.

Legislation similar to the DSA, the Online Safety Bill, is pending in the U.K. It would require Big Tech platforms to moderate “illegal” and “harmful” content in order to be allowed to operate in the U.K.

The bill would require digital platforms to protect users from such “harmful” content, with the threat of fines of up to 10% of global turnover for companies found in violation, as well as potential prison time for senior managers of these companies in cases of non-compliance.

A spokesperson for the U.K. government said:

“Twitter and all social media platforms must protect their users from harm on their sites.

“We are introducing new

online safety laws to safeguard children, prevent abusive behaviour and protect free speech.

“All tech firms with users in the U.K. will need to comply with the new laws or face hefty fines and having their sites blocked.”

Max Blain, a spokesperson for U.K. prime minister Boris Johnson, said, “Regardless of ownership, all social media platforms must be responsible” for “protecting” users.

As The Defender recently reported, Damian Collins, a member of the British parliament with the British Labour Party who led a parliamentary committee that developed the Online Safety Bill, is a board member of the Center for Combating Digital Hate, which partners with prominent “fact-checking” firm NewsGuard.

As previously reported by The Defender, NewsGuard, in turn, closely collaborates with the World Health Organization (WHO), which also recently expressed concerns about Musk’s purchase of Twitter.

U.S., EU SIGN COMMITMENT TO ‘DEMOCRATIC VALUES’ ON THE INTERNET AS THEY PREPARE POLICIES TO REGULATE ONLINE SPEECH

Overshadowed by the news of Musk’s Twitter purchase and developments such as the DSA and the Biden administration’s “disinformation board,” several dozen countries quietly signed the “Declaration for the Future of the Internet” April 28.

Fifty-six countries and entities, including the U.S. and the EU, signed this declaration,

described as “a political commitment to push rules for the internet that are underpinned by democratic values” and a response to Russia “wielding internet disruptions as a part of its escalating attacks on Ukraine.”

U.S. News reports that the declaration — which is not legally binding — is the first of its kind globally, and “protects human rights, promotes free flow of information, protects the privacy of users, and sets rules for a growing global digital economy among steps to counter what two Biden administration officials called a ‘dangerous new model’ of internet policy from countries such as Russia and China.”

According to the U.S. State Department, the declaration’s principles include:

- Protect human rights and fundamental freedoms of all people.

- Promote a global Internet that advances the free flow of information.

- Advance inclusive and affordable connectivity so that all people can benefit from the digital economy.

- Promote trust in the global digital ecosystem, including through protection of privacy.

- Protect and strengthen the multi-stakeholder approach to governance that keeps the Internet running for the benefit of all.

In turn, the declaration was described by the EU as being “in line with the rights and principles strongly anchored in the EU.”

EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, known for her strong support of digital “vaccine passports” throughout the EU, stated:

“Today, for the first time, like-minded countries from all over the world are setting out a shared vision for the future of the Internet, to make sure that the values we hold true offline are also protected online, to make the Internet a safe place and trusted space for everyone, and

to ensure that the Internet serves our individual freedom.

“Because the future of the Internet is also the future of democracy, of humankind.”

Thierry Breton remarked:

“This Declaration will ensure that the Internet and the use of digital technologies reinforce, not weaken, democracy and respect for human rights.”

According to the State Department, “[t]he Declaration remains open to all governments or relevant authorities willing to commit and implement its vision and principles.”

What does all this mean for Musk, Twitter and the future of free speech online?

Social media analysts and experts expressed varying opinions and predictions as to what regulations such as the DSA may mean for the global operations of digital platforms such as Twitter — especially if Musk attempts to make good on his pledges to “restore free speech.”



Current members of the European Commission. Ursula von der Leyen made the DSA part of her campaign for the Presidency of the European Commission. *European Commission.*

Vasilis Vasilopoulos, data protection officer with Greek public broadcaster ERT and a Ph.D. candidate in journalism and mass media studies at Greece's Aristotle University, told *The Defender* there are some positive elements to the DSA.

However, the boundaries of what is considered free speech should also be expanded, albeit within certain limits, he said.

Vasilopoulos added:

"The DSA is not the only means through which the problem of unethical [social media] algorithms with deceptive motives, or the unethical use of social media platforms, can be solved.

"[I]t is obvious that these platforms have surpassed the limits to democracy that we believed existed, and therefore, it is important that instead of imposing restrictions, we expand these boundaries, in favor of humanity and not capital or power."

Matthew Spitzer, professor at Northwestern University's Pritzker School of Law, said the EU's proposals in particular may clash with Musk's stated goals for Twitter, telling *The Defender*:

"[The DSA] may interfere with one of Elon Musk's stated goals for buying Twitter. He seems to want less content moderation. But this regulation requires a lot of it.

"Second, this regulation dovetails with Musk's stated desire for increased transparency. He had promised more transparency."

Spitzer added his view that the DSA will likely increase the cost of operation for all social media companies, especially if



they must also conform to domestic laws passed by various EU member states.

He added that U.S. tech companies may represent an easy target for European regulators, telling *The Defender*:

"[T]here will be conflicts between the USA and Europe ... all of the target companies started in the USA. They are easy political targets in Europe."

Referring specifically to Elon Musk and Twitter, Rectenwald said:

"If Musk is to have his way, the platform would no longer discriminate against content based on 'wokeness,' political beliefs, or the adherence to official state narratives and dictates.

"This could include the restoration of banned accounts on request by users and dramatic changes to Twitter's discriminatory, leftist algorithms."

According to Rectenwald, the EU's regulations may "hamstring" Musk's vision for Twitter and lead to a one-size-fits-all approach to content moderation,

resulting in a "slippery slope" wherein "any information and opinion that differs from WHO-established official narratives regarding pandemics or other health-related crises" would be restricted.

Rectenwald said:

"Most likely, in order to meet the EU's regulatory requirements and to streamline their efforts, VLOPs and VLOSEs will simply apply one set of rules to all online content."

He also added that further pressures on platforms like Twitter may come not from EU regulators, but from the tech industry itself:

"[P]ressure to conform to 'woke' dictates will come from the Big Tech 'woke' cartel, including threats to remove the Twitter app from the Apple Store for failure to censor 'hate speech,' and the flight of 'woke' advertisers.

"Most likely, Musk's purchase of Twitter will make no difference as free speech is further curtailed." □



With the EU, marriage between a man and a woman could become “hate speech”

by Marco Gallina, Tichys Einblick

The newly rolled-out trial against Päivi Räsänen could serve as an opportunity for Brussels to make hate speech an EU-wide criminal offense in the future. Anyone who postulates that marriage between a man and a woman is the only valid one, or speaks of “gender insensitivity” could end up like the Finnish interior minister.

The Päivi Räsänen case is a proxy war over freedom of expression. It could become a precedent concerning the red lines of what may be said — and put religious freedom on the index like traditional European values. The police have been investigating the committed Lutheran since 2019 because she criticized the cooperation of her church with the “Pride” movement.

A tweet in which she quoted a passage from Romans became the stumbling block. Further investigations turned up

a 20-year-old pamphlet to support Räsänen’s “hate speech”: In it, together with Bishop Juhana Pohjola, she had represented the traditional Christian understanding of marriage and family. The title? “Male and female he created them.” Pohjola also ended up in the dock.

BOTH SIDES WANT A PRECEDENT

The staging was reminiscent of a show trial. The public prosecutor found the Christian motto “Love the sinner, hate the sin” to be too much. Yes, the word sin alone was already “hurting.” For the observer it was clear from the start that an example was to be made here of how far the Moloch of the new woke ideology could go. To the relief of most involved, the trial ended in acquittal. The Finnish public prosecutor’s office had to bear the costs. It was a victory for freedom of expression — but a premature one.

The public prosecutor’s office appealed the verdict last Friday. Räsänen, a member of the Finnish Parliament, said she was “dismayed.” At the same time, she sees it as an opportunity. The prosecutor’s decision could lead to “the case going all the way to the Supreme Court, which offers the opportunity to set a positive precedent for freedom of speech and religion for all Finns.”

At this point one can rightly ask: Where does the doggedness with which a former Finnish minister (2011-2015) and party leader (2004-2015) is being humiliated and dragged in front of the *qadi* come from, because she maintains convictions that still exist, maybe not shared by everyone, a few years ago, but were still considered completely acceptable? It is reasonable to think that there is also a desire on the other side to set a precedent that will break all dams in terms of hate speech.

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**A PAPER ON THE INTRODUCTION
OF AN EU-WIDE CRIMINAL
OFFENSE HAS BEEN IN THE
DRAWER SINCE DECEMBER 2021**

Dissenting opinions as a crime? There is no doubt that panic is currently reigning in the left-liberal milieu. Whether it's Elon Musk's Twitter takeover, or the possible revision of "Roe v. Wade" by the US Supreme Court: Things are not looking good for the hegemonic course of the "progressives." But a glimmer of hope on the horizon beckons to the awakened and enlightened. It is a document from the EU Commission that has been sitting in a drawer since December 2021. The content? The extension of EU criminal offenses to "Hate Speech" and "Hate Crime."

In its draft, the Commission warns that hate speech and hate crimes have increased both on-line and offline. They have become a "worrying phenomenon." In view of this, an EU-wide approach is necessary. With the exception of a single study cited, which data the Commission relies on and why the national states cannot implement such a regulation themselves remains non-transparent. The basis is also interesting. Not human rights, but opaque "EU values" are used as justification.

The Commission does refer to Articles 2 and 6 of the Lisbon Treaty. But where the legitimacy to ban "all forms of hate crimes and hate speech" comes from, even if it relates to "gender identity," remains vague — the term is not found in either article. On the contrary, the treaty signed 20



Päivi Räsänen, Former Minister of the Interior in Finland.

years ago is extremely reactionary when it interprets dual gender as the norm. Article 2 knows only the "equality of women and men".

"Instead of a minimum standard for freedom of expression, the EU wants a minimum standard for censorship."

Of course, that won't stop the EU Commission from wanting to implement its woke ideas across the entire EU area — to the detriment of the free word. "Hate is hate — and nobody should put up with it," is a quote from Commission President Ursula von der Leyen at the beginning of the document. Anyone who commits a "hate crime" in Germany can then also be arrested in Portugal.

Brussels and the national governments would thus have an instrument with unknown effects on freedom of expression. The

outcome of the Räsänen case is therefore a signal for the EU Commission. As Paul Coleman, director of ADF International, the organization representing Räsänen, put it in the European Conservative: "Instead of introducing a minimum standard of protection for freedom of expression, the EU is trying to do the opposite: introduce a minimum standard of criminal censorship. But is the prosecution of a political leader, because they hold deep-rooted beliefs, really something we want to be big on across the continent?"

*From Gates of Vienna, translated from German publication **Tichys Einblick**. Many thanks to Hellequin GB for translating this article from **Tichys Einblick**. □*

All By Design

Continued from page 2

all these guns!” You think criminals and gang members are about to relinquish their guns? Not a chance. Does somebody think these guns are out there shooting themselves? There are an estimated 400 million guns in the United States. That’s one hundred million more guns than people. Politicians take to the microphone and say the grieving families don’t need thoughts and prayers, it’s time for action. That means “get rid of guns.” Talk about unleashing a whirlwind. Maybe that fruitcake in Canada can get it done, but this ain’t Canada.

No law would have prevented this. Several laws were broken, including the one against murder. Biden is sick and tired? We’re a little sick and tired of every one of these situations being turned into a push for gun control. Why don’t they demand we get rid of cars every time there’s a crash? Because cars aren’t the problem. Drivers who are drunk or breaking traffic laws are. Criminals break laws, that’s what they do. Another one won’t stop criminals from breaking laws.

They’ve been holding the World Economic Forum meetings this week. They think they can use technological advances to track us all and assign us a “carbon footprint?” They’re not there yet. The plan is to take some convenience that people can’t live without and use it to track everybody’s lives. Oh, that’ll be great! It’s enough to make you want to be a hermit. But they’ve got all the answers and think they can impose them on the rest of us for the sake of our own safety and happiness. They want to take care of us so they can “save the planet” and promote diversity and inclusion.

What has happened with Elon Musk’s purchase of the tweet factory? It turns out that some of their filings with the SEC may be less than true. If they’ve valued the company based on the number of users, and a large percentage of the “users” turn out to be bots, oh baby. It would mean that investors have been defrauded. It may mean that the value of the company that Mr. Musk was buying is also fraudulent. Twitter may have not been designed to make money after all. If you’ve seen the undercover videos of their officers and employees, it starts to seem

that way. Apparently the employees are deeply troubled that free speech might be allowed, and the bots eliminated. Uh oh. You don’t suppose that might put a strain on the whole house of cards?

How are the investors going to feel when they find out that the price they paid for company stock was inaccurate? Some now some think that Elon’s offer may have been designed to flush out the truth. He was one of their collection of compliant billionaires, a darling of the far left. He’s built a respected brand of electric car, after all. He’s sending rockets into space at a pace we don’t even watch anymore, and returning the rockets to their launch pad, undamaged, ready for the next payload. He so fervently believes the planet is eventually doomed, he wants to colonize Mars. But he seems to have figured out how vacuous the “rules” of social networks are, and now they hate him. You see him called “special” now, because he’s questioning the methods and the doctrines of the mainstream. How dare he? Who does he think he is?

That he believes in free speech is the most outrageous thing to the executives and employees. Turns out that Twitter doesn’t operate like a company that makes money. We’re not going to revisit the Project Veritas statements about the philosophy of twitter and the people who work there, but it is revealing to say the least. If it turns out that a lot of the users don’t actually exist, there might be some disputes. What about investors who got involved under false pretenses? Lawsuits will fly. The premise that companies ought to make a fair profit? That’s against



Continued next page

everything they stand for. But as always, we'll have to wait.

Now there's Monkey-pox. It's like the '80s all over again. Like we're going to get AIDS by shaking hands. Was there some doubt that another health emergency would come around? Over the past two years has been the discovery of fear and authority. It's a powerful combination, and now it has a track record. This country suffered incalculable losses under a blizzard of mandates and orders. Most media outlets told us that people were meekly obeying orders, and losing sleep over what would happen if they, or somebody close, got it. Suddenly every lunatic had "covid authority." None more than the lineup on cable TV. Since when have they been right about something?

The networks speak almost as one, and have had to eat crow over the wasted years of acting like they believed something so preposterous as Trump was secretly one of Vladimir Putin's underlings, plotting some diabolical plan. But they've never admitted how foolish they were. Nope. No crow for them. They're on to the next deceit like nothing ever happened. We were shaking our heads and laughing out loud. But the gay prime time had very concerned

looks on their faces. They knew something didn't smell right!

They fell all over themselves trying to convey just how bad Trump really was. Even they were taken aback. CNN has yet to apologize for their erroneous reporting. For their sober analysis of utter nonsense. No, they're off to the races with unrelated stories, the only ones who haven't realized their own credibility is gone. Everybody paying attention knew this was a put up job. But the media bore down, as did the Muller investigation. Then the fraudulent impeachment. It was LIVE everywhere, and was it ever serious! How many millions of dollars later did the investigations yield nothing? That's politics! No, it's more than that. It's the attempted deception of us all. Then they tell you it worked! Oh yeah, most people believed the drivel. Not likely.

Nothing is true until the mainstream says so. The mainstream will deny what's plain for anybody to see, unless proven otherwise in a court of law, and even that's been corrupted. Is there some chance anybody will have to admit anything that was so obvious to begin with? Admissions are finally, four years after the fact, being made under oath. What we all suspected turns out to be true. Whether the judicial system in some very jaundiced district will be impartial is questionable. The experts are saying don't get your hopes up. But the pretender and HRC aren't exactly best buddies. It is suspected that the pretend administration will turn its back and feed the poor darling to the wolves, if for no other reason than to distract from all the other bad news. Imagine if the networks weren't on the Pretender's side!

All the pricey lawyers, serious seasoned investigators with great track records, they never stumbled upon what's finally been revealed? Fat chance. They knew, and figured it would deal their brethren (the Clintons) a hefty loss. Therefore, we're still waiting for the truth to come out via the *New York Times* so the mainstream deceivers can choke on it. The only time it's enjoyable to check in on a mainstream network is when they're trying to explain away some huge embarrassment. When they have no choice but to report something that destroys their fake, make-believe world.

It looks like all the shortages are engineered. Have you seen the list of recalls? Everything in your



cupboard may be suspect. People are panic buying because of the impending “food shortage.” Does anybody think it may be by design? Gas prices are in uncharted territory, and we wake up to more bad news every morning. Did they not tell us that there would be policies intended to make oil scarce and unaffordable? Yes, they did. Did they tell us about lending institutions and how their ESG scores would plummet if they financed anything to do with oil exploration? Must have missed it.

Now our supposed leaders tell us that we’re undergoing a great transition, from fossil fuel to “clean energy.” The thing is, there’s not enough windmills and solar panels on earth to power a modern way of life. Does anybody get the impression that they want the U. S. to be just another 3rd world mudhole? Good luck if you can even watch the scenes playing out at the border. When in modern history has a nation thrown open its borders to anybody who can walk or swim across? Find another nation on earth that allows a continuing flood of poor, finances their stay through failing religious organizations, and scolds whoever has a contrary word. They ordain queers and lesbians because they’re much better than you, you racist homophobe.

It seems that these buffoons are a little carried away with their authority. How many more “emergency orders” will we have to endure on account of the government keeping everybody safe? Maybe we don’t want the government keeping us safe, locking us down and making the people who keep the country moving stay home. But the bozos aren’t about to give up the authority to be obeyed. They instill fear, and then deputize the percentage of the population that believe the nonsense. How many of those deaths were actually Covid? How many died of something else due to medical accidents? We’ll never know.

Inflation? It’s setting records and out of control. You don’t need me to tell you that everything delivered to every retail outlet has cost double to get it there. We probably haven’t yet felt the brunt of it. It’s no accident. It’s part of the plan. They’re saving the planet after all.

We’ve been waiting a long, long time for some sign of justice in our nation. But it appears that the agencies that are responsible have been corrupted. Maybe someday, maybe not. □

**Bureau of Labor Statistics:
Consumer Price Changes in the Last 12 Months**

Category	Increase
All items	8.3%
Food	9.4%
Food at home	10.8%
Cereals and bakery products	10.3%
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	14.3%
Dairy and related products	9.1%
Fruits and vegetables	7.8%
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials	9.8%
Other food at home	11.0%
Food away from home	7.2%
Full service meals and snacks	8.7%
Limited service meals and snacks	7.0%
Energy	30.3%
Energy commodities	44.7%
Fuel oil	80.5%
Gasoline (all types)	43.6%
Energy services	13.7%
Electricity	11.0%
Natural gas (piped)	22.7%
All items less food and energy	6.2%
Commodities less food and energy commodities	9.7%
Apparel	5.4%
New vehicles	13.2%
Used cars and trucks	22.7%
Medical care commodities	2.1%
Alcoholic beverages	3.9%
Tobacco and smoking products	7.2%
Services less energy services	4.9%
Shelter	5.1%
Rent of primary residence	4.8%
Owners' equivalent rent of residences	4.8%

BIBLE STUDY*by Dr. James & Natalie Ricks*

Who Is Jesus Christ?

JESUS WAS THE ROCK THAT LED ISRAEL

The New Testament as well as the Old describe God's coming down to be God in the flesh to mankind. God, in His immense love, had planned to send His Son — one of the members of the God family — to save us. The Apostle Paul, author of most of the New Testament, clearly reveals that Jesus is the God of ancient Israel.

1 Corinthians 10:1-4, "Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that rock was Christ." (NKJV)

Paul is telling a primarily gentile congregation that they are part of Israel! They are, as far as God is concerned, added in or grafted into Israel. It was actually Jesus who destroyed Pharaoh and His army in the Red Sea. Jesus saved Israel physically from slavery in Egypt and He is saving true believers today from slavery to sin.

1 Corinthians 10:5-6, "But with most of

them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted."

Paul is telling believers that the lessons learned in the history of ancient Israel are our examples. All believers are "Israelites" and must learn from the examples in the Old Testament. Failure to do so could cost us our salvation. It must be taken seriously!

1 Corinthians 10:7-11, "And do not become idolaters... and rise up to play. Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did... nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed... Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come."

The Bible makes it clear that Jesus was the deity that anciently dealt with mankind.

John 1:1-3, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made."

John 1:14, "And the Word became flesh

BIBLE STUDY

and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

John 1:29, “The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, ‘Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!’”

John 1:34-36, “And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.”

The Apostle John describes Jesus as a member of the God family; the word, the son of God, was sent to mankind to save us.

THE BREAD OF LIFE SENT FROM GOD

Jesus, as the God of the Old Testament, walked and dealt with the Patriarchs of the Bible. His admission of this told the clerics of His day that He was God.

John 8:56-59, “Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad. Then the Jews said to Him, ‘You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?’ Jesus said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.’ Then they took up stones to throw at Him;”

Jesus bluntly told them that He was God the Son and they tried to stone Him for what they considered blasphemy. Further, Jesus said that He is the bread of life from God sent for all mankind.

John 6:40-41, “And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

The Jews then complained about Him, because He said, “I am the bread which came down from heaven.” God the Son is God the Father’s great gift to all mankind. Abundant thanks!

REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY IS A FALSE PREMISE

This premise underlays the basis for much of the misunderstanding of the Bible. Replacement theology asserts that the Church replaces Israel and the belief that Israel is no longer important to God. It is true that God has temporarily divorced them because THEY broke the covenant agreement. But it is clear in the New Testament that gentiles are grafted into Israel.

Romans 11:23-25, “... For God is able to graft them in again. For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, who are natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree? For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion...”

Most worldly clerics have been misled and become wise in their own eyes. God has not permanently forsaken Israel. Many of them were and are converted. Who are the Israelites?

Romans 9:4-5, “...Who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen.”

Replacement theology misleads clerics to assert that the Old Testament is done away. Neglecting or not fully respecting any portion of God’s word is a huge spiritual mistake! It takes an understanding of the past to properly apply some ancient concepts to our age. Clearly, their motive is avoiding the portions of God’s law which they have not been keeping, such as the Sabbaths.

Who gave the Ten Commandments to Mo-

BIBLE STUDY

ses? Jesus Christ! He was the one who met with and instructed Moses and others. One revealing factor is the question, “Did New Testament teachers apply Old Testament Laws, even minor ones, to New Covenant believers?”

1 Corinthians 9:9-10, “For it is written in the law of Moses, ‘You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain.’ Is it oxen God is concerned about? Or does He say it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt...”

The answer is a resounding “Yes!” Paul applies Old Testament Laws and the principles behind them to New Covenant gentile believers! Paul firmly supported the Old Testament.

Acts 24:14, “But this I confess to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect, so I worship the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the Law and in the Prophets.”

It is an erroneous over simplification to say that God is finished with Israel and the Old Testament is now invalid. Some theologians believe that the calling of gentiles was God forsaking Israel which it was not. It was also not the forsaking of all that God the Father through the Son Jesus had inspired in the Old Testament. The Old Testament predicted that God would call the gentiles.

Romans 4:17, “(As it is written, ‘I have made you a father of many nations’) in the presence of Him whom he believed — God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did;”

Paul is quoting Genesis 17:5 to these believers in Rome. The New Testament and the Old Testament work in harmony. The New Covenant does not undermine the Old Testament but instead supports it at an even deeper level. □



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WORLD NEWS BRIEF

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

MACRON PREVAILS...

French Presidential elections have left Macron on top for another term. His most serious challenge came from the right once again. The first round of voting did not give any candidate a majority. Macron was on top with 27.9% of the vote followed by Marine Le Pen with 23.2% and the far-left Jean-Luc Mélenchon with 22%. Three other candidates were left with the remainder. In the French system there is a second round of voting for the two best performers. In this, Macron prevailed with 58.5% over Le Pen's 41.5%, a significant but narrower victory than when the two faced off in 2017. Mélenchon, despite being locked out of the Presidential runoff, has forged an agreement with the other leftist parties in France ahead of the elections for the National Assembly in June. His "France Unbowed" party is partnering with the Communists, Greens and Socialists. By agreeing on one candidate per district they hope to capture a parliamentary majority capable of blocking Macron's agenda.

THE BREXIT SHUFFLE: REMIX

Like a song that's been remade too many times, we may reach a point where people just don't want to hear it anymore. Brexit is at the heart of an impasse after recent elections in Northern Ireland. The Irish Nationalist party Sinn Féin, formerly the political arm of the IRA, has won a majority in the Northern Ireland Assembly for the first time ever. Unionist parties, those supporting Northern Ireland being part of the United Kingdom, have ruled since its inception over 100 years ago.

The Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) came in second place. Since Brexit they have objected to the customs checks between Northern Ireland and

the rest of the UK that allow the border with Ireland to remain open and preserve the Good Friday Agreement that ended years of terrorist attacks and violence. Some of their top ministers have resigned. Leaving Northern Ireland in the EU and separating it from the UK is obviously anathema to the idea of "union." Furthermore, the party is refusing to meet with the rest of the Assembly to appoint ministers, blocking the inauguration of a new government. The situation has warranted an emergency visit by Boris Johnson but there is no solution which everyone will accept.

SOME RESERVATIONS

It's no secret that Chinese companies own vast amounts of natural resources in countries all over the globe. One such asset is the Las Bambas copper mine in Peru. Mining operations have faced difficulties in South America, often due to the land being owned by indigenous peoples living traditional lives. Such groups, taken all together, form a significant voting bloc and many governments depend on their support. Balancing their concerns against the benefits of expanding industry has been difficult.

Initially, Las Bambas was hailed as an example of mutually beneficial compromise. The Fuerabamba community sold their land to allow the mine to expand. Each family was paid between \$100,000 and \$500,000 (depending on who you believe) as well as being guaranteed 1 job. Also a new town was built, complete with brick homes, electricity and plumbing.

That was 8 years ago. By most estimations the cash is long gone. The modern luxuries also come at a price: water and electric bills come every month, and the ability to live off the land is severely hampered. This has led the Fuerabamba to demand their land back. They have forcibly reoccupied the land

Continued next page

around the mine. Attempts to remove them have resulted in injuries on both sides and the mine, which produces over 2% of the world's copper, has been shut for over a month. The Fuerabamba and the subsidiary of China Minmetals Corporation that owns Las Bambas would each like the government to intervene. The Peruvian government, however, has some reservations about choosing a side.

PRESIDENT BONGBONG

With Duterte having reached his term limit, recent elections have installed Ferdinand Marcos Jr. as president of the Philippines. Affectionately known as "Bongbong", Marcos Jr.'s father ruled the Philippines from 1965 through 1986. Alternately cast as a dictator, strongman, or even hero of a golden age, there can be no question that Marcos Sr. wielded unquestionable authority over two brutal decades. Though ousted by a popular uprising, many Filipinos remember his rule fondly and believe it was more effective than many of the liberal governments that have followed it. This same sentiment has contributed to Duterte's unequalled popularity. One example is his drug policy. While going far beyond the letter of the law it remains incredibly popular amongst voters. Marcos Jr. ran on a platform that embraced his father's and Duterte's legacies. Sara Duterte was also elected as Vice President.

LASERS?

Vladimir Putin has generated headlines by claiming Russia has deployed military lasers in Ukraine. While many have scoffed, the battlefield use of such experimental technologies is not totally out of the question, as the utilization of a hypersonic missile has demonstrated. Nor are lasers a recently pioneered weapons technology. Both the United States and the Soviet Union began experimenting with them decades ago. Many problems with their use have been overcome. The US Navy has conducted several successful tests against both floating and aerial targets in the Persian Gulf. The Army has also tested them in combat simulations, including against missiles and drones. While lasers use significant amounts of electricity they have the advantage of not requiring ammunition, a logistical and cost-saving benefit over the life of the system. Other laser weapons are

intended to do everything from blind or destroy satellites to disorient ground forces.

WARS AND WORDS

Pope Francis is as outspoken as ever. In regard to the war in Ukraine, he had a long conference with the head of the Russian Orthodox Church. Their leader, Patriarch Kirill, heads the largest flock in Orthodoxy with over one hundred million adherents. During their talk, the Patriarch enumerated Russia's justifications for the invasion which Francis strongly objected to. In an interview weeks later Francis was asked about the exchange. He replied, "A Patriarch can't lower himself to become Putin's altar boy." While the two denominations are far apart on many issues, the Patriarch's office expressed regret at the tone Francis had chosen to take. It doesn't look like the great schism will be patched up anytime soon.

MONKEY POX

The disease was discovered in monkeys in the 1950's and is related to small pox. What is strange is that it is spreading outside of Africa, something that has only happened a handful of times before. Rodents are thought to be the main hosts, though the disease can be spread by "close contact" with infected monkeys or humans. Cases have been identified in Spain, Portugal, the UK and the US. The UK's Health Authority Agency has warned that new cases are not related to travel, but have been found amongst men who engage in homosexuality.

INDIA'S INTERNAL STRUGGLE: HINDUS VS MUSLIMS

Conflict between these religions has a long history and often flares up inside India's borders. Prime Minister Modi is supported by a strict Hindu faction. Many Indians resent proselytizing foreigners and consider it an attempt to subvert their traditional culture and take control of their country. The history of the spread of Islam includes many churches and temples that were either converted into mosques, or destroyed and rebuilt as such. Zealous Hindus are now returning the favor. Archaeological evidence is being used to prove that many mosques, some of them large and important, were built over Hindu temples. Services have been halted or attendance limited while the issue is investigated. □

WHY WON'T THEY ADMIT FAILURE



by Dr. Jeffrey A. Tucker, Brownstone.org

It seems strange that one of the world's richest men would feel the need for a book tour to boost sales. But that is what Bill Gates is doing, granting a series of interviews with deferential journalists.

The thesis of his book and his interviews is that we should have locked down harder, sooner, and more precisely. Plus the vaccines need to be better next time.

But make no mistake: in his view, there is no overall failure in the whole theory of pandemic control they deployed two years ago. That is sound. To be sure, mistakes were made but we can only learn from them, which is why public health agencies need more resources, more intelligence, more power, more deference.

In this interview, Bill grants that he did not know the demographics of risk of the pathogen, even though the whole world knew in late January.

And in this interview, he grants that there was no chance for eradication of covid, and also that "young people don't get sick very often," which makes one wonder about the reasons for the extended lockdowns, from which the poor suffered most. He has regrets but hey, who doesn't?

His theme is the same as we are hearing all over the planet. Yes, it could have been done better but the people who did this to us have only learned from their errors and they will do better next time.

Even on vaccines, Bill is somehow sure that the next time the vaccine will stop infection and spread, will be one dose, and probably won't be an

injection, as if these are points no one could have hoped for in this round, and as if this is all just a matter of funding more R&D. Just like Windows Millennium Edition, it will get better.

Again, the theory is right and so is the method. They just need another chance!

Think for a moment of other failed experiments in human history. One that comes to mind is the Bolshevik Revolution. Its leader, Vladimir Lenin, never really expected to take power, much less be put in charge of implementing the system he had spent a career promoting. He was asked in his writings to speak to what communism would mean. He answered (in 1917) that it is not really an issue: just make the whole economy work like the post office.

After taking power, confiscating privately owned shops and land, nationalizing industry, setting prices by dictate, everything fell apart very rapidly. Energy supplies collapsed and food shortages were everywhere. The failure was obvious to the whole population because people were starving.

Lenin went back to the canonical texts and noticed that Karl Marx had said that communism only comes after the stage of history of industrialization. Russia was mostly an agricultural economy. He said then that the answer was obvious. He had to make electrification a reality for all Russians. Then communism would work.

So in December 1920, he gave a speech in which he said "Communism is Soviet power plus

Continued next page

the electrification of the whole country.” That of course didn’t work either, so the next year he pushed the New Economic Policy — the end of lockdowns, so to speak. Markets were newly tolerated and the war on property mostly stopped and the economy revived. This happened over the following 6 years, after which Stalin came to power and discovered that “Soviet power” was even more important than Lenin thought.

Power over normalcy: that was the choice made by the party. They never admitted error. It would be many decades until Stalinism was finally repudiated and long after that before the failure in total would be largely granted, though even to this day, a vast number of Russians truly regret the dialing back of the empire in 1989 and following. Putin himself recalls the glory of the Soviet past.



“Comrade Lenin Cleanses Earth of Filth” by Viktor Deni, 1920.

It’s always the same with these people: the theory of despotic rule is fine; it’s just the implementation that has to be tweaked.

The issue of failing plans from elites has vexed rulers from time immemorial. We live in such times today, arguably on a larger global basis than ever. They said they would suppress a virus but everyone got it anyway. They said they would print and spend their way out of the lockdown recession but now we have inflation plus recession. They said they would minimize the social and economic carnage but it is everywhere.

No one has taken responsibility. No one has admitted error. Or more precisely, what people like Bill Gates say now is that their theory was fine and their plans were brilliant, but there were periodic missteps in judgment owing to a lack of information, but keep trusting them because they will get better at this. Just wait and see.

At least we aren’t going the way of China. Xi Jinping announced to the party congress over the weekend that he will tolerate no dissent against the zero Covid ideal. The pathogen will be crushed everywhere it appears. China now (if you can believe the official data) has one of the lowest rates of infection of anywhere in the world. That means that another billion or so people still will get it, and that means rolling lockdowns for the duration.

If this really happens, the great promise of this great country will be torn down by the arrogance and crankishness of one single dictator. That’s a tremendous tragedy, one that will have a profoundly negative impact on the global economy for many years to come.

Meanwhile, it’s become infuriating to see mainstream news sources talk about the unfolding disasters all around us and pretend like no one could have anticipated this. The latest is the New York Times.

Across the country, hospital emergency departments have become boarding wards for teenagers who pose too great a risk to themselves or others to go home. They have nowhere else to go; even as the crisis has intensified, the medical system has failed to keep up, and options for inpatient and intensive outpatient psychiatric treatment have

eroded sharply...

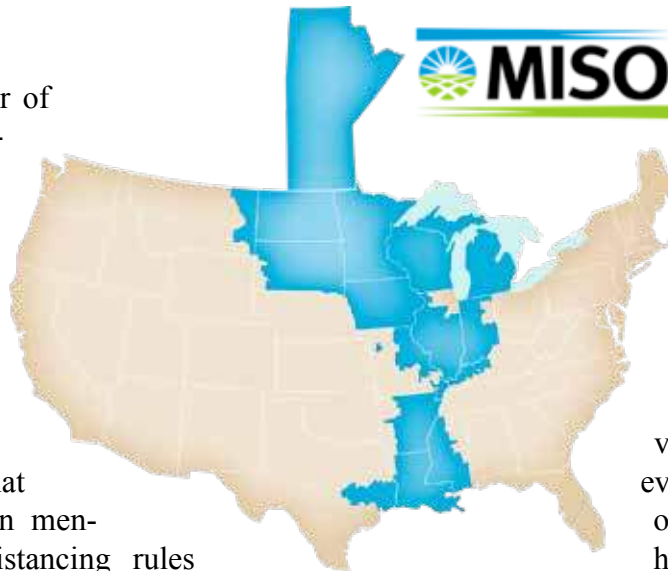
Nationally, the number of residential treatment facilities for people under the age of 18 fell to 592 in 2020 from 848 in 2012, a 30 percent decline, according to the most recent federal government survey. The decline is partly a result of well-intentioned policy changes that did not foresee a surge in mental-health cases. Social-distancing rules and labor shortages during the pandemic have eliminated additional treatment centers and beds, experts say.

It's also almost difficult to keep up with the ongoing disasters taking place these days. Let's talk about the impending shortage in electricity, the stuff we are all supposed to be using as a replacement for fossil fuels in the brave new world being created for us by our lords and masters.

Reports the *WSJ*, in a piece that went largely unnoticed:

California's grid operator said Friday that it anticipates a shortfall in supplies this summer, especially if extreme heat, wildfires or delays in bringing new power sources online exacerbate the constraints. The Midcontinent Independent System Operator, or MISO, which oversees a large regional grid spanning much of the Midwest, said late last month that capacity shortages may force it to take emergency measures to meet summer demand and flagged the risk of outages. In Texas, where a number of power plants lately went offline for maintenance, the grid operator warned of tight conditions during a heat wave expected to last into the next week.

The risk of electricity shortages is rising throughout the U.S. as traditional power plants are being retired more quickly than they can be replaced by renewable energy and battery storage. Power grids are feeling the strain as the U.S. makes a historic transition from conventional power plants fueled by coal and natural gas to cleaner forms of



energy such as wind and solar power, and aging nuclear plants are slated for retirement in many parts of the country.

In summary, another central plan born of arrogance and presence seems to be on the verge of complete failure, even to the point of blackouts, like the third world has experienced for many years. Green energy is be-

coming no energy. Zero emissions is becoming zero power.

Further:

Speeding the build-out of renewable energy and batteries has become an especially difficult proposition amid supply-chain challenges and inflation. Most recently, a probe by the Commerce Department into whether Chinese solar manufacturers are circumventing trade tariffs on solar panels has halted imports of key components needed to build new solar farms and effectively brought the U.S. solar industry to a standstill.

So here we see the combination of consequences of many different cockamamie ideas: tariffs, lockdowns, green energy policy, fiscal irresponsibility, plus money printing. Amazing. We have high inflation, the breakdown of global trade, plus a failed attempt to dial back fossil fuels and rely on wind and water. It's absurd, and we could pay the price sooner rather than later.

If that weren't bad enough, there are people raising alarms about an impending food shortage to complement the shortage of so much else. Plus we are less than three months away from the declaration of recession. And while inflation has calmed down a bit for now, there is every reason to believe that it will kick back up again by late summer. This will give us a combination of inflation, recession, blackouts, and food shortages.

That's a politically toxic mix, to say the least. And let's add one more piece to the puzzle:

Continued next page



Fauci, measured by the content of his character.

weakened and falling financials. The terrible year seems ever less an aberration and more and more the beginnings of an enduring bear market in nearly everything. This has even affected the crypto market, as large institutional investors have gotten squeamish about a technology they never understood but only embraced in hopes of return.

Looking back, there is nothing terribly surprising about any of this. It's a consequence of safety culture, arrogant elites, and a belief that powerful, rich, and intelligent people can manage the world better than the rest of us. We've been here many times in history, and it has always foreshadowed a long period of suffering.

Lenin failed just as Gates, Powell, Fauci, and Psaki have failed, along with hundreds and thousands of others who put themselves in a position to deploy a crazy experiment in the eradication of liberty. They are all culpable but none will admit it. Why? Pride, sure, but also fear: fear of the public outcry.

Few things are more dangerous to the future of humanity than a failed and humiliated ruling class that still possesses power. They cannot and will not admit error, so their only plan is to double and triple down on failure. The term "scorched-earth" is usually used metaphorically. Maybe this time it will become real. □

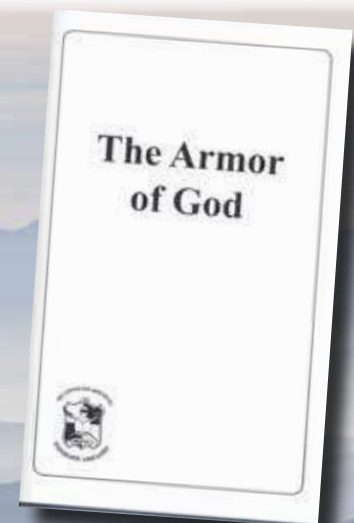
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LESSON TWELVE: FAITH

Faith is the sure knowledge that God exists and that He will accomplish those things He has promised. Faith in God, trust in His promises and belief that He is in overall control is a major element in the Christian life and is absolutely necessary for salvation.

DOCTRINAL OVERVIEW:

“...the just shall live by his faith.” These words were first uttered by the prophet Habakkuk and quoted three times by the apostle Paul. Living faith is at the heart of true Christianity. It is absolutely essential for salvation (I Pet. 1:5-9). Christ described faith as a weightier matter of the law (Matt. 23:23). Paul listed it among the three greatest Christian virtues (along with hope and love). Without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6). Far from being simply a feeling in his heart, the Christian’s faith motivates his entire pattern of living. Faith functions as the fulcrum of true Christian thought and behavior.

The two distinct meanings of the word “faith” are found in the English translation. When preceded by the definite article (“the faith”) it means the overall system of doctrine and belief accepted by the Church, and by extension, the Church itself (Acts 6:7; 13:8, 14:22). When used without the article, it means “the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Heb. 11:1), which is

perhaps the clearest biblical definition of faith. Faith is thus an absolute belief that God exists and a total trust in His statements (Heb. 11:6).

Ultimately, faith deals with God’s promises — with the future. It is the trust in “things not seen.” Of course, belief cannot be blind. It must be built on genuine conviction. It has to come from perceiving God’s hand in creation, His work in history and the experience of His fulfilled promises in one’s own life. This is the foundation of faith. But one does not need faith in what has already been accomplished. Faith, therefore, is the willingness to believe God will not fail even though He has not yet brought about what is promised (Heb. 11:1).

True faith must come from God and has many facets, though the primary ones relate directly to Jesus Christ. Faith in its simplest but most profound manifestation is a deep personal belief in Jesus Christ; in the fact that He is our Savior; in the truth that His death paid the individual penalty of our personal sins. Faith is the full confidence in the message Jesus brought. This faith in Christ is the belief

that leads us to baptism. (Baptism is merely an outward symbolic testimony that we have inward faith in Christ.) Paul speaks of this faith in Galatians 2:16 when he remarks we “have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ.”

After baptism, one receives God’s Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands. At this point Christ, through the Spirit, lives in us and empowers us with a growing and internalized godly faith. Since faith is not self-generated, but is rather the faith of Christ’s Spirit in us, it is termed the “faith of Christ.” It is this faith of Christ that we must express and live by in every facet of life.

But faith is not an end in itself. It is rather the vehicle by which we may obtain salvation. Of course, salvation can in no way be earned, either by obedience or faith, for nothing man can do would obligate God to grant salvation had He not decided to give man this gift of His own volition (according to certain terms). But God nevertheless has obligated Himself to grant salvation if one has living faith. God says the presence of this faith is counted in His eyes as righteousness and indeed justifies us before God (Rom. 4: 1-7).

Faith is the motivator which causes us to live a godly life. From this it follows that one who has real belief in God and hopes in His promises will demonstrate this fidelity by his actions and his obedience. Indeed, “whatsoever is not of faith is sin” (Rom. 14:23).

The true Christian will obey God and do good works, for “faith without works is dead” (James 2:20). Our good works do not save us, but they do demonstrate faith. James wrote, “I will show you my faith by my works” (James 2:18), directly contradicting the notion that faith can maintain an exclusively mental/spiritual existence devoid of any physical action and behavior. One who does not obey God is

said to possess “dead” faith, a trait no better than that of the demons who themselves believe God exists but refuse to obey Him (James 2:19).

To have real faith does not mean that one will never doubt. Doubt is a normal human characteristic and emotion and even the truly begotten Christian is not immune from it. Yet one must contest doubt, not by deluding oneself but by rehearsing reality. One should return to the fundamentals of biblical belief, to one’s first love, by thinking the thoughts and doing the works he did when he was first being converted. Doubt need not undermine faith, but true faith can surmount doubt.

God commands that “the just shall live by faith,” in every aspect and area of his life. One must fully live by faith, because God has made promises which affect virtually every part of man’s existence. He has promised to help us in trials if we are faithful and to answer every prayer that is prayed according to His will and in faith. These expressions of faith are again not ends in themselves. In fact they are secondary as compared to a Christian’s main thrust of faith which is belief in God’s promise of the resurrection from the dead and in salvation. Other areas of faith are important only as they contribute to our faith in the resurrection. Paul says one who does not earnestly hope for the resurrection has “faith in vain” (I Cor. 15:14), because one who has no hope of being resurrected from the dead has no hope at all! It is a Christian’s faith in the resurrection from the dead which lies behind all his earthly actions. It is this faith and hope which encourages him to press onward toward salvation in spite of trials and disappointments.

God’s ultimate design is to bring every human being from the human level to the divine level—from flesh to spirit—from a temporary physical existence to an eternal spiritual

existence. This is the foremost frontier of faith. It involves development of character, which includes the trials and experiences of human life. God's promises for the "good life" on the physical level are subordinated to His ultimate purpose of fulfilling His main promise on the spiritual level.

A Christian who is living by faith realizes physical promises may be delayed for his spiritual benefit, but he knows that his life is absolutely in God's hands no matter what. Some by their faith have been delivered, while others by the same faith have been martyred (Heb. 11) or allowed to die without seeing the ultimate fruit of their endeavors in this life.

The faith of Christ in us is one of the fruits of God's Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5:22. As such, it cannot be "worked up" and is in no other way self-generated. It should never be static but must be constantly growing and expanding in every part of life. This faith may be built and grow in different ways, through experience, through trials (Rom. 5:1-5), by reading the inspired Word of God (Rom. 10:17), through the interaction with the faith of others, etc. Faith must be constant, unfeigned, based

upon true promises, without time limit and always growing.

The Bible illustrates the faith of the patriarchs and men of God throughout history as an example and encouragement to us. We are told of Abraham, the father of the faithful. We are reminded of Enoch, Elijah, Samson, Jephthah, David and the prophets. We see the awesome example of Jesus Christ Himself, who gave up His exalted position as God, emptied Himself into human form and was sacrificed in faith, so that He could become the Savior of mankind after the Father would resurrect Him. Likewise, we look at the examples of the apostles and of fellow brethren who were martyred for the sake of Christ. Finally, we learn that God will grant these faithful men salvation and eternal life in God's kingdom, because they believed they would receive it, and because they had real faith. They will receive the reward they hoped for, because they believed that God existed and that He was the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him (Heb. 11:6). Our task is to follow their example and receive this same reward. □

SUMMARY: Read these scriptures in your own Bible:

- **1 Peter 1:5-9-Faith required for salvation.**
- **Matthew 23:23-Faith is the weightier matter of the Law.**
- **Hebrews 11:6-Without faith it is impossible to please God.**
- **Hebrews 11:1-Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen.**
- **Galatians 2:16-Man is justified by faith in Jesus Christ.**
- **Romans 4:1-7-Faith in us is counted as righteousness and justifies us before God.**
- **Romans 14:23-Whatever is not of faith is sin.**
- **James 2:20-Faith without works is dead.**
- **James 2:18-Show me your faith without works and I will show you my faith by my works.**
- **1 Corinthians 15:14-We must believe in the resurrection of Christ or our faith is vain.**
- **Hebrews 11-The Faith chapter.**
- **Galatians 5:22-Faith is a fruit of the Spirit.**
- **Romans 5:1-5-Justified by faith, we have peace.**
- **Romans 10:17-Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.**

QUESTIONS (ANSWERS BELOW):

1. Faith is the _____ that God exists.
a) belief b) hope c) sure knowledge d) assurance

 2. Faith is...
a) knowing that God will accomplish what He has promised to do.
b) trust in His promises.
c) belief that God is in control.
d) absolutely necessary for Salvation.
e) all of the above.
f) none of the above.

 3. Where in the Bible does it say: “without faith it is impossible to please God.”
a) Matthew 23:23
b) 1 Peter 1:7
c) Hebrews 11:6

 4. Having faith is a feeling of the heart. True or False?

 5. “Faith” and “the faith” mean the same thing. True or False?

 6. True faith comes from:
a) feelings and emotions b) the church c) the ministry d) God

 7. Faith in its most profound manifestation is a deep personal belief...
a) that Jesus Christ is our savior.
b) that His death paid the individual penalty of our personal sins.
c) in His message.
d) all of the above.

 8. Baptism is an outward symbolic testimony that we have inward faith in Christ. True or False?

 9. According to Galatians 2:16, man is justified by...
a) works b) by the faith of Christ c) both

 10. Once we are baptized and we receive the Holy Spirit we learn how to self-generate godly faith. True or False?

 11. The faith in us is possible by the power of God’s Spirit and is actually the faith of Christ’s spirit in us. True or False?
-

12. According to Romans 4, Faith in us is counted as...
a) works b) grace c) righteousness d) judgment
13. Finish this verse from Romans 14: ...for whatsoever is not of faith is _____ [what?]
14. A true Christian will obey God and do good works. True or False?
15. According to James 2:20, faith without works is _____ [what?]
16. Having true godly faith guarantees I will never have doubt. True or False?
17. The main thrust of faith is...
a) to believe God will help us in trials if we are faithful.
b) to answer every prayer that is prayed according to His will and in faith.
c) to believe in God’s promise of the resurrection from the dead in salvation.
d) to believe that God exists.
18. A Christian who is living by faith realizes physical promises may be delayed for his or her spiritual benefit. True or False?
19. In what New Testament book and chapter do we see a list of the fruits of the Spirit?
a) Romans 5 b) Ephesians 5 c) Galatians 5 d) James 5

LESSON TWELVE — ANSWERS:

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|------------|
| 19. (c) | 14. (True) | 7. (d) |
| 18. (True) | 13. (sin) | 6. (d) |
| 17. (c) | 12. (c) | 5. (False) |
| 16. (False) | 11. (True) | 4. (False) |
| 15. (dead) | 10. (False) | 3. (c) |
| | 9. (b) | 2. (e) |
| | 8. (True) | 1. (c) |

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