

Psm. 11:3

# Baptists For Liberty

Prov. 29:2

*"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." Galatians 5:1*

## NEWS LETTER

Issue #34

February & March 2016

### *Victimhood & Vindication*

Our society appears to be greatly divided into wars of "us" vs "them". Who or what define these two camps depends greatly on what news channel you're tuned into, political issue is being argued, grievances being made, online pity party being had, or rally cry for justice chanted. Who is a victim, how shall we be vindicated? The book of Proverbs gives two classes of people, the righteous/wise vs wicked/foolish. For example:

**"The righteousness of the perfect shall direct his way: but the wicked shall fall by his own wickedness. The righteousness of the upright shall deliver them: but transgressors shall be taken in their own naughtiness. When a wicked man dieth, his expectation shall perish: and the hope of unjust men perisheth. The righteous is delivered out of trouble, and the wicked cometh in his stead."** Proverbs 11:5-8

And the Apostle Peter wrote in I Peter 3:13-20 **"And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ. For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing. For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water."** (emphasis added)

*"Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy." - James 5:10 & 11*

### INDEX

- Sermon: *"Two or Three Witnesses"* by Bro. David M. Green, page 2  
*"Even in troublesome times, He works for our good!"*  
by Bro. Todd Bryant, page 3
- Civil Liberties & Law Enforcement, page 4
- "Weeping Willows and Joyful Jails"* by Bro. M.J. Seymour, Sr. page 6
- Women's issues & Abortion, page 6
- "A Biblical View on Abortion"* by Bro. Andrew Sullivan, page 7
- News From Canada: *"Concern Or greed"* by Sis. Grace Brooks, page 8
- Social Justice & Civil Unrest, page 9
- "Vengeance Is Mine; I Will Repay"* by Bro. M.J. Seymour, Sr. page 1
- "Ahaz Scalia Trump"* by Bro. Jeff Short, page 11
- U.S. Presidential Elections 2016, page 13
- "One Evil, Two Evils, Three Evils, Four"* by Bro. Jeff Short, page 14
- "Commit Into His Hands"* by Bro. M.J. Seymour, Sr. page 15
- "The True Meaning Of Easter"* by Bro. Curtis Pugh, page 16
- Misc. Things We Think You Ought To Know, page 16
- The Environment & Climate Change, page 17
- Historical Marker: *"Pirum"* by Sis. Elizabeth Works, 18
- "Two Classes Of Extreme Anger"* by Bro. Curtis Pugh, page 20
- "Deceitful Hearts"* by Bro. Wm. Doyal Thomas, page 20

### **"One Evil, Two Evils, Three Evils, Four"**

by Bro. Jeff Short

*Your money or your life ... Choose now!*

Scruples is a card game invented in 1984 and marketed as "The game of moral dilemmas." Many questions seem to involve awkward social situations or relationships. For instance, there might be a question about what you would do if you spilled something on the carpet at a party. Would you tell the host or not? Or, if a friend asked you to give them a reference for a job and you know they are not qualified for it, would you give them a positive reference or not. So the question gives you a scenario and two choices. I guess it's also supposed to be fun but doesn't sound like much fun to me. Those kinds of questions are low stakes moral questions and get boring quickly. To make that kind of game more dramatic, you have to raise the stakes morally. So you would ask something like: the cashier gives you change for a hundred dollar bill instead of the twenty dollar bill you paid with; do you keep quiet or tell her about the error? Or, you and two friends are adrift at sea. In order to survive do you eat the skinny friend or the fat friend? You are hiding spies in your house and the army commander tells you to either turn in the spies or be killed. Which do you do? You get the idea. *Read the rest on page 13*

## Sermon: "Two or Three Witnesses"

by Bro. David M. Green



**"One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established. If a false witness rise up against any man to testify against him *that which is wrong*; Then both the men, between whom the controversy *is*, shall stand before the LORD, before the priests and the judges, which shall be in those days; And the judges shall make diligent inquisition: and, behold, *if the witness be a false witness, and hath testified falsely against his brother*; Then shall ye do unto him, as he had thought to have done unto his brother: so shalt thou put the evil away from among you."** (Deuteronomy 19:15-19)

I love the law of God! How we could learn so much from it, not only as individuals but as a church and even as a country! We find here a law that nobody will be accused by one witness. It had to be at the mouth of two or three witnesses that the matter would be established.

In this law, there was also a part dealing with false witnesses. If someone gave a false witness, in other words, told some big tale that was not true (also known as a lie), then that witness would get the punishment that the other person would have gotten if the tale were true.

Example: If I accused someone of murder, and it was false, then I would be punished for my lies, and given the penalty that a murderer should get.

This would have been the case, whether the lie discovered before or after the penalty was carried out on the accused. And, it would have been the case whether there were one false witness or many.

**"Whoso killeth any person, the murderer shall be put to death by the mouth of witnesses: but one witness shall not testify against any person *to cause him to die*."** (Numbers 35:30)

It was absolutely forbidden that any case would be tried with only one witness. And that is to protect the innocent. If there were only one person who witnessed the crime, that would not be enough to grant the death penalty.

**"If there be found among you, within any of thy gates which the LORD thy God giveth thee, man or woman, that hath wrought wickedness in the sight of the LORD thy God, in**

**transgressing his covenant, And hath gone and served other gods, and worshipped them, either the sun, or moon, or any of the host of heaven, which I have not commanded; And it be told thee, and thou hast heard *of it*, and enquired diligently, and, behold, *it be true, and the thing certain, that such abomination is wrought in Israel*: Then shalt thou bring forth that man or that woman, which have committed that wicked thing, unto thy gates, *even that man or that woman, and shalt stone them with stones, till they die. At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death. The hands of the witnesses shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterward the hands of all the people. So thou shalt put the evil away from among you.*"** (Deuteronomy 17:2-7)

Again, here are matters involving the death penalty. Notice here we still find the rule involving two or three witnesses, but also note that "The hands of the witnesses shall be first upon him to put him to death and afterward the hands of all the people...." This seems to me that it was another deterrent to keep false witnesses away.

The accusers had to be the first to carry out the punishment for the crime.

**"Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell *it* unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican. Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."** (Matthew 18:15-18)

When it comes to cases involving personal matters in the church, the process is the same. Nobody can bring such a personal accusation before the church until it is established by two or three witnesses. Far too often, things get escalated to the church before the time is proper and it may have just been some misunderstanding. We need to take proper care to follow the requirements found here. Before you make an accusation against some brother or sister public, make sure it is not just you. Maybe you heard that person wrong, or misunderstood. Whatever the case, if it must be brought before the church, let it be by two or three witnesses!

**"Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer *is* worthy of his reward. Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses."** (I Timothy 5:17-19)

Here is the proper method given by Holy Scripture for dealing with accusations against elders. Read it again: **"Against an elder**

**receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses.”** Notice, the accusation must be supported by two or three credible witnesses and the accusers must face the accused. After all, it is a very serious thing to bring an accusation against the Lord's man....the reputation of a minister is a serious thing.

I am amazed at how people will take any little bit of gossip as the gospel truth when it comes to some pastors or missionaries. This business of listening and telling some false thing without following this method is absolutely horrible!

Remember, God's people ought to be treated innocent unless proven guilty and that only after the prescribed method here. It carries a lot of scandal for the man of God to be charged with some sin even if he is later cleared of that accusation. We are told here to not even receive the accusation but before two or three witnesses. Don't even listen to it! And if you hear of it in such a matter other than the prescribed method, don't repeat it. Even then, great care should be taken when speaking of the matter.

**“Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death; But found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, yet found they none. At the last came two false witnesses,”** (Matthew 26:59-60)

The accusers of our Lord were many (more than one), yet they were false. I bring this passage up to say we need to be very careful of what sort the “two or three” witnesses are against the Lord's people. I am amazed how some people will take the word of a couple of men they do not know very well (if at all) against a man they have known for years. Most usually this happens with missionaries, but really it could happen to any of God's men. Be careful who you believe.

**“Then said they, Come, and let us devise devices against Jeremiah; for the law shall not perish from the priest, nor counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophet. Come, and let us smite him with the tongue, and let us not give heed to any of his words.”** (Jeremiah 18:18)

Satan was able to come up with false witnesses against Jeremiah and against our Lord. He will do the same to God's men today. Anyone who is working for the Lord is a target for Satan's false accusations.

### CONCLUSION

**“Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour: I am the LORD.”** (Leviticus 19:16)

Let us be very careful what we do with stories we hear about God's people, lest we become guilty of gossip and spreading lies. Being a talebearer among the people of God is a horrible sin! Don't listen to gossip, and certainly do not spread it!

*“Even in  
troublesome times,  
He works for our  
good!”*

by Bro. Todd Bryant



**“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.” ~ Romans 8:28**

The Tuscaloosa area has suffered a great calamity in the past week. We have witnessed first hand the power of a tornado to destroy homes, property and even lives. Our thoughts and prayers are particularly with those whose world has been turned upside down by injury or even the death of a loved one from this storm.

As I consider comforting Scriptures during this time, none captivates my attention any more than the very familiar Romans 8:28. The Scripture says, “We know that ALL things work together for good...”, but surely it couldn't refer to something as tragic as we have witnessed in the past few days. However, there is no exception clause given in this passage. It is clearly written, “All things.” Have you ever noticed that this verse isn't directed at our emotions, but rather it is directed at our intellect? Paul doesn't say, “We feel that all things...”; He says, “We know...”. It is a great injustice to expect our selves to stand in the ashes of a calamity or at the casket of a loved one and feel the truth of this verse. The reality for all of us, who experience loss, is that we feel hurt, pain, doubt and sometimes even anger in the midst of our suffering. We should never ignore the fact that painful emotions are at work.

It is during times like this, that we have to depend upon what we know rather than what we feel. We know several things from this verse:

1. God is sovereign and uses calamity and blessings in our lives at various times.
2. God is faithful to His children and nothing can shake that faithfulness.
3. God is working out His purpose, not ours.

We often want this last part of this verse to read, “...according to our purpose.” Thank God it doesn't say that! All through the Bible, we see tragedies, calamities and heartaches that served God's purpose. Even through the tornado of April 27, 2011, God

is working for our good and His glory. Someday, we will stop and reflect upon His providence in this calamity.

Child of God, take a moment to thank God for His goodness, His providence, His mercy, and His sovereignty. Thank Him for how good He has been to you even through this time. He is longsuffering to us all. He has shown us mercy all the days of our lives. Even in such a time as this, He is still on the throne!!

## NEWS

**NOTICE: The inclusion of quotes or link to an article is NOT an explicit agreement with all the views expressed therein, we endeavor to inform readers of opposing views and stories they may unaware. We include only portions of articles along with the author's name & original publication and encourage our readers to read the complete articles at the links provided.**

**If you are reading a printed copy of this newsletter you will find all the links listed here in the PDF version of this issue on our website,**

<http://baptistsforliberty.weebly.com>

### Civil Liberties & Law Enforcement

#### **February 10th "Judge Who Sentenced Man to 55 Years for Pot Asks Obama to Set Him Free"**

"In 2002, then-24-year-old Weldon Angelos, a rap record label founder whose career was taking off after a collaboration with Snoop Dogg, sold \$350 worth of pot to a police informant who happened to be a lifelong acquaintance on three separate occasions while in possession of a firearm for self defense. Due to mandatory minimum sentencing laws, Angelos was arrested and sentenced to 55 years without the possibility of parole. Since then, Angelos has become a symbol of the injustice of mandatory minimum sentences. Those supporting his early release include U.S. Sens. Mike Lee (R-Utah) and Rand Paul (R-Ky.), the billionaire Koch brothers, and even former federal judge Paul G. Cassell, who sentenced him in the case." [Read the story here](#)

#### **February 11th "Bill to Block NDAA Indefinite Detention Provisions Passes Ariz. Senate Committee"**

"A bill that would prevent federal officials from enforcing the indefinite detention provisions found in sections 1021 and 1022 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2012 within Arizona has passed a key committee of the Arizona State Senate.

On Tuesday, Senate Bill 1437 passed the Senate Federalism, Mandates and Fiscal Responsibility Committee with 4 voting in favor and 2 voting against. The bill would prohibit federal officials from indefinitely detaining civilian residents in the state. It would also prohibit extrajudicial executions of any person or resident in Arizona." [Click here](#) to finish the article

**February 20th "American STASI"** by L. Reichard White  
"I've been traveling with Monica and another friend for several weeks on a gambling trip in Europe. Monica escaped communist Poland via a work visa to Sweden. She's fluent in English but won't talk to me. She tells me it's because I don't drink. In Communist Poland, booze is the first line of defense against the Secret Police. *"If they drink on duty, they might slip and reveal their 'secret identity'."* Monica tells me. We have a drink and everything's cool.

It isn't just in the movies. It really was standard operating procedure in the Soviet Block for the secret police to spy on everyone. The excuse was "national security" of course." Read article [here](#)

#### **February 29th "Records: U.S. Marshals Used Stingray Surveillance Nearly 6,000 Times"**

"According to newly released records, the U.S. Marshals Service has used cellphone surveillance tools, sometimes known as Stingrays, on the phones of nearly 6,000 suspects. The Marshals Service accidentally confirmed its use of the devices to USA Today during a Freedom of Information Act request for a copy of the agency's log of cases in which agents had used stingrays. Truth In Media has written extensively about Stingrays, or cell-site simulators, and how they are being used to track suspected criminals while largely operating without oversight from local, state, or federal authorities. Exactly how the devices operate and what data they collect and/or save has been unknown because of the vast degree of secrecy surrounding the tools." [Click to read](#) the rest

#### **March 1st "Clarence Thomas Suggests That Permanently Losing Your Gun Rights Is No Small Thing"**

"The case, *Voisine v. United States*, poses the question of whether reckless behavior is enough to qualify as a "misdemeanor crime of domestic violence" under [18 USC 922](#), which prohibits people convicted of such offenses from owning firearms. The two men who are challenging that interpretation of the law, Stephen Voisine and William Armstrong, were convicted under Maine assault provisions that cover an offender who "recklessly causes bodily injury or offensive physical contact." Among other things, they [argue](#) that reading the federal law to include mere recklessness makes it more vulnerable to challenge under the

Second Amendment.” Rest of [article here](#)

### **March 2nd [“Oathkeeper Sheriff Blocks Feds From Raiding Local Farmer”](#) from Dontcomply.com**

“Indiana – Elkhart County [Sheriff Brad Rogers](#), successfully [stood up](#) for his constituents in a showdown, when the Food and Drug Administration sent in some federal officials to pester a raw milk and organic food farmer.

Sheriff Rogers followed up on a complaint from a local farmer, David Hochstetler and discovered that he would use his position to side with them because he saw that there was no justified cause for the obtrusive inspections that have going on since 2011 around twice a month.

They were searching for a reason to shut down [Forest Grove Dairy Farm](#), so Rogers stepped in and blocked it. Then he started speaking out about it.” Read the complete article [here](#)

### **March 3rd [“The Regime's Relentless Persecution of Phil Hart”](#)**

“Mr. Hart, do you contest the legitimacy of the federal government of the United States of America?”

That question was posed to former Idaho State Representative Phil Hart a few minutes into his February 3 federal bankruptcy hearing. By asking that question, Assistant U.S. Attorney David Newman transmuted the proceeding into a heresy trial.”

### **March 8th [“Cop Ordered to Testify Against Fellow Officers Charged with Killing Freddie Gray”](#)**

“In what many say is a groundbreaking ruling and a huge win for the prosecution, Maryland's highest court has ruled Officer William Porter must testify against all five officer co-defendants charged with the death of Freddie Gray; a killing that sparked an uprising in Baltimore and reverberated across the nation. The ruling came as no surprise to University of Maryland law professor Doug Colbert.

DOUG COLBERT: Well, I was present during the argument, and I left the courthouse saying that I expected the Court of Appeals to rule as it did in favor of the prosecution, wanting to give immunity to Officer Porter so he could testify in all of the trials.” This is a video interview that includes a full transcript & a MP3 (audio) options, [click here](#) to watch the video & read transcript

### **March 9th ["Wyoming to Reform Civil Asset Forfeiture"](#) by Joe Wolverton, II, J.D. The New American**

"Wyoming has enacted a law reforming the state's civil asset

forfeiture law. While police would still be empowered to use the tactic, under the new scheme, a judge must approve the act within 30 days of the seizure.

Last year, state lawmakers passed a bill aimed at curtailing the abuse by law enforcement of civil asset forfeiture, but state governor Matt Mead vetoed the measure, claiming that “abuse of the process was not a serious problem in Wyoming.”

This time around, however, Mead signed the bill into law. “It’s an improvement, and again we’re very thankful for your work,” Mead told state senator Leland Christensen, chairman of the Wyoming Senate Joint Judiciary Committee, which sponsored the bill.

For those readers unfamiliar with this tyrannical transfer of wealth, a constitutional violation known euphemistically as “asset forfeiture,” here’s the Washington Post’s summary included in another article published in the Post from 2015: “Since 2008, thousands of local and state police agencies have made more than 55,000 seizures of cash and property worth \$3 billion under a civil asset forfeiture program at the Justice Department called Equitable Sharing.”

With this kind of money up for grabs, it is little wonder that the plague of asset forfeiture has spread across the 50 states.” [Click to read](#) this article

### **["Wis. Gov. Scott Walker Signs Law Granting Authorities Broader Strip Search Powers"](#)**

"Wisconsin Republican Governor Scott Walker signed a bill on March 1 which expands the circumstances in which police and correctional officers can conduct strip searches on detainees and inmates suspected of misdemeanor and other minor crimes. Previously, individuals detained or jailed on non-felony crimes could only be strip searched if they were to be held among other people for at least a 12-hour period. The Associated Press notes that Walker’s new law removes that 12-hour minimum time requirement.

The Associated Press also reported that Republican supporters of the bill argued that allowing law enforcement and corrections authorities to strip search anyone who will be detained or incarcerated among others will lead to safer jails and will help protect officers. Democratic opponents countered that the bill could result in civil rights abuses.” [Click here to read](#)

*“Weeping Willows and Joyful Jails”*  
by Bro. M.J. Seymour, Sr.

*“...yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof. ... How shall we sing the LORD’s song in a strange land?” (Ps. 137:1-2, 4)*

These are the words of the saddened Israelites after having been carried away from the Promised Land as victims of their own spiritual whoredom. As revealed in Jeremiah: “And it came to pass through the lightness of her whoredom, that she defiled the land, and committed adultery with stones and with stocks.” (3:9) It was their own rebellion that brought the defilement of God’s precious promise of rest. In their great loss and sorrow, they found no melody in their hearts. Their lips were heavy with weeping guilt, no words of joy. How could they sing the LORD’s song that belongs to the redeemed?

In stark contrast we read: “*And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.*” (Acts 16:25) The rebellious Israelites were out amongst the willow trees, but Paul and Silas were beaten with stripes, thrust into the inner prison, and chained. Their predicament of captivity was by far a greater distress upon the body. Yet, the circumstance of their imprisonment was not due to rebellion but of their faithfulness, for “*...the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.*” (Acts 13:2) Their bodies did suffer, but their hearts leaped with grand joys of obedience. There was no agonizing sorrow for guilt of sin, thus, no weight upon the lips to entrap the music of the heart. Redeemed, Redeemed, O how I love to proclaim it! Their voices rang out sure praises unto God.

The ability to sing the LORD’s song of the redeemed with heavenly joy is not controlled by outward circumstances but by the spiritual condition of the heart. Rebellious hearts are too laden with weeping sorrows of sin, while obedient hearts have wells of living waters springing up within them full of the Holy Spirit. Faithful obedience stirs up the heart with rejoicing tunes of the LORD’s song.

## Women's issues & Abortion

February 24th [“Record Number of Abortion Facilities Have Closed Since 2011”](#) by Warren Mass The New American writes

“Since 2011, at least 162 abortion facilities across the nation have either closed completely or stopped performing abortions, while only 21 new abortion facilities have opened. These statistics were compiled by Bloomberg News over the past three months and reported on February 24.

Texas led the nation in the number of abortion facilities closed, with 30, followed by Iowa with 14, Michigan with 13, and California with 12. While the decline in facilities providing abortions is generally attributed to more stringent restriction imposed by new state laws, the decline in California, which besides being the nation’s most populous state is also dominated by Democratic legislators who tend to be favorable to “abortion rights,” goes against this trend, suggesting multiple reasons for the decline.”

March 4th [“Why Millennials Lean Pro-Life”](#)

“Millennials lean more pro-life than the generation preceding them because of advances in medical technology and science, leaders in conservative media said Friday.

Dana Perino, co-host of Fox News Channel’s “The Five,” moderated the panel on the relevance of conservative principles to the millennial generation.

Perino noted that a survey by the Associated Press [found](#) a 12-percent decline nationwide in abortions since 2010, including in blue states such as New York, Washington, and Oregon. Americans aged 18 to 29, part of the millennial generation, also have become more pro-life than their parents, according to a Gallup [poll](#) cited by Perino. In 2010, it found, 24 percent of millennials agreed abortion should remain legal in all cases, compared with 36 percent of those aged 18 to 29 in 1991.”

[“Abolitionist Files Response to ACLU Protest”](#)

“OKLAHOMA CITY — Abolitionist and Norman resident Thomas Russell Hunter filed a response to the ACLU’s protest of State Question 782 Thursday with the Oklahoma Supreme Court. Hunter, the proponent of State Question 782, filed the document, which formed the basis of his oral arguments in a hearing Wednesday before Oklahoma Supreme Court referee Greg Albert.” [Click link to read in full](#)

## [“Abortion Abolitionists Successfully Lobby Oklahoma Legislature to Treat Abortion as Murder”](#)

“Hundreds of supporters of a recently filed Petition Initiative to Abolish Human Abortion in Oklahoma have been lobbying the Oklahoma Legislature to put forward a bill criminalizing abortion as murder.

The original plan was to put a Constitutional Amendment prohibiting abortion on the November ballot. The question would have allowed the people of Oklahoma to vote to end the practice of abortion or to retain it. But, the ACLU of Oklahoma filed a protest, halting the collection of signatures and forcing the Oklahoma Supreme Court to allow or deny the abolitionists their right to petition their government on behalf of the people. In light of this, supporters of the amendment have turned to the legislature.”

## [“Are there unintended consequences to calling breast-feeding 'natural'?”](#) from CNN

“Breast-feeding: "It's only natural." It's a message women may have seen on Facebook or a state health department [website](#), or heard on the radio, as part of [a campaign launched in 2013](#) by the Department of Health and Human Services.

But, according to a pair of experts, this type of campaign could backfire in a big way. When federal and local health departments use the term "natural" to promote breast-feeding, it could inadvertently fuel concerns over other aspects of health and society that are seen as "unnatural," such as vaccines, genetically modified foods and assisted reproductive technologies, the experts warn.”

## February 15th [“Why Drafting Women Is a Terrible Idea”](#) by Ryan McMaken

“Make no mistake about it. Expanding Selective Service from 50 percent of young adults to 100 percent is not about equality, or progress, or patriotism. While these notions will no doubt be used to bully people into supporting such a move, the real-world effect will be a massive expansion in government power over the lives of the population. Conscription, after all, is simply [a draconian tax on the conscripts](#) who lose their freedom for the duration, but who may also be coerced into being killed in order to promote the state’s policy agendas:—“ read his whole case [here](#)

## “A Biblical View on Abortion”

by Bro. Andrew Sullivan



Something that has been on my mind lately is abortion. Abortion is the murder of a developing baby that the Lord allowed to be conceived.

Jeremiah 1: 5 says, “**Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.**” Even though you didn’t know when this baby was going to be conceived, the Lord did! Psalm 147:4, “**He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names.**” What a wonderful blessing it is to know that before we were even conceived, the Lord knew his creation! He intimately knew it. Why mess with the Lord’s creation? His Word also says, “**What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?**” (1 Corinthians 6:19).

This brings another thing into question. Many people who are pro choice say “My body, my choice.” The truth is, your body is not your own. Your body has been bought with a price and by the perfect blood of Christ! Galatians 1:15, “**But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb, and called me by His grace.**” Job 10:12-13, “**Thou hast clothed me with skin and flesh, and hast fenced me with bones and sinews. Thou hast granted me life and favour, and thy visitation hath preserved my spirit.**” Proverbs 6: 16-19, “**These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, an heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, a false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.**”

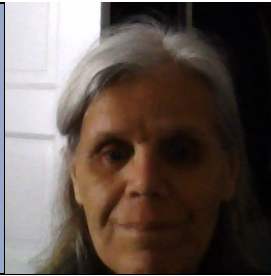
The baby that has been conceived cannot consent to anything. The growing baby is innocent. Those who perform abortions and those mothers who receive an abortion are shedding innocent blood, which the Lord hates. Whatever the situation, whether it be fornication, adultery, consenting sex between a husband and wife, rape, etc, the Lord allowed this baby to be conceived. Why take it out on the unborn? Psalm 127:3 says “**...children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.**” I cannot advocate any form of abortion in good conscience. This blog post is not meant to spark debate, but to

seriously question the ramifications of abortion and to question or reaffirm existing beliefs on the subject. When in doubt, pray for wisdom. James 1:5, *"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."*

## News From Canada:

### "Concern Or greed"

by Sis. Grace Brooks



When asked by the editor of Baptists For Liberty Newsletter to write an article on road safety in Canada, I did some research. Honestly, I could have summed the article up in one word, but I will write more than one word to let you know how I came to my conclusion.

My research article: [Speed Or Greed: Does Automated Traffic Enforcement Improve Safety Or Generate Revenue?](#)

Between 1970 and 2009, Canadians can be proud of a 58% decrease in road fatalities. In spite of ever increasing numbers of vehicles being registered, and drivers with licenses, voices in high places in government, provincial government, municipal governing bodies, and police forces, and activist groups argue these numbers can be decreased more.

How? Through Automated Traffic Enforcement (A.T.E.)

**A.T.E. IS ALREADY WIDELY USED IN CANADA, NOT JUST CANADA BUT THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.**

A.T.E. insists that the speed limits set electronically, increased fines, and zealous traffic law enforcement can stop dangerous drivers and improve public safety. However, A.T.E. programs are expensive. So, how are they paid for? By the taxpayers, who are, often as not, law abiding citizens. These infractions are usually misdemeanors and fines justified in the name of public safety.

To put it more plain. Law enforcers are targeting the innocent and law abiding citizens and careful drivers instead of the wild, dangerous drivers who cause havoc on the roads and are a threat to those that want to live peacefully. No wonder

there's a growing hatred and distrust towards our police forces and government- this includes municipal governments also.

The goal of governments should be to promote safety for all citizens, not bring in millions of dollars for their own sake. Oh, but the salaries have to be paid, says the police forces. Safety for the public can be accomplished through proper maintenance of roads (patch up pot holes, keep bridges in proper repair), adjust signs, in visible, adequate locations, education on road safety, and policing that makes sense. Not picking on the law abiding citizens, but serves and protects like their motto states.

Red light cameras are the main tools of ATE. Red light cameras are activated when a vehicle stands at an intersection for a set amount of time after a light turns red. Speed cameras are activated when a vehicle passes a camera that exceeds the speed limit. Photographs are taken of often both front and back license plates. Date, time, and location are stored in the camera's data. Tickets are issued to the vehicle's owner, often a long time after the incident supposedly happened.

**Opposition to ATE** is especially loud in Manitoba's capital city, Winnipeg.

#### OPPOSITION ARGUE:

- 1.) A.T.E. is really about revenue generated to benefit municipal government officials and police coffers.
- 2.) Infractions are questionable. Insufficient length of yellow lights, insufficient road signs, and where there are signs, improper settings.
- 3.) Questionable locations.
  - A.T.E. cameras can be found positioned between the minimum and maximum speed allowed drivers. Limits are so low in construction and school areas, and hidden under bridges or on hill tops.
- 4.) Insufficient public notice before ATE programs are started in any given location.
- 5.) Good drivers are targeted instead of the dangerous drivers which are in the minority.
- 6.) Equipment accuracy is questionable.
- 7.) Victims receive tickets way later than when the speeding allegedly happened.
- 8.) There are dangerous drivers that are a threat to others. Taking their pictures does nothing to alter their behavior.
- 9.) There is no proof ATE programs improves highway



safety, or reduces accidents, or improves the traffic or pedestrian flow.

#### A.T.E. SUPPORTERS ARGUE:

- 1.) It frees police resources to tend to violent crimes and other more pressing matters. Reducing the number of traffic collisions also reduces emergency response time and cost, along with health care expenditure.
- 2.) Improved safety for law enforcement officials: It is often both difficult and dangerous for law enforcement officials to pull over bad drivers in congested or high speed traffic areas.
- 3.) Fair and impartial enforcement: ATE operates in a consistent and impartial manner on a 24/7 basis.
- 4.) Self-financing: ATE programs generate enough revenues from speed and signalization violators to be self-sustaining.

Wise Up Winnipeg was created seven years ago. This group was formed to terminate the unjust traffic enforcement. A petition of nearly 2000 signatures was presented the Mayor Brian Bowman, the then mayor. The petition plainly laid out before the mayor that city officials were dishonest. Their traffic enforcement was deceptive and dishonest. Speed limits were set up but in the usual way. Motorists were tricked into speeding up. The law abiding or dangerous drivers, all were ticketed.

#### DEMANDS OF WISE UP WINNIPEG

- 1.) Replace all illegally removed limit signs.
- 2.) Place speed limit signs before all speed camera signs.
- 3.) Place all speed limit signs on both sides of all highways and little used roads.
- 4.) Allow engineers to do a city wide assessment and report of speed signs.

#### 2 TIMOTHY 3:1-4

1. THIS KNOW, THAT IN THE LAST DAYS PERILOUS TIMES SHALL COME.
2. **FOR MEN SHALL BE LOVERS OF THEIR OWN SELVES**, COVETOUS, BOASTERS, PROUD, BLASPHEMERS, DISOBEDIENT TO PARENTS,, UNTHANKFUL, UNHOLY,
3. **WITHOUT NATURAL AFFECTION**, TRUCEBREAKERS, FALSE ACCUSERS, INCONTINENT, FIERCE, **DISPISERS OF THOSE THAT ARE GOOD**,
4. **TRAITORS, HEADY, HIGH MINDED, LOVERS OF**

#### PLEASURES MORE THAN LOVERS OF GOD.

#### CONCLUSION

A.T.E. programs, if used fairly, could be good for the road safety but the powerful, from federal officials to municipal, have their hearts hardend to stone by the feeling of power. They lie to us and don't care about public safety. They want the money generated by targeting the well behaved. Building proper roads in the first place and maintenance does a lot towards road safety.

### Social Justice & Civil Unrest

#### March 1st ["Mizzou Diversity Director Tells Protesters To Grow Up, Stop Making Insane Demands"](#)

"If you sincerely want better relationships, the time for demands, threats and arbitrary deadlines is over — you don't need them," said Chuck Henson, who was appointed as MU's interim vice chancellor for inclusion, diversity and equity following massive campus protests last fall. [The letter](#), written Thursday, was obtained and released by the Columbia Missourian Friday night. Last week, Concerned Student 1950, the activist group that helped [force out MU president Timothy Wolfe](#) last fall, [released a new set of demands](#), which largely reiterates previous commands that have gone unmet. Some of the demands that were emphasized included a call for an "academic bankruptcy program" (essentially letting students void the results of an entire term), an expansion in the number of black faculty and the erection of a statue of 1930s civil rights activist Lloyd Gaines on campus. Many of the demands have explicit deadlines, and the group has emphasized that the school will be made to fulfill them "by any means necessary." [Click to finish reading](#)

#### March 8th ["45 Years After COINTELPRO FBI Continues to Monitor Activists"](#)

"The groups that are being monitored shouldn't surprise anyone who's familiar with the history of the FBI's almost 100-year now war on dissent. It's racial justice groups like the Black Lives Matter movement, it's economic justice groups like the Occupy Wall Street movement, and it is peace and anti-war groups like the School of the Americas Watch, which has for over, I think almost 20 years now, had an annual vigil outside of Fort Benning, Georgia, where the U.S. military trains death squads that go into Latin America and commit horrendous atrocities. We know that this is going on because we've been able to FOIA it. Unlike the activists who had to break into the FBI building to liberate the files, we're now able to file a FOIA request about these different groups, and they send us stuff back sometimes. Of

course, there's always a lot of redactions, and there's always a lot of, you know, pages that are withheld. But from these, from these documents we can get a pretty clear picture of what's going on. Of course, we'd like a clearer picture, which is part of the reason why we need Congress to step in and investigate." This is a video interview that includes a full transcript & a MP3 (audio) options, click here to watch the video & read transcript [click here](#)

### **"Ferguson Solidarity Protesters Fight Charges For Blocking Busy LA Freeway"**

"On November 26, 2014, amid nationwide protests for the non-indictment of Officer Darren Wilson for killing Michael Brown in Ferguson, a group of Black Lives Matter activists coordinated a nonviolent shutdown of the freeway 101 in Los Angeles, California. The protests were a spontaneous reaction, where people rallied to be seen and heard, but more than 300 people were arrested in LA during a four-day period of protests held in solidarity with the uprising in Ferguson. Several of those arrested are seeing their trial begin this week. The trial is now known as BLMLA7. Those standing trial are Povi-Tamu Bryant, Damon Turner, Jas Wade, Todd Harris, Haewon Asfan, Frederisha Dixon, and Rosa Clemente." This is a video interview that includes a full transcript & a MP3 (audio) options, click here to watch the video & read transcript [click here](#)

### **"FBI Agents Under Criminal Investigation in LaVoy Finicum Shooting"**

"Federal officials announced Tuesday that while they justified the shooting of Robert "LaVoy" Finicum when a group of protesters was apprehended in January, FBI agents involved in the encounter are being investigated for firing shots that were not reported.

Finicum, 54, was part of a group of protestors occupying the Malheur Wildlife Refuge headquarters in Burns, Oregon. He was shot and killed on Jan. 26, after the FBI confronted the protestors' vehicle while it was traveling along U.S. Highway 395.

Following an investigation into the shooting by the Justice Department, Malheur County District Attorney Dan Norris said Tuesday that all six of the shots fired by Oregon State Troopers at Finicum were justified." Click [here](#) for the complete story

### **"Resurrecting Campus Activism of the '60s" by Dr. Duke Pesta for The New American**

"Ever since the 1960s, folk music and campus protests have gone together hand in glove. The dulcet harmonies and vapid lyrics of many '60s folk tunes provided the perfect mood music for the

simplicistic tantrums that engulfed American universities during that turbulent decade. Take a nostalgic listen sometime to the cringe-worthy lyrics of such songs as "If I Had a Hammer" and "Big Yellow Taxi" to sample the rather callow spirit of the age. It was tempting to hope that the era of such preening lyrical fluff met its end when John Belushi unceremoniously smashed into a wall the folk singer's guitar in the 1978 movie Animal House, a statement that seemed to punctuate the demise of folk rock the same way that Disco Demolition Night at Chicago's Comiskey Park spelled the end of disco in 1979. And though popular music continues to evolve, not always for the better, the same hackneyed campus discontent continues to flare up from the embers of the self-indulgent sit-ins and hyperbolic demands of 1960s protest culture, as new generations of impressionable students arrive on campus to fuel the flames of social unrest." Read the rest of the [article here](#)

### **March 10<sup>th</sup> "The Limits of Sympathy"**

"We must not think of the poor and the working class, of whatever race, in the abstract. To regard them mere objects of pity is as mistaken as regarding them as mere objects of scorn. That is, to see them as in no way responsible for their fate is the flip side of seeing them as entirely responsible. It is truly despairing to tell a man that he has no agency to change his life, that he is stuck without hope. It is also, in most cases, a lie, and a seductive lie. We on the other side of the class divide may look at poor people — white, black, Hispanic, whatever — and tell ourselves that they got what they deserve; this serves the purpose of relieving us of any sense of responsibility to help. Or, we may look at them and tell ourselves that they are innocent victims; this serves the purpose of relieving them of any sense of responsibility for their own lives. Both instances rob both them and us of human dignity." Read [article here](#)



*"For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another."*

**Galations 5:13**

## *“Vengeance Is Mine; I Will Repay”*

by Bro. M.J. Seymour, Sr.

*“Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.”* (Rom. 12:19-20)

The thing about life is that it is not fair or easy! The longer one lives the more heartache he must endure. When father Adam plunged mankind into sin he initiated the journey of a burdensome life. Even the sons of God are not exempt from the pains of life; sin hounds them every step toward the grave, but that is as far as it is permitted to go. When this long struggling pilgrimage comes to its completed end, the saints are elevated far above the pains of this fleshly life to soak up the glory of the Lord our God in paradise, the resting place of the saints to wait the day of their glorification with the Lamb of God, the King of kings and Lord of lords. Each believer’s survival is dependent upon a clear understanding of the unfairness of life and the hope that lies within us.

God has not given unto His children the liberty of exacting vengeance against the enemies of God. It is essential to comprehend that we must not take evil personally, for all evil is directed against God. We just happen to be available or easily accessible to the hounds of hell and to the children of Satan. Their arms are too short to fight with God, so they target that which is most reachable.

Our Father in the heavens has reserved vengeance against His enemies for Himself, and He promises that He will repay to the uttermost. If the saints would give themselves to the repaying of evil, it would distract them from the kingdom work. The cause of Christ and the exemplifying of nature and character of Jesus are much too important to be set aside because of personal pride and anger. The Father has guaranteed that He will take eternal vengeance upon His enemies. Besides, when the saints return good for evil, it angers the children of hell even more. It is as heaping coals of fire upon their heads. They cannot stand the fact that they cannot lower the saints to their pit of corruption. It is not cowardly; it is faithful obedience. Do not take what belongs to God.

## *“Ahaz Scalia Trump”*

by Bro. Jeff Short



*“For ye were as sheep going astray”* ~ [1 Peter 2:25](#)

Two thousand sixteen is an election year and Christians seem to focus on little else at such times. Twelve years ago I wrote an article that resulted from a study of the Bible to discern what Scriptural directions a Christian has to guide them in making voting decisions. The article was entitled, “The Christian Voter’s Guide.” I received a little feedback from it, including a piece of hate mail in which I was called some ugly names by someone I don’t know and didn’t respond to. It reminded me of the intellectual level of a school yard exchange that includes many, I-know-you-are-but-what-am-I’s. I guess they took their ball and went home because I haven’t heard anything else from them. Oh well, life goes on, time heals all wounds, and all that.

2015 was a peak and plunge kind of year. We were reeling in the summer from the anti-constitutional Supreme Court decision when undercover Planned Parenthood videos began rolling out exposing the most vile and indefensible wickedness in that organization. Thus far the only thing that has resulted has been the indictment, not of Planned Parenthood, but of the investigator responsible for the videos. If we learned nothing else from these things, we know, regardless of the sitting president, we have wickedness in high places.

Racial tensions across the country were also very high, but it gets confusing when we come to the intersection of racial issues and abortion. Though the racist past and present of the abortion industry has been well documented, none or little of the aforementioned tension knocks on the abortionists’ doors. I wonder if we could finally raise civil ire if we would segregate the abortion mills so that you kill the white babies in one building and kill the black babies in a different building. If that ever happened, you could weigh the irony in kilos and sell it legally in some states.

The serious issues facing this country are far too many to list but they come into sharp focus during a major election year. Based on posts, comments, discussions, and the haunted look about the eyes of many Christians it would seem the times are desperate. When things get desperate, otherwise sane men do desperate things.

Once again, we need to look to the Bible and ask if there’s any light for our current situation and upcoming election. Paul said, “For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning” ([Romans 15:4](#)). Considering Israel, He wrote to the

Corinthians: “Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition” ([1 Corinthians 10:11](#)). Peter added concerning the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah: “And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly” ([2 Peter 2:6](#)).

### **King Ahaz**

The Kingdom of Judah experienced their greatest prosperity under the reign of King Uzziah. Unfortunately, their increasing physical prosperity was accompanied by increasing spiritual poverty. Conditions in Judah grew steadily worse under the subsequent reigns of Jotham and Ahaz until they experienced some revival under Hezekiah. The times of these kings were before the Babylonian captivity though they were leading to it.

One of the common complaints against both Israel and Judah in the major and minor prophets was their reliance upon foreign nations to deliver and protect them from their enemies. They were repeatedly rebuked for their desperation and fear rather than trusting in God.

It all came to a head in Ahaz’s reign. The northern Kingdom of Israel had made an alliance with the Kingdom of Syria. Israel had done this to strengthen themselves particularly against the threat of the ascendant Kingdom of Assyria. Israel and Syria sought to bring Judah into their alliance to oppose Assyria. King Ahaz and Judah refused alliance with Israel, which brought aggression on them by the Syro-Israelite alliance. Ahaz became aware of a conspiracy by Israel and Syria to remove him from the throne and put a vassal king in his place that would lead Judah into alliance with them. This plot was certainly satanically motivated as an attempt to destroy the line of David.

Ahaz was so fearful and desperate that he sought alliance with the king of Assyria to help deliver and protect Judah from Israel and Syria. Isaiah 7 records how God sent the prophet Isaiah to King Ahaz to warn him against seeking alliance with Assyria. Ahaz’s mind was already made up. With a choice of two alliances before him, he chose the lesser of two evils in his mind and joined with Assyria. As with all such choices, in the end he was not helped or bettered by it but rather hurt ([2 Chronicles 28:20](#)).

### **Justice Antonin Scalia**

On February 13, 2016 Justice Antonin Scalia died. He was appointed to the Supreme Court by President Ronald Reagan and served on that court from 1986 until his recent death. He was a strict constructionist or textualist. He believed in interpreting the United States Constitution as was originally intended by the framers. He consistently opposed the now dominant view of a “living document” hermeneutic, which cares not for original intent but rather sees meaning evolving over time and changing with conditions. In defense of the textual approach to the Constitution in 1997, Scalia wrote:

The American people have been converted to belief in The Living Constitution, a ‘morphing’ document that means, from age to age, what it ought to mean. And with that conversion has inevitably come the new phenomenon of electing and confirming federal judges, at all levels, on the basis of their views concerning a whole series of proposals for constitutional evolution. If the courts are free to write the Constitution anew, they will, by God, write it the way the majority wants; the appointment and confirmation process will see to that. This, of course, is the end of the Bill of Rights, whose meaning will be committed to the very body it was meant to protect against: the majority. By trying to make the Constitution do everything that needs to be done from age to age, we shall have caused it to do nothing at all.

That sounds like the road to judicial tyranny because it is. We have not yet mourned the loss of Scalia as we ought, but I fear we shall be made to. He wasn’t a perfect man nor a perfect justice. He was a strong influence for good and a key vote on the court. At this point, I figure we are extremely fortunate if we end up getting half the justice he was on the nation’s highest court, but I will continue to breathe.

What does Scalia’s passing represent, if anything, to us? If you ask how we got to our current condition, you will get answers from the four corners. If we go back to Judah, I think we might find an answer that I haven’t yet heard from anyone.

When nations walk in rebellion against God, there are consequences. Judgment comes. After God sent direct reproof to stop trusting in man ([Isaiah 2:22](#)), He warned of the judgment that He would bring on Judah. In [Isaiah 3:1-5](#), He warned He would punish the people by taking away their good leaders and putting incompetent and bad leaders in their place. This would result in increasing oppression and injustice. Political and social conditions would deteriorate and desperation would spread.

The common lament from Christians about elections is that there are no really good candidates to vote for. How often have you heard someone talk about “holding their nose and pulling the lever”? Could it be that we are suffering judgment where the good leaders are being removed and really bad ones being put in their place?

### **Candidate for President of These United States, Donald Trump**

I was somewhat surprised by the Trump candidacy but I have been more surprised to see the support for him from professing evangelical Christians. In the recent South Carolina primary, he won a large number of votes from southern, self-professed Christians. These are conservative southern people on the hip loop of the Bible belt and, having several choices on a ballot, chose Donald Trump.

Almost daily we hear the refrain from more reluctant supporters about how we must choose the lesser of two evils in order to keep

the Democrats out at all cost and since Trump has the best chance to win, we must vote for him. That sounds like desperation.

When Isaiah warned Judah against setting their hope in man, he warned them of judgment coming in one form of removing their good leaders. Isaiah 3 describes their desperation in several ways, but [Isaiah 3:6](#) describes a political desperation where the people are willing to grab hold of anybody if they think it might help in some way. Of course, like with Ahaz's choice of the lesser of two evils, it ended up to their hurt ([Isaiah 3:7-8](#); [30:1-3](#); [36:6](#)).

I have written before about the false dilemma of the lesser of two evils choices and I'm not going to rehash that now. I do want to add a word or two though. Over the last 12 years I have heard repeated accusations by adherents to the prevailing philosophy against those who see their responsibility differently. Anyone who doesn't vote for The One is chided, derided, rebuked, scorned, mocked, unfriended, unfollowed, told they are personally responsible for the condition of this country, and probably more terrible things I haven't heard about.

Is this accusation true, or at least founded on reality? No, it is not. In the 2012 election, Barack Obama received 51.01% of the popular vote. Mitt Romney received 47.15% of the vote. That means that votes for all other candidates combined accounted for less than 2% of the vote. If all of that went to Romney, which it couldn't have for different reasons, he still would have lost. The rationale of the accusation is looking at those results and thinking they are really close so every vote counts. Based on this, they beat up on those with clear consciences for not toeing the line.

This is a massive way of missing the forest for the trees. There is another way to look at it. In 2012 53% of all voters in the election identified as protestant Christians. That number does not include the 25% of voters that were Catholics. Of that 53% Christian voters, 42% or almost half of them voted for Barack Hussein Obama. The surprising part of that whole election was that the candidate that they voted for actually won. According to the lesser of two evils theory I thought it was the candidate you didn't vote for that won. Maybe I'm confused. It seems that the large percentage of professed Christians who are voting "for" liberal candidates are actually the ones responsible for said liberal candidates inhabiting the environs of Pennsylvania Avenue.

If Donald Trump ends up being the next president, it will be to our hurt ([Proverbs 25:19](#)). What are we to do? The same thing Judah was supposed to do. We should not give in to fear and desperation. We should trust God and do what He's actually told us to do and leave the running of the universe to Him.

Many articles & videos have been made to explain the Trump phenomenon and its consequences, here are Five of the best

5. ["The Politics of Magical Thinking"](#)
4. ["What Trumpism Means for Democracy"](#)
3. ["Donald Trump's Policies Are Not Anathema to U.S. Mainstream, but an Uncomfortable Reflection of It"](#)
2. ["Social Justice Warriors Created Donald Trump"](#) video by Julie Boroski
1. ["Republicans Can't Stand Frauds, Except When They Can"](#)  
Now we can focus on the rest of this election cycle.

## **U.S. Elections**

### **February 19th** ["Handicapping South Carolina"](#)

"If you look at the Real Clear Politics chart of the average polls results for South Carolina, you'll see a trend that looks somewhat like what Iowa looked like before the caucus, namely: Trump in the lead but dropping, and Rubio steadily rising. Trump's lead is considerably larger than it was in Iowa pre-caucus, plus he's held that lead in South Carolina far longer, plus South Carolina is a primary rather than a caucus. But the trend lines are still somewhat similar. So: is a similar surprise in the offing? Will Trump significantly underperform his polls? Will Rubio ride positive momentum (and endorsements by much of the state's officialdom) to significantly outperform?" [Read article here](#)

### **March 2<sup>nd</sup>** ["GOP Rep. Thomas Massie: 'I don't think there is a good outcome in 2016'"](#)

Nick Gillespie sat down with the three-term congressman during the International Students for Liberty Conference to discuss the 2016 election, Apple vs. surveillance state, and why "engineers, not politicians" keep him optimistic about the future. This is a video interview, watch [here](#)

### ["It Shouldn't Matter Who the President Is, And it doesn't have to"](#) by Jeffrey Tucker

"Limited government means that, no matter how bad a person is who holds office, he or she lacks the tools necessary to inflict great damage on the population. Under a small government with limited and well-defined powers,

Americans are safer, not because a “good guy” won the election, but because the institutions he or she controls cannot be used as tools of oppression. This is what the old liberals meant when they spoke of “a government of laws and not of men.”

There is a sense, then, that when we talk about how grim the policies of a Trump or Sanders or Rubio or Hillary or whomever would be, we are not getting to the core of the problem. We should not have to worry about the character or ambitions of the person we elect. A good system of government is one that is protected against control by wicked people. It should even be protected against good people who want to use state power to realize noble ideals. Government should be impervious to the personal zeal of its temporary managers.” Read the whole article [here](#)

### March 3rd [“Bernie and Ron”](#)

“Super Tuesday may have been the beginning of the end for the Bernie Sanders campaign, but the ideas that propelled it are likely to linger for quite some time. With some writers comparing Bernie to Ron Paul (not in terms of economics and philosophy, of course, but as insurgent candidates), now seemed like an opportune moment to examine the Sanders message and legacy, and compare it to Ron’s.

Like Ron, Bernie surprised all the pundits with his fundraising, polling, and electoral success. In fact, so successful has Sanders been that Hillary Clinton has been reduced to a pathetic and unconvincing “me, too” campaign – I can be just like Bernie, if that’s what you rubes want!

Bernie has gained a lot of traction from his complaints that Hillary is in the tank for Wall Street and the big banks. He’s likewise pointed to the six-figure honoraria Hillary has earned from speeches given to the big banks.”

### March 8th [“Peña Nieto: “Trump hurts Mexico’s relationship with the US”](#)”

“Mexico’s President, Enrique Peña Nieto said that US presidential candidate Donald Trump’s controversial statements hurt bilateral relations between the two countries.

“I think they hurt a relationship that Mexico has sought with the US , which is one of bridges, dialogue, and seeking solutions to common problem through agreements and shared tasks,” said the president in an interview with El Universal, a Mexican daily.”

## “One Evil, Two Evils, Three Evils, Four”

by Bro. Jeff Short

(continued from the front page)

### Herein lies the problem

I realize that when talking about a card game or dinner party game we’re talking about hypothetical scenarios. In reality we are sitting on a comfortable couch asking each other these questions about *pretend* situations. So I’m just supposed to play along and have fun, but I can’t.

I can’t play along because I refuse to adopt the worldview required by the game, even if only temporarily. The worldview of the game is one where all moral questions are relative, all moral questions are either/or, moral questions do not have real life consequences, and neither God nor His Word exists. The worldview of such a game is the worldview that would ask a man if he had stopped beating his wife and impose on him that he can only respond, “yes”, or “no.” What is that? It’s a false dilemma. Those are not the only choices.

A true, biblical worldview never requires us to choose between two wrongs. A biblical worldview begins with the fear of God, which is the beginning of knowledge and wisdom ([Proverbs 1:7](#)). The book of Proverbs ultimately gives us two ways in everything—the way of wisdom and the way of foolishness. False worldviews continually constrain us to false dilemmas where we must choose one foolishness or the other foolishness.

I grant that situations can be complex and present dilemmas where either way isn’t clearly right or wrong. If we are talking about truly moral dilemmas, then the dilemma is in discerning the right way. But that discernment is by a fixed standard and what is discerned is between what is good and what is evil, not between which evil is less ([Hebrews 5:14](#)).

### Don’t be a loser at the game of life

In real life we are continually confronted with decisions. I’m not talking about deciding what you’re going to order off a menu for lunch, but real moral decisions. Problems come in here when we make moral decisions from a *Scruples* worldview where the dilemma demands we choose either bad or worse.

I was once talking with a man who made his living as a truck driver. He was talking about keeping a phony log of his driving. He used insider lingo for it that I don’t remember now. Truck drivers are required by law to keep a log of their driving and there are legal restrictions on the amount of driving they can do per day. That may be simplistic but it’s the gist.

This man professed to be a Christian and when I asked him about keeping phony books, he looked at me surprised. He said something to this effect: In this business you have to keep a fake set of books or go out of business. While I don't remember his exact words, I do remember the false dilemma he presented. Though he believed in God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, God's infallible Word, God's sovereignty, and other vital Scripture truths, he also believed that in the world of truck driving you had only the choice of operating illegally as a matter of standard procedure or going out of business. As though a biblical worldview held everywhere until you entered the industry of truck driving, and there *Scruples* was the only worldview.

I could give other examples but we need to bring this to a fine point. Jesus is Lord of all, or He is not Lord at all. If Jesus is Lord of all, then that means He is Lord of, well all as it turns out. In everything He reigns supreme and His Word is law. That means the after Christ (Christian) worldview ([Colossians 2:8](#)) is the only true worldview and all others, *Scruples* included, are false ([John 14:6](#)).

Keep this in mind as you go to the voting booth. Is Jesus Lord of the voting booth, or is He kept out by the dour old ladies standing guard with their fully sharpened #2 pencils? If Jesus is Lord of the voting booth, why would we then willingly take on the yoke of *Scruples* bondage and be forced to choose evil? Do you not know we have liberty in Jesus Christ, that we have been made free ([John 8:36](#))? Do not choose evil, but rather choose whom you will serve ([Joshua 24:15](#)).



## *"Commit Into His Hands"*

by Bro. M.J. Seymour, Sr.

***"Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday. Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: ..." (Ps. 37:5-7a)***

The word "commit" has the idea of "to roll over into;" and the word "way" refers to one's course of life. David acknowledges that the sons of God are encompassed in this world by a host of cruel, wicked, evil doers that seek to destroy them. Thus, he encourages them to relinquish control of their destinies by rolling over the course of their lives (flesh and spirit) into God's hands.

The Apostle Paul said this is what he did in writing: ***"for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."*** (II Tim. 1:12) It is an utter impossibility for us to keep ourselves. Even with the best of our efforts, we would make an awful mess of things and would find ourselves shipwrecked upon the deadly reefs. It is far better for us to trust in the sovereign power of our heavenly Father to bring us safely into eternity's harbor. Depend not upon yourself, brethren, for we cannot see what God sees, and we dare not venture into the treacherous dark depths of life without our Captain at the helm. Have confidence that the Father shall surely carry us safely home.

The word "rest" is "to quiet one's self, to keep silent." The thought is for the saints to stop complaining and murmuring about their lot in life. *(I must admit I am guilty!)* As Paul wrote: "study to be quiet," (I Thess. 4:11) We must learn to stop complaining! Stop it in front of the unsaved, for it brings reproach upon the Good Shepherd's care of His sheep. Stop it in front of the saints, for it discourages the lambs. Stop it, because it demoralizes our thoughts and spirits, thus, weakening our faith. Rest in the Lord gives peace in the heart in the midst of chaos. Be still my soul in the Lord!

Paul wrote: ***"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness,"*** (II Tim. 4:7-8a) Paul committed his course of life into the hands of God, and admitted ***"by the grace of God I am what I am:"*** (I Cor. 15:10) Arrogant stubbornness impedes a restful course of life; quiet submissiveness enhances the course of faith.

## **"The True Meaning Of Easter"**

by Bro. Curtis Pugh

Easter is one of the biggest celebrations in Christendom. This day, it is claimed, celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. But we have questions. Did God anywhere in the Bible command us to keep this annual day? Do we have God's instructions as to how it is to be observed? Did the apostles observe such a celebration? Just when was this day first celebrated and by whom? Who decided that the day is to be observed in churches?

The word "Easter" appears only once in our King James Bibles. If you have a complete KJV Bible check the marginal note. It proves that the original word is "pascha" or "Passover." This Greek word is found 29 times in the Bible. In 28 of those times it is rightly translated "Passover" and refers to the Jewish annual feast that commemorated the passing over of the death angel. Why did the King James translators use a different word? They were following the rules for translation commanded them by King James. They were to keep the old church words passed down from their mother church. Some of these words they kept were "church," "cross," "baptize," "bishop," "presbytery," etc. The fact is, God never mentioned the word "Easter" in His Bible. It was the translators who substituted that word for their own reasons – not for any sound principle of translation.

The name "Easter" actually comes from the name "Ishtar" who was an ancient fertility goddess worshiped by the Gentile neighbors of the Jews. Ever wonder what bunnies, baby chicks and eggs have to do with the resurrection of Christ? Absolutely nothing! But they are fertility symbols associated with this ancient idolatry.

Consider this Bible principle: "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey..." (Romans 6:16). Simple, is it not? We are the servants of whom we obey! Since the Bible has not told us to observe this pagan day and since we have no apostolic example of any first century Christians observing it, it is an innovation – something newly brought in. Applied to Easter, this principle means that if we observe this celebration we are not obeying God. We must be obeying someone else. It is the Pope and his religious organization that ordered the observance of this day. So if you observe Easter, you are obeying the Pope.

Just as you know what pleases you better than anyone else, so it is with God. Do those who observe Easter think that they know better what will please God better than He does? If He had wanted His children to observe the day, would He not have told us to keep it and just how He wanted it kept? Jesus said, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth," (John 4:24). Truth matters! God cannot be worshiped with pagan lies! "Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry," (1 Corinthians 10:14).

## **Misc. Things We Think You Ought To Know**

### **February 24th "Mexico Arms Itself To the Teeth to Fight the Drug War"**

"The Mexican government has increased its weaponry in order to wage its war against drug trafficking, a Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) study concludes.

The report states that, in the last five years, Mexico has quadrupled its imports of heavy weapons compared to the period between 2006 and 2010. According to estimates, 100,000 people have been killed in the last 10 years in Mexico's drug war." [Click to finish](#) reading

### **March 3rd "The U.S. just sent a carrier strike group to confront China" from Defense News**

"The U.S. Navy has dispatched a small armada to the South China Sea.

The carrier John C. Stennis, two destroyers, two cruisers and the 7th Fleet flagship have sailed into the disputed waters in recent days, according to military officials. The carrier strike group is the latest show of force in the tense region, with the U.S. asserting that China is militarizing the region to guard its excessive territorial claims.

Stennis is joined in the region by the cruisers Antietam and Mobile Bay, and the destroyers Chung-Hoon and Stockdale. The command ship Blue Ridge, the floating headquarters of the Japan-based 7th Fleet, is also in the area, en route to a port visit in the Philippines. Stennis deployed from Washington state on Jan. 15." [Click](#) to finish reading

### **March 9th "No #OpISIS? Twitter shuts down Anonymous accounts 'for harassing' extremists"**

"Online activists involved in the #OpISIS campaign to rid social media of an Islamic extremist presence say Twitter has been suspending their accounts for online harassment against the terrorist group.

An Anonymous hacker made the claims after [Twitter](#) said it suspended 125,000 accounts for "threatening or promoting terrorist acts, primarily related to ISIS" since mid-2015." [Click](#) to finish reading

### **"Second Amendment: Only Exists When It's Destroyed"**

Opinion piece by Josh Tolley

"Let's assume for a second that tyranny was going to raise its head in the land of the free. What is the first right that would be



stripped, the right for you to protect yourself! So if that right is gone, then do you still have a right to protect yourself? Of course you do, your right to protect yourself is unalienable, meaning no human has the ability to give it to you, and no human has the ability to take it away.

So what is the point of the amendment then?!

If you own a gun, are you exercising your second amendment rights? NO. You are a gun owner. The second amendment doesn't talk about you having the ability to own a gun, that is a given. The 2nd amendment tells the government that it cannot try to take away that "given." [Click to finish reading](#)

## **The Environment & Climate Change**

### **February 9th ["Victims of the Federal Bootprint"](#)**

"America's farmers and ranchers, the people who grow the food that magically appears on our grocery store shelves, are under siege. Like swarms of locusts, federal regulators from the EPA, BLM, USFS, etc. are driving these hardworking producers who feed America into the ground. A relentless bombardment of threats, fines, regulatory takings, lawsuits, and other means of perpetual harassment is killing what remains of our family-owned farms. It is not only America's food supply that is imperiled by this onslaught; equally important (if not more so) is the threat that these rogue federal regulators pose to justice, to the rule of law, to the very idea of limited government, and to the freedom of each and every one of us. The profiles of the victims provided here represent only a tiny sample of the thousands of our fellow citizens who have heroically fought, or are currently fighting, against a federal leviathan that is trampling their rights and taking their property."

### **February 12th ["U.S. Science Teachers Disregard Unproven Global-warming Theory"](#)**

"Much to the dismay of the global-warming lobby, a recent survey of 1,500 public middle-school and high-school science teachers from all 50 states revealed that only 30 percent of middle school and 45 percent of high-school teachers think that global warming is caused mostly by human activities. The study showed that about 15 percent believe climate change is "mostly driven by natural causes," while another 15 percent think "human and natural causes are equally important."

The study was conducted by Penn State and the National Center for Science Education and was reported in the February 12, 2016 issue of Science, a journal published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

The language used in both Science and other publications reporting on the study, including International Business Times, Pacific Standard, the Huffington Post, the Washington Post, the Ottawa Sun, and Slate, were quick to condemn the teachers surveyed. The publicans asserted that the teachers "disseminate incorrect information," they have "an insufficient grasp of the science of climate change," are "conveying messages that are contradictory," and that "their insufficient grasp of the science may hinder effective teaching."

### **["UN "Climate" Deal in Jeopardy After Court Blocks Obama Decrees"](#)**

"The United Nations "climate" regime negotiated in Paris last year could be dead in the water before the pseudo-treaty underpinning it is even formally signed in April at UN headquarters. That is because the U.S. Supreme Court this week, in a potentially devastating setback to the UN and Obama, temporarily blocked the centerpiece of the White House's global-warming agenda, the so-called Clean Power Plan. The administration scheme, which sought to regulate emissions of the "gas of life," was imposed by executive decree, leading countless experts to point out that Obama's agenda was on thin ice at best. Now, with the Supreme Court taking the "unprecedented" step of overruling a lower court to block a regulation, the Obama administration's imperial "climate" decrees are in limbo — along with the UN pseudo-treaty the edicts help underpin. The decision came in response to a lawsuit by 29 states and a wide array of other plaintiffs. Multiple other avenues are being pursued to rein in the administration as well. But the high court dealt the most devastating blow to the plan so far, even though the monkey wrench may potentially be only temporary."

### **February 24th ["Four Billion People Experience Water Scarcity"](#)**

"A half a billion people around the world experience severe freshwater scarcity all year round, while 4 billion people on the planet currently experience freshwater scarcity at least one month of the year, says a new study. With us to discuss these staggering new numbers is one of the authors of the benchmark study that is titled Four Billion People Facing Severe Water Scarcity by Arjen Hoekstra and his coauthor Mesfin Mekonnen. Arjen Hoekstra is professor in water management at the University of Twente in the Netherlands. His latest book is titled The Water Footprint of Modern Consumer Society. It explores the full water footprint of consumer goods." This is a video interview that includes a full transcript & a MP3 (audio) options, [click here to watch the video & read transcript](#)

### **March 8th "Global Warming Satellite Data Gets Suspicious Makeover"**

"Facing an accelerating implosion of faith in the anthropogenic (man-made) global warming (AGW) theory due in part to satellite data showing more than 18 years of no warming — the great “pause” or “hiatus,” as some put it — one of the satellite data sets has now been adjusted to show a slight increase in temperatures over the last two decades. Global-warming theorists on the government dole celebrated the news, speculating that it might herald the end of skepticism over their controversial theory and even what particularly rabid warmists refer to as “climate denial.” However, experts and scientists warned climate alarmists to cool it — especially because the “adjusted” data is now significantly different than other, unmanipulated temperature data sets. There appear to be big problems with the adjustments, too, experts in satellite temperature data said.

The adjusted data set in question comes from Remote Sensing Systems (RSS), satellites put into orbit by NASA but now overseen by chief RSS climate scientist Carl Mears in Santa Rosa, California. The new numbers, which were recently adjusted, purport to show about 0.125 degrees Celsius of warming every 10 years. That is radically more than the 0.078 Celsius per decade — a statistically insignificant figure — that the RSS data set showed before being “adjusted.” The new numbers from RSS also show radically higher temperature increases than other satellite data, such as the numbers from the University of Alabama at Huntsville's data set (UAH). Examining the alleged warming over the tropics, for example, the new adjusted RSS data shows a rate of warming almost five times larger than UAH data, analysts said."

### **March 9th "'Miracle Technology' Isn't Needed to Stop Climate Change"**

"When I talk to some big capitalists, big investors, and I ask them, how come you guys aren't going nuts about climate change? In the short term I can understand, you can make more money somewhere else. But aren't you worried about, you know, we're not even talking that long-term anymore about the consequences. We're already seeing consequences. Aren't you worried about it? And often I hear the answer, you know, when it's needed, some new technology is going to come. And really, we don't really have to change all that much, because we always have this power of invention, and we will figure out a technology that solves it. And until then there's really no reason to do very much about it. Well, that's not what scientists are saying, but it's also not necessarily what needs to be done or what's possible. It may be

that we can—lots we can do without waiting for new technology. So now talking to someone who thinks we need to get started now and can get started now, and that's Bob Pollin, who's joining us in the studio." This is a video interview that includes a full transcript & a MP3 (audio) options, click here to watch the video & read transcript

### **"Climate Change: What Does Science Really Say?"**

"To call any aspect of the climate change orthodoxy into question is to risk being condemned as “anti-science.” But are the arguments and computer models of the so-called mainstream really so rock solid?" Audio interview of Chip Knappenberger assistant director of the Center for the Study of Science at the Cato Institute by Tom Woods click here to listen

### **"Indigenous Tribes in Peru Seize Helicopter over Oil Spill"**

"The men from the Air Force are not being held captive. They are simply being prevented from raising flight. The situation is fully under control, “said Chuquipiondo after requesting that the Government accelerate the cleanup of more than 2,000 barrels of oil spilled left more than 5,000 people affected and 243 wounded in the Amazonas and Loreto region of Peru.

On the other hand, Germán Velásquez, the President of Petroperu, the state oil company, reported that the tribesmen also detained three oil company officials, four environmental care workers employed by the state and a representative of the Energy and Mines Ministry."

## Historical Marker:

### *"Pirum"*

by Sis. Elizabeth Works

The book of Esther stands out for a number of reasons. While a believer can read the book and see God's mercy, grace, and faithfulness to His people, He is never actually named in the book. The book of Esther is the historical record of the dramatic events that displays God's people living in servitude in the pagan nation of Persia as punishment for their idolatry to God's word. In it we see the trials and tribulations of Esther and her older cousin, Mordecai. Mordecai in particular is an example of humble civil obedience, while retaining his integrity and obedience to God. He refuses to bow down to Hamman, but was loyal to the king and revealed a plot to assassinate him. When the King's decree was sent out that was planned by Hamman for the complete destruction of the Jewish people, Mordecai grieved, but

was not hopeless. Mordecai knew God's covenant with Abraham's seed and had faith that a deliverance would come. Mordecai did not know with certainty how God would work out all of the events or whose life would be spared, but he trusted in God and implored Esther to do what was right regardless of the risk to herself. Mordecai warned the Queen that she would not find safety in her position, but rather God would use other means.

Esther showed obedience to Mordecai, her cousin that had raised her, even though she was an adult and Queen. She hearkened to his warnings and requested his prayers as she prepared to go before the King. According to the Persian law, going to the king without his summons she could be put to death on the spot. When the king saw Esther, he extended his scepter, a sign that she was to be spared punishment.

Through these events God did use Mordecai and Esther to protect the children of Israel. God's chosen people scattered throughout the Persian Empire had been targeted by Haman who'd devised an appointed day for their destruction. However, God turned the tables and instead made that appointed day one of vindication for his people. Vindication comes from Latin and is connected to Roman law terminology. To be proven innocent, the legal regaining of possession, or to assert one's right to possessions and defend against opposition. This particular day of vindication is one that is celebrated today by Jewish people around the world.

*“On the thirteenth day of the month Adar; and on the fourteenth day of the same rested they, and made it a day of feasting and gladness.*

*But the Jews that were at Shushan assembled together on the thirteenth day thereof, and on the fourteenth thereof; and on the fifteenth day of the same they rested, and made it a day of feasting and gladness.*

*Therefore the Jews of the villages, that dwelt in the unwalled towns, made the fourteenth day of the month Adar a day of gladness and feasting, and a good day, and of sending portions one to another.*

*And Mordecai wrote these things, and sent letters unto all the Jews that were in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, both nigh and far,*

*To stablish this among them, that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar, and the fifteenth day of the same, yearly,*

*As the days wherein the Jews rested from their enemies, and the month which was turned unto them from sorrow to joy, and from mourning into a good day: that they should make them days of*

*feasting and joy, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor.*

*And the Jews undertook to do as they had begun, and as Mordecai had written unto them;*

*Because Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had devised against the Jews to destroy them, and had cast Pur, that is, the lot, to consume them, and to destroy them;*

*But when Esther came before the king, he commanded by letters that his wicked device, which he devised against the Jews, should return upon his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows.*

*Wherefore they called these days Purim after the name of Pur. Therefore for all the words of this letter, and of that which they had seen concerning this matter, and which had come unto them,*

*The Jews ordained, and took upon them, and upon their seed, and upon all such as joined themselves unto them, so as it should not fail, that they would keep these two days according to their writing, and according to their appointed time every year;*

*And that these days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation, every family, every province, and every city; and that these days of Purim should not fail from among the Jews, nor the memorial of them perish from their seed.” Esther 9:17-28*

The world will often look at Christians who are struggling in any arena in their life (financial, family, etc.) and use this as a bases to ridicule their faith and deny God. However, God never promised His people a plush lifestyle void of sorrow, struggle, and persecution. On the contrary, we are told clearly by Jesus Christ in John 15 that the world will hate us and persecute us, and promised the Holy Spirit as our comforter. The last portion of Romans 8 lists every kind of calamity that could befall us in this life time, yet we are still declared to be “*more than conquerors through him that loved us.*”

This year, Purim 2016 begins at sunset on Wednesday, March 23, and ends on Thursday evening, March 24. As gentile believers in the salvation of Jesus Christ we are not obligated to partake in these celebrations. However, this date should be noted as a reminder of the great things God has done and the lessons that are exemplified in the book of Esther; Obedience to God no matter our country's morality, respect and obedience to the words of our elders, grieving without hopelessness, God's full control of all things, God's mercy to His elect, God's Faithfulness to bring about all of His promises.

A day of judgment is coming, only God's people who are covered by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ will be vindicated. “*Being*

*justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:*

*Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;" Romans 3:24-25*

## *"Two Classes Of Extreme Anger"*

by Bro. Curtis Pugh



Extreme anger is often called wrath in the Bible. Anger often motivates humans to say and do hurtful things to others. Sometimes it even leads to murder and other horrendous crimes.

The Bible says: "Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain," (Psalm 76:10). We notice in this verse that the two statements made are both sure and certain. "Surely" is the first word. Used here it tells us there is no doubt about the matter. The teaching of this verse is sure and settled.

The first statement tells us that man's wrath is not out of God's control. God allows extreme anger at times and places that suit Him and His purpose. Even the cruel and bloody murder of Christ happened because God determined beforehand to allow men to commit this sin. It suited His purpose. The Bible speaks of Christ and His murderers saying, "Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain," (Acts 2:23). And again in Acts 4:27-29 we read these words addressed to God in prayer: "For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done." We may be certain that God allows extreme anger if it accomplishes His purpose. It is sometimes permitted for good. This is true of all evil, both natural evil and moral evil.

The second statement is this: "the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain." Any and all of the extreme anger of men that does not suit God's purpose is kept from happening by Almighty God. He sometimes restrains the creature's anger for good. This statement is also true of all evil, both natural and moral evil. By natural evil we mean diseases, earthquakes, tornadoes, famines, plagues and such things. God says, "...shall there be evil in a city, and the LORD hath not done it?" (Amos 3:6). God does not cause moral

evil, but does send and allow bad things to happen in the natural realm just as He allows sin.

From our text: "Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain," we are told anew what is demonstrated throughout the Bible – and that is this great truth: God is in absolute control of all things and all beings. He always has been and always shall be. We may be sure that if God is not in control of all things, He is not really in control of anything. No created being can do anything or cause anything to be done that the Creator has not by His "determinate counsel" planned and permitted. Men do "whatsoever" God's hand and "counsel determined before to be done." We may have absolute confidence in God who has all things in His absolute control.

## *"Deceitful Hearts"*

by Bro. Wm. Doyal Thomas

**"Thus saith the Lord; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord. For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited. Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit. The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings." (Jeremiah 17:5-10).**

There is an awesome matter before us today, and every day it continues, and will continue so long as we dwell in mortal flesh. And that matter concerns the heart. It concerns the depraved nature of the heart. It concerns the deceit that lurks within the heart of sinful man. We cannot cast it out, nor can we hope to reform it so as to alter its nature. We may, to some degree, restrain, but we cannot reform.

I call your attention to verse 9 of the reading from Jeremiah, chapter 17, and ask that you prayerfully enter into a concentrated study of the text within the context of what is recorded. **"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"** This text will occupy our thoughts as we seek to examine the great truths that God presents to His people. May we be taught. May we examine.

One other text comes to our minds, which is also connected with what we seek to declare to you during the course of this message. Look to chapter 14 of the same writing: "**Then the Lord said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart**" (Jeremiah 14:14).

I stand firmly convinced that the heart is deceitful. I stand firmly convinced that the heart is deceitful above all things. I stand firmly convinced that the heart is deceitful above all things, and that none can know it so as to understand, nor exercise sufficient control over it.

Yet, I must speak to myself, and to each of you who hear or read these words, what I consider to be a heavenly dictated maxim. And that is, "Know thyself." God's word enjoins us to consider our circumstances, and our state. Not only what is our condition, but also what is our nature. Not only what is our conduct, but more vitally, what is our character.

It has been reported that John Bunyan said, of himself, that he often prayed that God forgive his sins. But, he then declared that when he, John Bunyan, was permitted and caused to see himself as God saw him, his prayers then became, "Lord, forgive me for being sin". Not only for sinning, but for being sin. And so it is with every one who is so brought to look at themselves as they ought, and to "know thyself". May we all be so brought.

Whatever knowledge we may possess in matters of the things around us, the world and all its many and varied subjects, the universe and all its myriad arrangements, is of little real value to us if we do not know ourselves. Whatever knowledge of these things we might strive to attain throughout the entire span of our lifetime will avail us nothing if we pass through that span being destitute of any real knowledge of ourselves. For without knowledge of ourselves, we will never be made to see our need to know God. The apostle Paul wrote, "**What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.**" (Romans 7:7).

Paul said, "... **I had not known sin** ...". Did he say, or did he imply when he thus wrote that he was not infected by sin, when he conducted himself as he said that he did? Did he say that while he lived most manifestly as a "Pharisee of the Pharisees", that he was not then a sinner? If he was not then a sinner, when did he become a sinner?

No, dear ones, he did not say that he was not a sinner. What he said was that he did not know that he was a sinner. He did, not know himself to be what in actuality he was. He had a totally misguided opinion of himself, for he said concerning his life then as Saul, that, "**I verily thought with myself that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.**" (Acts 26:9).

But take note of this same one, who, following a work of grace having been performed on his heart, made this resounding statement concerning himself. "**This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.**" (I Timothy 1:15).

Paul said of himself that he was before, "... **a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.**" (I Timothy 1:13). He, previous to this transaction by God in his behalf, was ignorant of his condition, and while in that awful state, went about doing those things that were injurious to God's people and to His cause. His heart was so deceitful until it had convinced this highly religious man that he was doing God service, when in reality, he was a blasphemer and a rebel against the God whom he thought he was faithfully serving. How deceitful was his heart?

Dear reader, ignorance of ourselves is a willful blindness, for which we cannot plead extenuations. Men who do not know themselves and their state of blindness are in that deplorable condition because of sin. And sin was willful on Adam's part, and consequently on all our parts, for we sinned when Adam sinned, and are fully responsible before God for our sins. "... **Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it ...**" (Genesis 3:17). Did Adam willfully sin?

Ignorance of ourselves is willful. "**Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.**" (Romans 1:19,20). "**Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willing are ignorant of, ...**" (II Peter 3:3-5).

Ignorance of ourselves likens us to a traveler who prefers to go on in the darkness with all its attendant dangers to the journey being taken in the fullness of light. To grope in darkness is to be desired over moving in light? How foolish is the darkened heart of man?

God's word is the only resource which is available to us so that we can find the way. God's Spirit is the only source of enablement that we have for the self-examination that we all need so that we can "know ourselves", as we must be brought to do in order to know of the deceitfulness of our own hearts; and then be brought to lean not upon our own arm of fleshly strength, but instead upon Him who is our Strength.

God's word is our resource. It is our only sure haven of safe harbor. It is our only light to enable our journey to be taken in full illumination; in full safety. "**Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.**" (Psalms 119:105). "**For the word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**" (Hebrews 4:12). Note that God's word is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart!

The text that we have presented to initiate this look into ourselves gives us a fearful, yet most accurate and revealing picture of ourselves. It also shows forth in vivid and unequivocal

terms the moral condition of the soul. **"The heart is deceitful ..."** Thus, our subject can be seen as the spiritual anatomy of the heart, and we most surely need to carefully examine ourselves in light of this declaration that God has made concerning the condition of our hearts.

First, let us verify the great and grand truths of this text. Then, we will seek to picture these truths so as to place the deceitful hearts on open display. And finally, we will seek to apply the truths of this text so as to be benefited in our lives, and to magnify the grace of God in living those lives as pleasing Him.

**Verification of Truths** When we begin to analyze what is told us in the text, we discover that what is said of the heart actually relates to the whole soul, to the entire mental man. In this analysis, we see that included here in this overall statement is the understanding, the judgment, the conscience, the will, the passion, and all other faculties of man, without exception. We see the depravity of man described when the heart is opened to view.

Man's understanding is darkened. **"This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart ..."** (Ephesians 4:17,18). Note that the believing Gentiles in the Lord's church were not to walk, or conduct themselves, as other, unbelieving, unregenerate Gentiles walk, in the vanity (emptiness) of their darkened minds, and this due to the fact that their hearts were blinded.

Man's judgment is impaired. When Adam rebelled against God, and sinned against His Holiness, what did he then do? The inspired record bears out that he exercised his judgment as to what he imagined he ought to do under these circumstances, and did exactly opposite what sound judgment would dictate. Instead of fleeing to God so as to seek His forgiveness and corrective action, he fled from God and sought to undertake for himself. Was his judgment impaired? His actions say so. What about those fig leaf aprons he fashioned? What about his seeking to hide himself from God?

Man's will is alienated from God. To captive Israel God said, **"Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye."** (Ezekiel 18:31,32). To His own people, God has frequently spoken that they might be instructed in the ways that please Him. Yet, because of their sin and the consequences of their sin, their darkened hearts and demented wills remain at odds with Him. Their will is toward themselves and their ambitions, and is contrary to His will.

**To Israel also the Lord Jesus Christ said, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not." (John 1:11). "And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life." (John 5:40).**

It seems to be needful as we proceed in this examination of our

deceitful hearts, and the abject wickedness that these hearts exhibit to take a moment and look at the words "deceitful" and "wicked", since these two words have been chosen by the Holy Spirit to describe the heart of sinful man, as He superintended the writing of the Bible.

The term, deceitful, literally means crooked, perverse, and totally lacking in conformity to that which is right, both as right pertains to rule, and to action. Crooked means tricky, as regards conduct; not to be trusted; dishonest. Perverse means turned aside; distorted from the right; obstinate in the wrong; disposed to be contrary.

The term, deceitful, also means that what goes forth is false and fraudulent, both as to motive and intent. False signifying all that is not truth, and fraudulent signifying that the falseness is motivated by a deceitful intent to defraud, or to do, or cause evil to ensue. It is a monstrous display of self-will seeking to assert itself at whatever cost that may be incurred. In the case of rebellion against God, the cost to be borne is the cost of condemnation, resulting in separation from God. What an awesome cost this is. And yet man insists upon his own way, even when these costs result. Folly!

The term, wicked, signifies corrupt, criminal, and totally given over to evil. It means, evil in principle and in practice; deviating from, or contrary to moral or divine law; addicted to vice; sinful; immoral; depraved; vicious. This description is of the heart. It is deceitful. It is wicked.

Now, as we seek to verify the truths of this text, we will do so by presenting to you such evidence as cannot be denied nor successfully gainsayed. We will prove conclusively what the text declares. We will call forth the testimony of Scripture. We will call forth from the history of wicked men. And we will present also the record of the weakness and sins of those men who are generally regarded as "good men".

First, we declare that the statements that God has made concerning men of old time are true, even today, as they were true when God spoke them. **"And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." (Genesis 6:5).** Jesus testified of the same truth when He said, **"But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man." (Matthew 15:18-20).**

Scripture likens man's deceitful heart to a cage of unclean birds, and to a corrupt fountain, and to a bad tree that can bring forth no good fruit. Scripture declares that the heart is not right with God, that the heart is forward to evil, that it is full of evil imaginings, that it is full of hypocrisy, etc., etc. The heart is said to be hard, impenitent, perverse, rebellious, and set to do evil.

Then, we will call upon recorded history from the Scriptures, from man's recorded history, and from contemporary knowledge that the life and conduct of wicked men will verify the truths of the text into which we are looking as we seek to examine ourselves, to "know ourselves". Without going into great depths

of detail, I will call your attention to some whom God has been pleased to tell us of. As we call your mind to these, I ask you to look into the Scriptures so that the record may be verified; so that the truths of the text may be verified and established in our minds.

Examine the scriptural account of Cain. Did he exhibit a wicked, rebellious heart? Did he bring forth, in faith, a suitable and acceptable sacrifice? Did he? Why didn't he? Was his heart deceitful and wicked? Did not his sinful nature show itself when his heart convinced him that surely the best that his hands could produce would find favor when he presented the produce of his fields and of his labor?

Look also to Pharaoh. Did not his heart lead him to continuously defy God and insist upon his imagined mastery of his own destiny? Did he not openly and flagrantly pronounce his independence from the God of the Hebrews? In fact, the heart of sinful Pharaoh manifested itself in all its grotesque arrogance when from the abundant evil that lurked in the deepest recesses of his depraved heart, his mouth was led to issue forth this terribly blasphemous statement: "...**Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go.**" (Exodus 5:2). From the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaketh. And so, from the abundant wickedness of Pharaoh's heart, his mouth spoke.

Look also to the wicked inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah. Look to the envious, sensual inhabitants of those cities as they sought to promote their "alternate life style", and to walk totally contrary to principle and practice of both divine order and moral precept. From the abundance of their wicked hearts, having been fed by the deceit from within, their mouths spoke, and their wicked and sinful lives defied God and His prescribed ways. And so it is, even to this dreadful day. Nothing is different.

Look to Judas, to Pilate, to Saul, and to numerous others whose miserable lives are set forth for our examination in the Scriptures. In each of their cases, we may correctly view the outpouring of evil that dwelled within their darkened, depraved hearts. We may even be caused to wonder at God's willingness to tolerate such enmity against Himself as is so clearly exhibited by these, and other monsters who have lived while they so openly defied the God who rules supremely over all His creation. "**What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction:**" (Romans 9:22).

And what of wicked men of our age, even of our day? What of Adolph Hitler? What of Saddam Hussein? What of Jeffrey Dahmer? What of wicked men of every age, innumerable in number, but alike in their character? What of sodomites today? What of wickedness of every stripe and species that runs rampant in the societies of the entire world today? What of sinful man in total?

In these wicked men that we have named specifically, and those we have generally identified or alluded to, can we not see what man can become. Can we not see how vile, wicked, and terrible men in their depravity may become?

As further study into the lives of men that are generally identified as "good men", as opposed to the adamantly wicked

men that we have been viewing will reveal, we see evidence that substantiates what we have said. From the so-called worst to the best of men, and from the lowest to the highest of men, we find conclusive proof, when the facts are verified, that tell us of man's deceitful heart.

Look at Noah as an example of what we are saying. Here is a man who has been commended by his exemplary life. Here is a man who is said to be one who found grace in the eyes of the Lord, and whose life, generally, is a life that was found to be pleasing unto the Lord. And yet, because of excesses, he is also seen as being clothed in shame, as drunkenness are displayed. And this conduct from Noah, whom God set apart from all other men, and was pleased to save he and his family when judgment came upon men.

Look at Lot. A man who is said to possess a righteous soul. A man who, being one of God's men, yet goes after the allurements and benefits, though fleeting, of the world. Lot looked upon the well watered plain and chose him that way and that place in which to live, not giving proper regard to what would please the Lord. He looked. He chose. His choice being influenced by the deceitful testimony of his own heart. Many today do likewise. They look, and choose, without regard for what God would have them do.

Look at Jacob. Here is a man chosen of God to an exalted position. Yet, by fraud he robs his brother of the natural birthright, and by deceit he tricks his father into the bestowal of blessing. Jacob is a cunning and sly one. His heart led him to conspire and to act as he did. But so are many of us and of our contemporaries.

And we could go on, but space and time are limitations upon our look. So, we just call your attention to the names of others, and ask you to consider their lives so that you will be able to affirm that what we are saying is true. Look at Moses, and Aaron, and David, and Solomon, and Peter, and you and I. Oh, to our shame, we too are included, the evidence is in. We too have deceitful hearts!

As we continue the examination of our hearts, so that we can better know ourselves, we see the truths of this text illustrated as our deceitful hearts are displayed. We would not want to admit to their depravity, but we find no avenue open to us that allows us to escape the truth. The picture is too clearly drawn for further evasion, and we are left to the stark reality that confronts us.

Our deceitful hearts must be viewed and acknowledged. We must see them as they present a picture of ourselves. Oh, how often are we deceived as our hearts flatter us by representing our state as being better than it actually is. How often we are led to imagine that all is well with us while all the time we are being further drugged by the opium of conceit and self pride.

We might admit to ourselves that the general wickedness that is all around us has some vague but remote effect upon us and upon our actions. We might even concede to the weakness and feebleness that infects all of mankind. But we are so unwilling to even discuss our own personal sinfulness in any great detail. We are reluctant to even consider that our specific sins can be truly ours. Always someone else's. But surely not ours. We try to be

examined and judged by the more favorable aspects of our character. We strive to magnify the benevolent and kind acts that we may perform, and to totally ignore, or at least to minimize, our short-comings and our failures.

Have you ever read a person's autobiography? I surely can not place each and every person's account of their lives into this exact mold, but generally, it can be said that man's account of himself reflects the same appraisals as he would give of himself were he to be asked. There are, of course, some exceptions. But as a rule, the autobiography of a person majors on good, while minimizing bad.

Then too, our hearts often deceive us by providing for us a veritable endless supply of excuses and extenuations for our particular sins. Our hearts plead as a cover-up for our constitution, that is, our physiological and psychological make up to always give us a way out, an escape path so as to avoid responsibility. And so it is also with our education, or our examples, or the general influences by our environmental surroundings.

It is so evident that sin and evil always finds other people, other things, other times, or other circumstances to place the blame for our sins upon. And it is our own deceitful hearts that conceive these excuses. We are mortally infected with this malady.

Our hearts so often prevent us from any in-depth consideration of the consequences for our sins. It is as if our consciences have literally been seared over with a hot iron, so as to eradicate any sensitivity. This opium effect causes our hearts to shut out from our view the certainty of death and judgment, and of eternity and loss. It even can cause God's people to imagine that there is no chastening hand of the Lord to be feared.

The inducement to put off until some other time the needed repentance and striving toward a corrective manner of life comes also from within the depths of our hearts. And yet the Scriptures teach the necessity of the repentance that we seek to delay or to avoid. There is no way out. We cannot escape. God requires men everywhere to repent. The lost are commanded to repent. The saved are commanded to repent. The Lord's churches are commanded to repent. But our hearts tell us, not now. Sometime, but not now.

The deceitfulness of our hearts are also shown when we consider our thoughts and our actions toward other men. Are there those who read these words who would dare to submit himself and his life to the test of permitting and inviting another man to take a long, searching, revealing look into his heart? Would you, or I, ask that every sin, overt or covert, be placed on public display, enumerated, labeled, and in every way, made known to others? Would you, or I, consent to the drawing back of the curtain that conceals from view our innermost thoughts?

**"Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill: and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say,**

**Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire." (Matthew 5:21-22). "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." (Matthew 5:27-28).**

Then, the deceitfulness of our hearts is shown when we consider our thoughts and actions toward God. As we take a correct and careful look at our heart dictated thoughts and actions toward God, we are found to be displaying utter and complete madness. To be, and to act deceitful toward God is the utmost folly.

So often we present to Him mere external service. In our foolishness, we present to Him our lips, our hands, our feet, our knees; even our PROFESSIONS. But, the spirit, the heart, the lowliness, the humility, the dedication, the DUTY are so frequently lacking. **"This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me." (Matthew 15:8). "And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness." (Ezekiel 33:31). "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46).**

When we confess our sins, and follow with a vow of abandonment of those sins, and then persist in those same sins as if we had not confessed and vowed at all, we are so clearly demonstrating that our hearts are still filled with deceit and evil. Oh, dear one, please look carefully at your life! Please seek grace daily so as to be enabled to acknowledge and confess your sins, and then to come away from them. It is pleasing to God when we do so. It is folly on our part not to do so.

Our hearts also are shown in their true colors when we plead God's grace at the expense of His justice and His righteousness. We foolishly imagine that because **"where sin abounds, grace does much more abound"**, is an excuse to be claimed by us each time we sin. But, hear the Scriptures: **"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" (Romans 6:1,2).**

When we expect God's mercy, even when we are daily refusing His mercy, we are demonstrating the deceit that lies within our own hearts. **"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (I John 1:8,9).** We do not keep short accounts with God. We do not confess our sins as we should, thus the chastening hand of God is upon us, and will not be restrained. May we see our need, and act accordingly.

Just how deceitful is the heart of man? The text has declared, **"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"** How deceitful is the heart?



Superlatively deceitful! Deceitful above all things. There is nothing more deceitful than the heart of man. It is the epitome of deceitfulness, and has no peer.

The Scriptures announce, and confirm, that Satan is a deceiver. But, the heart, acting under the influence of evil, sins, even against the greatest love that any creature could know. For God's people, who are, and have eternally been the objects of God's love, sin against Him. This cannot be said of Satan; of the fallen angels; of the reprobate; nor of any other creature. God's love has never been upon these. But it is, and has always been upon God's elect, even when they were alien sinners. **"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved);" (Ephesians 2:4,5).**

Because Satan introduced sin to man, and is the originator of it, it is assumed by some that he is the continuing cause of it. But this is not the case. When Adam willfully sinned, he, being an accountable, responsible creature before God, now bears his own guilt. He cannot correctly plead, "the devil made me do it". Not so. His own will was to eat of the forbidden fruit. He was not deceived by Satan. Eve was. Adam was not. But when he sinned, the result is that his own heart is now irreconcilably darkened. He is sin. So, from that moment on, his ruined heart is the source of the on-going deceit. His heart is not repairable. It must be replaced. And only the Great Physician is qualified to perform that transplant.

The old, stony heart of man is now the source of deceit. The old heart is said to be the fullness, the fountain, the root, the womb of all deceit. **"From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?" (James 4:1).**

Not only is the heart the source of deceit, it is also an instrument that is deceitful under all circumstances, and at all times. When prosperity is our portion, our hearts remain deceitful. When adversity is upon us, our hearts remain deceitful. When we are blessed with good health, or with sickness; when we face life or death; when in our youth or in old age, our hearts remain deceitful.

The heart is deceitful beyond our knowledge or description. We cannot, within the limits of our knowledge, and within the limits of human language, describe, nor fully know the awful depths of our depravity, and of the deceit that has permeated every fiber and particle of our human make-up. The Scriptures have asked, "... **who can know it?**"

Not the wisest and best among men can know the heart of man. God ONLY sees it and understands it. God ONLY knows the thoughts of men. All men. **"But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men, And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man." (John 2:24,25).** The heart is deceitful and wicked beyond our

capacity to restore. It is "

**desperately wicked**". It is true that human influence and effort may, to some very limited degree, restrain and modify. But God alone can heal and restore. God alone can renew. Desperately wicked hearts are outside the realm of control, so far as the power of man is concerned.

Therefore, we conclude, that what man whose heart as here described needs, is more than his resources are able to supply. What he needs is to have the stony heart taken out, and a new heart given to him. And he cannot perform such as is required. But, God can! **"A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh and I will give you an heart of flesh." (Ezekiel 36:26). Truths Application** The text has addressed these profound truths, and they concern every one who hears, or reads these words. Not one of us can escape the stringent demands that are placed upon us, nor can we meet these just and righteous demands, which require us to serve God with no deceit or conceit in our hearts, or evidenced in our lives. Therefore, let none of us seek to evade what is declared. Rather, let **"every mouth be stopped, and all the world become guilty before God"**. (Romans 3:19). May we cry out, "Oh Lord, have mercy on me!"

Surely, we should be able to see that our hearts ought not to be trusted. **"He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife; but he that putteth his trust in the Lord shall be made fat. He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered." (Proverbs 28:25,26).**

We could more safely trust in the deadly serpent than to trust in the deceitful heart of man. We could more safely trust in the deep darkness with its sure dangers than to trust in our hearts.

Let us not be satisfied with the performance of such hearts as we possess in our mortal flesh. Let us seek, rather, to take our case daily before the Lord so that we may there receive cleansing, and transformation, and continual sanctification. Let us lean hard upon the Lord, and trust Him, and put ourselves at His mercy so that we may be made pure.

There is a fountain filled with blood,  
Drawn from Immanuel's veins,  
And sinners plunged beneath that flood,  
Lose all their guilty stains.

Oh, my dear reader, let us know of our most desperate needs, and let us, with all haste and constancy flee to Him who knows us and knows our needs, and is able to meet all those awesome needs. Let us flee to Jesus Christ, the Saviour. Let us look to Mount Calvary where the Prince of Glory died.

Jesus is willing, and He is able to save them that come unto Him. He has never been found to be lacking, at any time, under any circumstances. He is able to save. He will give new hearts, and then He will make those new hearts the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. He will fill those new hearts with His peace, and will never, never, ever leave, nor forsake His own.