

NEWS LETTER

Issue #2

November 2012

*Bible verse of the month: "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." I Corinthians 15:57***Dear readers,**

I would like to apologize for the absents of an October issue & the lateness of this issue. We were very excited about starting this news letter and the proposed articles and subject themes planned for October, November and December, and expansions to the website, however from the start the terrific people who agreed to join the staff of Baptists For Liberty have found themselves quite busy from finding secular work, college classes over load, preaching at conferences, mission trips, surgeries, and other health issues, we would greatly appreciate your prayers in these matters.

Myself as the editor my only excuse is biting off more than I could chew in what I'd like to cover in the newsletter, on the website, and trying to write & edit the newsletter, and allowing myself to become overwhelmed with the final stretch of the elections. I am very sorry for the unprofessional way I handled October. I can't promise there won't be any more bumps in the road but I hope you stick with us as we prayerfully continue along with this project.

I'd also like to thank our contributing writers;

Bro. Jeff Short and Bro. Todd Bryant who've allowed us to print their articles & sermons. Bro. Short is the Pastor of Indore Baptist Church in West Virginia, he wrote "Christian Voter guide" which was published in September's issue. You can read more from Bro. Short at his website shortthoughts.com

Bro. Todd Bryant pastor's Sovereign Grace Missionary Baptist Church in Northport AL and commutes to preach at a mission point Hightoggy Baptist Mission in Vernon AL every Sunday morning. He wrote the sermon "The Wrath Of Man" which was published in September's issue, and the article "Election Results - God Still Reigns" in this issue. Bro. Todd originally wrote "Election Results - God Still Reigns" for his column "Watering the Tulips" which is published in his local paper. You can read more by Bro. Todd at his church's website Sovereigngrace.net

Also a great big thank you to Bro. Nilo Del Mundo for spending two days answering questions for this month's POV article and Sis. Ruthie McLean who wrote her POV article!

Please keep these contributing authors, missionary, dear sister, and our staff in your prayers. Thank you for subscribing and your support. We hope God will use Baptists For Liberty to bless our readers and our nation.

Sincerely, Joanna Works. (Editor)

November Reading list

One of the new features of Baptists For Liberty is reviewing books of theological, historical, & political import. On Baptists For Liberty's website we're starting a Book List Blog where subscribers can also review and recommend books. In each new issue we'll announce the month's reading list with brief descriptions, for full reviews by the various staff members & readers go to the blog. Lord willing once a week 1 new book review will be posted.

Week of November 18th-24th: "The God Makers" by Ed Decker & David Hunt

Written by one former Mormon and one specialist on occults this book explains how Mormonism is not Christian but steeped in demonic occultism.

Week of November 25th-30th: "Hitler's Cross" by Erwin Lutzer
A look at how Nazism, though steeped in occultism, hid their agenda behind Christian sounding propaganda and how Christian Germans responded.

Sermon:**"The Nations Of Man"**

Acts 17:26 *"And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;"*

Nations of Men decided from Adam

Gen 1:26-28 *"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth."*

All men come from Adam and have equal claim to have originally been created in the "image and likeness of God" our creator. Notice- one blood Lev 17:11 "For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul." (Continued on page 2)

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Sermon: "The Nations Of Man"



By Bro. Timothy Works

All mankind has the same blood. We are all one race one family.

Prejudices, bigotry and racism exists because of Sin which has corrupted mankind. Sin produces the envy, jealousy, prejudices ect. in the human race.

Romans 5:12 *"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"* Romans 3:22-23 *"Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"*

Notice again in our text

"All Nations (1484 ethnos) of men"

Ethnos: A group of people with the same habits, manners, customs, a nation.

So, how did these different nations of men come about?

Gen 11:1 *"And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech."*

Gen 11:7-9 *"Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the Lord did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the Lord scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth."*

They where broken down into family groups by languages/speech.

Gen 10:1-32 Japheth, Ham & Shem (Brothers, one blood/Adam)

Japheth: Gen 10:5 *"By these were the isles of the Gentiles divided in their lands; every one after his tongue, after their families, in their nations."*

Ham: Gen 10:20 *"These are the sons of Ham, after their families, after their tongues, in their countries, and in their nations."*

Shem: Gen 10:31 *"These are the sons of Shem, after their families, after their tongues, in their lands, after their nations."*

Gen 10:32 *"These are the families of the sons of Noah, after their generations, in their nations: and by these*

were the nations divided in the earth after the flood."

Acts 17:26 *"And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;"*

These three brothers and their children and grandchildren were broken into family groups or tribes and settled in different lands developing their own unique habits, manners and customs becoming in their own right Nations of men.

(Understanding how DNA operates- the genetic pool of these different family groups tended to produce certain physical features that become predominant to that group.)

As our great founding document declares "All men are created equal" - all equally the decedents of Adam, all equally originally in the image and likeness of God our creator, and all equally fallen, sinners in need of a savior. And there is only one savior for all mankind, Jesus.

Acts 4:12 *"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."* (mankind)

How does Jesus become the savior, not just of the Jews but All Mankind?

John 1:10-14 *"He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."*

Notice: "as many as" & "Word was made flesh"

Hebrews 2:14-15 *"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."*

Jesus partook of the flesh and blood (one blood) becoming our kinsman redeemer. He took upon Himself our form and position before God.

Phil 2:5-7 *"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:"*

One blood with all men that He might redeem all men from their sins for all have sinned.

Thus the gospel, the good news, the redeemer has come and has obtained eternal redemption for us (all who will believe- none that believe not.)

Luke 2:10 *"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."*

Hebrews 9:12 *"Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."*

Romans 3:23-25 *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; 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;"*

John 3:16 *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* & John 3:36 *"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."*

Is to be preached to all nations of men, all of Adam's descendants.

Matt 28:18 *"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth."*

Mark 16:15 *"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."*

Luke 24:47 *"And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."*

Acts 1:8 *"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."*

Revelations 5:9-10 *"And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth."*

Kindred 5443 offshoot, clan, tribe.

Tongue 1100 language (Acts 2:)

People 2992 a people joined together by common bands of society

Nation 1484 group same habits, manners & customs.

Can you see Jesus dying, suffering, shedding his blood for you? Will you trust him as your savior? Whoever you are, whatever sins you have, He is able to save you and give you eternal life!

"Election Results - God Still Reigns"



By Bro. Todd Bryant

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from

their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land"- 2 Chronicles 7:14

By the time this is published, the election should be determined barring some "hanging chad" catastrophe. About half of the country believes they have elected a man that will positively affect the future of our country. The other half believes that we are headed for sudden and swift destruction. Many Christians have aligned themselves with one of the major political parties in our country and believe it alone is the answer to all of our issues, as a nation. How are believers really to view our present situation?

God's relationship with Israel in the Old Testament gives us much to consider when we look at the failure of a nation. For what it's worth, you will search long and hard to see where the Lord corrected them for their tax brackets or education system. Team politics (people root for their party in America much the same way as they root for football) was not Israel's problem. It went far deeper than that. Yet, God certainly corrected them. So, what did He correct them for?

First of all, Israel forsook God. They turned from God to idol worship. They replaced true worship with humanism. Ultimately, this was seen in their actions. They became a society full of adultery and addictions. Sound familiar? It should. This is exactly what has happened in the United States. Any serious researcher knows that our country was founded on Biblical values. Our laws were intended for a moral society. We are neither God-fearing nor moral today.

Our children are taught from an early age that God is not real. We have supported that belief by allowing our children to be taught such fairy tales as evolution. Even professing Christian teachers tell our children that the world is billions of years old. If this is true, there was no Adam and Eve; there was no Fall; and, therefore, there is no need for Jesus. This is blasphemy. It is a flat denial of God and His Son.

They are also taught that morality is relative. In other words, what may be right or wrong for you will vary from person to person. But, this is not true. God's standard is absolute. It does not give. Right is still right and wrong is still wrong.

According to the verse before us, Israel's problem was not politics. It seems that we are almost to the point that even many Christians today believe that politics is the problem in America. We, as a Christian society, seem to think if we could only get a man in who would lower taxes and fund education all would be well. But, this is not our main problem. Until we, as a society, turn back to the Lord we cannot prosper. Until we turn from our wicked ways, we cannot thrive.

Oh, let the people of God pray and seek God's face at this time in our history. May we ever turn from our wicked ways! May we, as a society, turn from the sins that we have glorified! Then, perhaps God will bless us again. People of God, do not discount the involvement of God in our economy. Is it possible that our economic downturn is the result of judgment rather than politics?

Historical Marker: "Thanksgiving"

by Bro. Steve McCool

Colossians 1:12-13:

"GIVING THANKS UNTO THE FATHER, WHICH HATH MADE US MEET TO BE PARTAKERS OF THE INHERITANCE OF THE SAINTS IN LIGHT: WHO HATH DELIVERED US FROM THE POWER OF DARKNESS, AND HATH TRANSLATED US IN THE KINGDOM OF HIS DEAR SON."

It is no secret that in our nation today that Christmas is by far the biggest money maker for retailers than any other holiday. But what about Thanksgiving? Have we as a nation forgotten about the first holiday ever observed in our land by our European forefathers? What was the purpose of the first Thanksgiving. How has it's purpose changed?

At some point in school I am sure we all had some teaching on the first Thanksgiving observed by the Pilgrims. Over time this story has become polluted by the humanist so that the very mention of God has been erased from modern text books.

What is considered the first Thanksgiving happened in the year 1621 in Plymouth, Massachusetts. After a very difficult year and many of them dieing, the Pilgrims wanted to have a feast to honor God and to show their gratitude for the many blessing He had bestowed upon them thus far. One thing that has been left out in most history lessons today is the fact that the Pilgrims were running away from the persecution they had been under in England. They had left the Church of England and were defying the English authorities by starting their own churches. They had gone so far as to refuse the King James Version of the Bible and would only use the Geneva Version. Of course, this separation infuriated the Church of England. Many Pilgrims(or Puritans) were thrown into jail and/or put to death by the church. Many of these separatist left England and sailed to Holland where the Dutch government allowed them to settle temporarily. After about ten years they had raised enough money with the help of financiers to sail to North America. They purchased a land grant for Virginia. When they arrived they discovered they had missed Virginia and landed far north of there land grant agreement with England. They later reapplied for a land grant for Massachusetts and were able to stay. After all this they continued to thank God for His blessings on them. Through all the persecutions in England, the hard journey to the new world, the difficult first year, and all the other trials they went through they still praised God.

Today Thanksgiving has become a day of gluttony, drinking and sports. For most of us this holiday is one of the few times we get to spend time with family and friends. It is a time of rest from a long year of work. As the Pilgrims used this day to rest and reflect on the years harvest so should we take advantage of the time off of our jobs to thank God for the past year of blessings. Now don't get me wrong here, we should be giving thanks to God everyday for His blessings on us. But, Thanksgiving Day should be a time when the rest of the world physically sees without a doubt who we worship and why. How honoring to our Heavenly Father is it for us follow after the world on this day. Many will spend the day polluting the temple of the Holy Spirit(our body) with to much food, to much drink, and to much football. Never acknowledging the true meaning of the day of Thanksgiving.

In my opinion, next to the Lords day, Thanksgiving Day should be the most important holy day in the United States of America. Paul told us in I Corinthians 15:57 "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." First and foremost we should be thankful to God for sending His son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins and granting us freedom from eternal death by giving us eternal life. Without this we have nothing to be thankful for.

Now I understand that the Lord instructed us in His scripture to give thanks continually or without ceasing. As children of God this is how we should be and how we should think all day, everyday of our lives here on this earth(Proverbs 16:3 "Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established."). But, there are circumstances or events that happen that may merit a special day for coming together as a family or as a nation to give thanks to our God for blessing us by bringing us through difficult times or just for blessing us with prosperity.

In the case of our forefathers, they came to this land in the year 1620. The first year here was very difficult for them. Almost half of them died from starvation or from disease. At the end of the harvest of the first year, they realized they did not have enough food to make it through the coming winter. With another year of starvation facing them they still stop at the end of the harvest and held a day of thanksgiving to God for what they did have. The Native Americans saw the determination of the Pilgrims and offered their help. They even brought food to the celebration. The next few years with the help of the natives and by Gods great grace they were finally able to produce enough crops to feed the colony. In 1623 Governor William Bradford gave the first Thanksgiving Proclamation and declaring a set day for thanksgiving to God.

Does this mean the Pilgrims only thanked God once a year? No, they were very strong in studying the bible. They gave thanks daily as the scripture teaches. So why do some of us only give thanks to God once a year? Because we have become slack in our prayer lives. As I have taught in the past, we are to be in prayer always for all things. As the children of God who has saved us through His son Jesus Christ we should always be in thanksgiving to our heavenly Father for everything in our lives. You may say "but I am going through tough times right now and I really have nothing to be thankful for.". Well, you should still be thankful for your eternal live. How about the roof over your head or the food on your table. If we are having tough times then this should be even more the reason for us to be thanking God always for providing us with the things we do have. I know some times it is difficult for us as humans and even as churches to understand that God is still in control and has a plan for us here. So many of us want to give up when under pressure when all the time it is God teaching us a lesson. So as the Pilgrims did in the difficult first days and years of their lives in the new world we should be continually in prayer and always in thanksgiving to our Holy Father for giving us life and liberty.

"The Perfect Government"



By Bro. David Green

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour." (Romans 13:1-7)

God has instituted governments among men. Government is necessary and in our text we are reminded of the role of government. We also know and realize that governments are not perfect and many have turned out to be total failures. Some have failed because the system is failed. Others have failed because the men who are running them are failures.

We have in the last few years witnessed the fall of governments and the rise of new ones. Iraq, Afghanistan, and Egypt all come to mind. Only history will tell us whether these changes were for good or bad.

Of all the governments in the world, I do believe the founders of the United States of America had it right – a constitutional republic based upon God's law is the best government among men. However, we have drifted far from it. As we look at our government, I cannot help but wonder if we are witnessing its fall as well.

There is a "perfect government that will not fail," but it is not to be found among the nations of the earth today. It is not democratic in nature, nor is it a republic. It is not a dictatorship nor a monarchy. It is not to be had among even the brightest of politicians in this country. Notice:

"And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one." (Zechariah 14:9)

The form of the government of which I speak of will be a theocracy. Jesus Christ will rule and reign over the entire earth. Under His leadership, every problem of human government will be solved. Thus far, governments have been run by totally depraved individuals. Even at our very best, we are still bad and we will fail. But Jesus cannot and will not fail!

"And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season." (Revelation 20:1-3)

A major problem with human governments is Satan. He has been deceiving individuals now for nearly 6000 years. He will be bound while Jesus reigns!

"He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth. They that dwell in the wilderness shall bow before him; and his enemies shall lick the dust. The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring presents: the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts. Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him." (Psalm 72:8-11)

The scope of this government will be worldwide. What a spectacle this will be. Can you imagine? The nations who are now Muslim will be under Christ. Atheistic nations like China will be under Christ. Secular nations like France will be under Christ. They all will serve Him and bow down before Him.

"And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins." (Isaiah 11:3-5)

Imagine it! The whole of the world under the absolute control of a King who is so wise that He cannot make a mistake, so righteous as to never dispense, impartially, strict justice to all; so holy and benevolent that he will seek no other object than the glory of God; so powerful as to secure the prompt submission of every subject in His dominion.

"He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire." (Psalm 46:9)

He will rule in complete peace. No, this will not be by chance, but it will be because He makes wars to cease. That has never happened in all of human history!

"And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." (Isaiah 2:4)

No, this is not a ticket for governments to outlaw guns. Weapons will be turned into plowshares because they are not necessary any longer. That cannot be said today, but under the leadership of King Jesus, weapons will not be

needed.

"Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes. And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." (Isaiah 35:5-10)

There will be universal blessing during His reign!

"And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles." (Zechariah 14:16)

Jesus will be the focus of all worship. It will be as close to "heaven on earth" as a person could get without actually leaving the ground.

POINT OF VIEW:

With Bro. Nilo Del Mundo a missionary in the Middle East

Bro. Nilo Del Mundo is married with three children. Originally from the Philippines he now pastors a church in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and works as a freelance manager of a maintenance company servicing the printing industry in the whole kingdom. Sis. Del Mundo is with him in Saudi Arabia, his eldest is already married also working in Riyadh as a Graphic Designer and his two younger kids remain in the Philippines and by God's grace if the Lord tarries, they will also work there in their unique ministry. Bro. Del Mundo was very gracious in giving his testimony, sharing about the work in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and discussing news and politics, however certain topics couldn't be discussed in details due the nature of being in a politically sensitive country.

In his words;

Testimony, God's call and the church:

"The Lord by His grace saved me 1979, while I was a faithful Catholic. I was always cursing, seeking excitement in worldly and fleshly things, and my only hope was thru my religion. God worked thru different avenues to introduce me to His Son. There was Chick Tracts, Campus Crusade, InterVarsity CF, and that was when I professed faith looking at Rev. 3:20 opening my heart to let Him come in. I was determined to be a Catholic even after that but after five months, I united with a Bible Baptist church. Immediately after, since the pastor's house was near our house, I spent my free time reading the works of Leroy Shelton, Spurgeon, and John Rice in his library. Looking back, I now believe that it was thru the reading of the books of Spurgeon that I came to know how the Lord Jesus Christ was the Savior of my Soul because He was my substitute.

Through those years, I enjoyed reading books of Pink,

Boyce, and also Baptist History books. The most recent books I have read are Three Witnesses for the Baptists [by Bro. Curtis Pugh] and Alexander Crawford Debate.



I moved 2001 and the language was the greatest challenge but not now. The great challenge for me now is to use my skills, influence, and income to help other Filipinos understand the gospel of Jesus Christ, survive their contract, and help those who suffer injustice. [The church is] all Filipinos so far but I am burdened for Arabs. So I try to talk. So far, they don't want to engage. Once they find out that I've done my homework, they beg out of the discussion.



The first burden is with the 1 MILLION Overseas Filipino Workers. Since we are organized 2009, the burden should also be there that we should be witnesses to different nationalities. A burden to the Arabic people can only come if a person knows the language, culture, and religion. This is still under development in me. I don't know if the Lord would be pleased to use me in such a great way. There is fear in my body but the Lord's glory is greater than any fear I have.

I was called to be the elder of Baptist Church in Arabia, a Sovereign Grace Landmark Baptist Church organized 2009 by Park Baptist Church and Missions, Batasan, Q.C. PHILIPPINES (Pastor Chito Mendoza - Baptized and ordained by Landmark Baptist church Hayward California - Pastor Lawrence Crawford)

We are composed of 30 Filipinos working here in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. And occasionally we have visitors who are of different nationalities. As a church, we are in fellowship with other churches in the Philippines like the Bethel Baptist Church (organized under Pastor Rogelio Taban and Pastor Forest Keener); Sovereign Grace Baptist

Church, Davao (organized under Pastor Ronald Jacutin and Pastor Breedlove); and Higher Ground Baptist Church, Romblon (organized under Pastor Marco Esguerra and Pastor Brent Spears). As far as I know, there are many Bible Baptist groups, Fundamental Baptists, and Born Again Charismatic groups here and some of them are our friends.

We live here in a building with Egyptians, Saudis, Yemenis, Indians, and Sudanese. We did not immigrate here, we just work here and our contracts specify that we can go home every year, some every two years, some every six months. Many come because of cheap labor. Caucasians cost triple for good skills. The Saudis love the 1 million Filipinos here. In check points, they always let the Filipino go straight, but they stop the Saudi and other nationalities. There has never been a Filipino suspect of terrorism and we are always law abiding, except for the 10% who abscond their contracts (due to oppression and unfair labor practices). They have a program to increase Saudization. Companies who don't hire enough Saudis are penalized. The Saudis like MANAGERIAL jobs, they don't like menial jobs.

Even if a FILIPINO stays here for 30 years, he does not want to be a citizen, and even the other nationalities rarely do it. Eventually, all the expats plan to earn good money, and build a new life in their home countries after some years. The KSA is home to people from Indian, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the Philippines. Population of KSA is 27 million, 8 million are expats. The money of expats going out of KSA per year is in the tune of 50 billion dollars or more."

Religion & freedoms:

"Saudi is a monarchy, Philippines is a republic. In order to be a citizen [of Saudi Arabia], you should be a Muslim. It is their [The Saudi's] duty to try [converting non-Muslims] Some of our members just say, "JESUS IS MY LORD AND MY GOD," and keep on repeating it, until they relent. One of the police tried to ask me, "what is the name of your GOD" and I said, "JEHOVAH, AL ILLAH AL YAHUD" (Jehovah the God of the Jews) and he didn't like it.

They have lots of freedoms, I don't think AMERICAN style democracy should be imported here, it will destroy them. I think MONARCHY is the best for them. The Law and Judges here are fair, they apply the Shariah law without bias to expats and Saudis. Only the ignorance of the law, put people in a disadvantage. The punishments are derived from the Mosaic laws, eye for eye. Only what is allowed and prohibited are not the same. Women are strong, they talk and talk and their husbands follow, they are the queen of the home, but of course it depends on the upbringing, most of what I've heard. Philipinas are fond of exposing their beautiful hair, and it is a constant irritation that the MUTTAWA comes to tell them cover your hair, but for the Saudis they are always covered, but not the burka, it is called "abaya". Which sometimes follow the contours of a woman's body and there is a "tarha", which are beautifully designed to cover the head. Muttawa are presidential commission for the prevention of vice and promotion of virtue. They force people to close their shops during prayer time and go to the mosque or pray on the stores."

I asked Bro. Del Mundo what he thought about Christian countries imposing Mosaic laws;

"No. Baptists have refused to be a state church and this is

well documented by Doctors Ypeij and Dermout, and Bro. John Clarke. Mosaic law incorporated as the law of the land would mean a theocratic state which the New Testament does not command to the church. Maybe these Baptists are amils or Preterists."

The News Media:

Regarding blocked sites and the Anti-Muslim video, "Not all ANTI-Muslim sites are blocked. As far as I know, only answering-islam.org and chick.com are definitely blocked. But there are many others which escape filtering. I've heard some of my friends download that cheap trailer without problems. There is news recently that Pakistan and Afghanistan blocked the video. Don't know much about that except what is written in the news."

Saudi Arabia's news

"The newspapers are owned by private individuals and you can evaluate yourself that they have a lot of good freedom to report. <http://arabnews.com/> & <http://www.saudigazette.com.sa/> and BLOG SITES are allowed."

What about KSA's relationship with Iran & Israel?

"Iran is Shiite, KSA is Sunni, spiritually they want to destroy each other. The former want the destruction [of Israel] now, the latter waits for it as a prophecy. But there are fundamentalists and modernists. There are modernists and fundamentalists in all of Islam, so there are modernist IRANIANS and fundamentalist IRANIANS.

There was a news item in ARAB NEWS that if Israel would use SAUDI airspace en route to Iran, they would shoot down the jet fighters of Israel. But if U.S. would do it, using their fighters in the PERSIAN GULF, in QATAR, and in the EMIRATES, then I think the SAUDIS would be happy to assist or at least show no objection to the move. They have openly shown strong objections against a nuclear armed Iran."

Economics:

"They [KSA] have surplus, because of SOUND principles in ISLAMIC BANKING and steady growth of the oil industry.

KSA is increasing its production to cover for oil embargo of IRAN and stabilize world price. If KSA does not increase, there will be a glut and price would increase."

Attitudes and atmosphere:

"All is hopeful, economically and as a nation, they are hopeful that ISLAM will triumph eventually. The country is secure and stable. The people love peace and enjoy relative prosperity. Those Saudis who want to have more freedoms go to Bahrain or Dubai."

What else should Baptists know?

"The King of Saudi Arabia helped establish a Center for Religious Dialogue <http://www.arabtimesonline.com/NewsDetails/tabid/96/smid/414/ArticleID/174959/reftab/116/t/Riyadh-funds-interfaith-center/Default.aspx> I think this is part of the Lord's working in the heart of the King to turn it whichever He willeth. What will be the developments later, only our Sovereign King the Only Potentate knows. In the meantime we will continue beneath the radar, just pray for us.

Be ready to be assaulted by many in the world whom you empowered to be strong and yet wants to spill American blood. Now we hear that because of Obamacare, the Digital Angel (verichip) will be required inside the bodies

of all U.S. citizens. This is a great evil, but who can prevent what has been prophesied? You can object, you can prepare to live in the countryside without IPAD and IPHONE, but what has been foreordained will surely come. Even so, come Lord Jesus."



"Whom Shall We Fear?"



By Bro. Steve McCool

Proverbs 14: 26, 27 *"In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge. The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death."*

In our world today there are many disturbing events going on that have many people living in fear. From some of the policies of our government to events around the world such as war, famine, natural disasters and the economy. I know several Christians who live in fear everyday that they and/or their families may be subjected to some form of persecution.

Some say we as Christians should leave our homes and move to a more suitable environment away from all the troubles that are here or are to come. I have yet to have anyone show me such a place. I am convinced that we here in the United States have become so spoiled to having things "our way" that when persecution comes we want to run the other direction.

Is that what Solomon told in the verses above? No. Solomon tells us that if we fear the Lord we will have a "strong confidence", a confidence that as the children of the Lord we have a refuge in our Lord when trouble arises.

Where is that confidence in the Lord's children today? Well, from what I see, fear of the Lord is not being taught

by the teachers and pastors. What is being taught today is watered down doctrines that teach that our Sovereign God is not as sovereign as He tells us in His word. Christians are being taught to take matters into their own hands and save themselves from the persecution they are dealing with or of the persecution that is to come. Preachers and teachers are telling people to "read this book" or "watch this video" or "listen to this person on audio" they will tell you how to better yourself physically and/or financially or they will teach you how to save yourself and your family when hard times come. This does nothing but teach people to fear the persecution and not the Lord. As the verse above teaches, with the fear of the Lord comes a "strong confidence" that he will give us refuge.

Over and over in the book of Psalms David tells of the "refuge" the Lord provided him when David's enemies sought to kill him. In Psalm 27:5 "For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock." Now some may say "what about David, he fled when his son Absalom turned Israel against David?". That is correct David did flee, but David knew the Lord had plans for David's return as king. What is being taught today is not the same as David.

David taught the fear of the Lord.

Psalms 27:1 *"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"*

Here David asks "whom shall I fear?" or "whom shall I be afraid?" As children of the Most High God and Creator of this earth whom or what is there that we should fear? Because we are children of the Lord the powers of this world hate us as they hate Him.

For this reason Jesus and the Apostles warned us there was going to be persecution in our lives. Therefore persecution is to be expected by the Lord's people. Then if we truly fear the Lord we should not fear the troubles of the world we live in.

Look at the martyrs down through history. Most of them did not run from the persecution of the Roman church. They stood for the Lord all the way, even while being tortured or suffering a slow cruel death at the hands of those claiming to be Christian, they sang hymns and quoted scripture. Today just the mention of the possibility of persecution by any group towards the Lord's people and the talk of getting out of town, state, and/or country begins. When hard times come the Lord's people generally do one of two things:

1. run and hide from their problems or
2. set in their homes fretting over their problems.

I find it sad that there are very few Christians that I know who truly rely on the Lord during persecution.

In Luke 12:4,5 our Lord Jesus told his disciples *"And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him."*

Did not Jesus tell us that we would have a Comforter with us till he came again and that Comforter is the Holy Spirit of God.

So the question is: "Whom Shall We Fear?"