

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 #15

December 2013

Monthly Verse: *"And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all." ~ Luke 17:26 & 27*

Hymn History and Scriptures "Joy To The World"

By Bro. Nathaniel Hille



"Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth, make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise." Psa.98:4

Joy To The World—By Isaac Watts

Unbeknown to most in our modern day, this hymn was not originated as a "Christmas" hymn. If one will look at the words of this hymn, one would find a lack of any references to shepherds, angelic choruses, wise men, mangers, birth, etc. This hymn is based upon the *98th Psalm*, which I implore the reader to at once take up his/her Bible and commence reading thereof and compare the words of the Holy Spirit with those of Bro. Watts'. The true rendering is that this is an anthem for the Messiah's **2nd Coming and Kingdom**. However, let me point out before going further, that even if the writer had intended this as a *Christmas* hymn, is there anything unscriptural about this hymn?

I have actually heard some "Baptists" refer to this hymn as "unscriptural". This was said because of pure willful ignorance. This hymn is not "unscriptural", but blatantly and transparently Scriptural. A simple perusing of the words declares forth the Biblical accuracy of the hymn so many callously and unabashedly refer to as a "carol".

"Joy to the World" was originally titled *"The Messiah's Coming and Kingdom"*.

It originally appeared in Watt's hymnal of 1719. The music that is commonly used for this hymn today was arranged by Lowell Mason, a well known American church musician in the 19th century. Watts wrote this rejoicing psalm for the praise of Jehovah for His protection of His people and the anticipation of His glorious return ruling and reigning upon the earth. Watts' intention, mind, and heart set was always looking to the return of Christ in the air for His people and the setting of His physical kingdom upon the earth.

In a day of such sinfulness and unrighteousness in which we live, we ought to sing this song to the praise and glory of Jesus Christ our King in anticipation of His coming again for us, and the setting up of His kingdom of righteousness and peace.

"Before the Lord; for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity." Psa.98:9. Amen.

Maran-atha

In this Month's issue:

"The 98th Psalm"& "Joy To The World" page 2

"Are We There Yet?"

by Bro. Todd Bryant, page 2

Sermon: "From Weapons To Plowshares"

by Bro. Davide M. Green, page 3

"Where is the Promise Of His Coming"

by Bro. Timothy Works, page 4

News Reports, page 5

"The End of a Sinful Nation"

by Bro. Todd Bryant, page 10

"Danger of False Teachers: The Times in Which We Live"

by Bro. Stephen McCool Sr. page 11

"Our Changeless God"

by Bro. Todd Bryant, page 11

"Falling In One Foot At A Time"

by Bro. Jeff Short, page 12

Point Of View: Sis. Mariza Villasor, page 13

"As The Days Of Noah Were..."

by Bro. Todd Bryant, page 14



"And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away." - I Peter 5:4

The 98th Psalm (KJV)

- 1 *A Psalm. O sing unto the LORD a new song; for he hath done marvellous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory.*
- 2 *The LORD hath made known his salvation: his righteousness hath he openly showed in the sight of the heathen.*
- 3 *He hath remembered his mercy and his truth toward the house of Israel: all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.*
- 4 *Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.*
- 5 *Sing unto the LORD with the harp; with the harp, and the voice of a psalm.*
- 6 *With trumpets and sound of cornet make a joyful noise before the LORD, the King.*
- 7 *Let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.*
- 8 *Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together*
- 9 *Before the LORD; for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity.*

Lyrics “Joy To The World”

by Isaac Watts

(First published in 1719 in Watts' collection; The Psalms of David: Imitated in the language of the New Testament, and applied to the Christian state and worship.)

Joy to the World, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the World, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

“Are We There Yet?”

by Bro. Todd Bryant



“There is a generation that curses its father, and does not bless its mother. There is a generation that is pure in its own eyes, yet is not washed from its filthiness. There is a generation—oh, how lofty are their eyes! And their eyelids are lifted up. There is a generation whose teeth are like swords, and whose fangs are like knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men” – Proverbs 30:11-14

It's an almost daily occurrence that some crime occurs which would never have been imagined 20 years ago. Certainly, there was crime in the previous generations. However, the acceptance of sin has multiplied 100 fold in the last 20 years. Whatever the cause may be, the generation alive today has rejected God's standards, for the most part. By and large, we are humanistic and self-centered. Sin is worshipped and promoted while holiness is ridiculed. “There is a generation...”

Is the generation today the same generation Solomon is referring to in Proverbs? Certainly, we cannot be sure. We can be sure, however, that there is something different about the day and age in which we live. And the problem is not merely in the United States. In fact, we may have been one of the last countries to “buy in” to this humanistic worldview. But, it certainly appears that we have taken it hook, line and sinker.

But what does this mean? Certainly, it would be wrong to dogmatically assert that we are the generation which will see the coming of the Lord. We cannot know that. However, we do know that things will be noticeably different when Jesus returns. And, we have certainly seen a major shift in the attitude of mankind.

Jesus said, “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be” (Matthew 24:36-39). It seems that the prevailing attitude of the generation alive when Jesus returns will be one of apathy. They will ignore any and all signs that Christ's return is near and living it up! “There is a generation...”

I don't mean to sound like a prophet and I certainly do not mean to make any bold predictions. I do not know the day or the hour when Jesus will return (Mark 13:32). However, today's generation certainly looks more and more like the generation spoken of in our texts today. Every day we move more and more towards the worship of man and further away from the true worship of God.

Child of God, be ever watching and waiting for the coming of your Savior. Rejoice in your coming salvation. However, be ever warning those around you of the impending judgment following the coming of the Lord. You certainly have no power to save. But, you've been commissioned to warn them. And certainly, if you love them, you will!

Sermon: "From Weapons To Plowshares"

by Bro. David M. Green



INTRODUCTION

"The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 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 2:1-4).

The subject assigned to me is "From Weapons to Plowshares." The first thing that some people try to do is figure out what a plowshare is. In case you are one of those people, Webster's 1828 dictionary defines it as "The part of a plow which cuts the ground."

However, the first thing that comes to mind in the theological world is whether this is to be taken literally or if we should spiritualize it. Postmillennialism all but died out after World War I and II. Many of its followers then went to join the amillennial camp. The amillennialist tells me that this passage is speaking of heaven, but please tell me of what use will plowshares or pruninghooks be in heaven???. They tell me that there is no millenium on the earth, that all of this passage must be spiritualized. Others try to say that the millenium will come but only after we have brought it about by our own evangelical efforts. But brethren, none of these teachings are consistent with Scripture. In fact, we need to make sure that our people understand that these differences in doctrine reach farther...much farther than just a small disagreement on Revelation 20.

The proper view of this passage is no different than any other passage of Scripture. I like what J.E. Cobb called the GOLDEN RULE OF INTERPRETATION:

"When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense; therefore take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate context, studied in the light of related passages and axiomatic and fundamental truths, indicate clearly otherwise."

This idea of spiritualizing prophecy has led to the current rise in liberal theology where men (and women) have become Bible critics. (If God really did not mean what He said about the future, then maybe He did not really mean anything else.) Brethren, God has called us to be **Bible Teachers**, NOT Bible Critics! We have God's Word, let us believe that God has said what He means and means what He says!

The Premillennial view is the Biblical view of this passage and others like it. By taking this view, we believe that there is a literal 1000 year reign coming to this world but before it can happen Christ must come back. He will literally stand on the earth. Satan will be literally bound for 1000 years. Our Lord will literally reign on the throne in Jerusalem. Let us notice some things about this passage:

I. IT IS A FUTURE EVENT

Turn your attention back into our text. Notice verse 2: *"And it shall come to pass in the last day..."* We can gather that it was a future event when this was written. As we look at history we find that there has never been a time like this has been described. It must still be future!

If anyone doubts this fact, Wikipedia has a [list of wars](#) from very ancient history until the present day. I had a hard time finding even ten years of peace, but this will be 1000 years of peace!

"And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end." (Luke 1:31-33).

Again, it was a future event when Christ was born. The angel confirmed that He would someday sit on the throne of David. As we look back from time now, we cannot see any period of time when our Lord has sat on the throne of David. Like I said in my introduction, in the past 2000 years, we cannot find any period of 1000 years when there was not a war of some sort or another somewhere in the world. In fact, from the time Christ walked upon the earth until now, there have been well over 600 major wars fought on this earth.

"Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword." (Matthew 10:34).

"Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division:" (Luke 12:51).

When our Lord came the first time, He made it quite clear that He did not come to bring peace. That was not His purpose the first time.

II. IT IS A LITERAL EVENT

"When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. 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." (Acts 1:6-8).

The early church believed this to be a literal event. This is evident from the Scriptures, and this one is no exception. And, their assumption that it would be literal is here confirmed by our Lord. He did not correct them, but He simply told them that the Father has the times in His own power.

III. IT WILL BE A TIME OF PEACE

"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).

The world has waited and tried to have a time of peace upon this earth. Yet time and time again, it has failed! And yet, flowing across the ashes of broken peace treaties and failed agreements we see that there has not been peace upon this earth such as what is spoken of in this passage. In all the history of the world, I have not found one period where we could say that the world has been at peace. Yet, this will be 1000 years of peace!

"In his days shall the righteous flourish; and abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth. 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 72:7-11).

This has been called the "Millennial Psalm." We read of this peace happening only when all the kings of the earth will serve Him and when He will reign all over the earth.

"Come, behold the works of the LORD, what desolations he hath made in the earth. 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. Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth." (Psalm 46:8-10).

Notice how this peace will come about. The Lord will make desolations in the earth. To make something desolate means to lay waste, to ruin. Remember the Tribulation Period? Remember the Battle of Armeggedon? Yes, my friends, peace will come but it will come after some major changes are made. It will come when the Lord sets up His kingdom on the earth, at a time when the world's population is significantly smaller and the world's armies have conquered! It will come when Satan is bound for 1000 years. Notice:

"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).

The book of Revelation has been compared to a union station in which all lines of prophecy have their destination. The word Revelation is *apokalupsis* in the Greek, which means "to unveil or reveal."

Unfortunately, Satan has made it into the opposite of that. To many people it has become an Apocrypha, something that is hidden. It will be a peace that will last for 1000 years. I feel sorry for men who I consider to be great scholars of the Word in so many places of Scripture but when they came to prophecy, they had a level of uncertainty. Six times in this passage, the Bible uses the term 1000 years. Once would be enough, but six times...how can men say that the length of time is unknown? Notice the words again "...that he should deceive the nations no more." There will be peace on the earth for 1000 years because of a lack of Satanic influence.

IV. CHRIST WILL BE CENTRAL TO THIS TIME

"And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 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 2:2-4).

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this." (Isaiah 9:6-7).

Notice that our Lord will be central to this time. There will NEVER be peace on this earth until The Prince of Peace comes. As I have already mentioned, the attempts by men to bring about world peace have failed. Even the attempts by those in the religious world to bring about world peace have also failed. The Lord will be the ONLY One who can bring peace to this war-torn world.

V. SOME WHO REBEL

"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. And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain. And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles." (Zechariah 14:16-19).

I read this to point something out. Even though Satan will be bound and there will be 1000 years of peace, mankind will still be depraved and there will be some rebellion. Yet those will be shortlived and will NEVER lead to a battle.

VI. CONCLUSION

"And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one. All the land shall be turned as a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem: and it shall be lifted up, and inhabited in her place, from Benjamin's gate unto the place of the first gate, unto the corner gate, and from the tower of Hananeel unto the king's winepresses." (Zechariah 14:9-10).

How great it is to know that peace is coming to this world. Interestingly enough, the time of peace will come when the center of the world government will be in Jerusalem, that city that is so hated now. But that peace will not come until Jesus reigns from there. May God bless you with this message.

"Where Is The Promise Of His Coming" by Bro. Timothy Works



"This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour: 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."

-II Peter 3:1-4

Notice the words of the 'scoffers' in verse 4;

"Where is the promise of his coming?"- the question, "for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation."- the statement (Satan's lie to Eve in the Garden- question-statement Gen. 3:1-5)

Philosophers of the past taught cycles that keep repeating themselves, ideas of the present is of evolving, getting better.

Notice the wisdom of the believer II Peter 3:9 *"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."*

"as some men count slackness" man's perspective and sense of time is not the same as God's!

Verse 8 *"But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day."*
God is working according to His own plan and time table not mans!

Now lets look at "The Promise"

John 14:1-4 *"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you, And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself: that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know."*

Jesus says he will Redeem us, Return to Rescue us, and Reward us. According to the promise, the LORD's "Coming" (return to rescue) is situated between a time of Reconciliation and a time of Reward.

There is "a time" for every thing Ecclesiastes 3:1 So it is with God.

1.) There is a time for the Reconciliation of sinners to God. (a place or standing prepared John 1:4)

Hebrews 9:12 Redemption obtained

II Corinthians 6:2 & Ephesians 3:1-6 a time for salvation

Romans 11:25 until the fullness/ "long suffering"

2.) A time for the Lord's Return

Matthew 24:36-37

3.) A time for Reward

Revelations 22:12

4.) A time to Reign

Rev. 5:10 and Rev. 20:6

5.) A time Retribution (judgment)

Heb. 9:27 & John 5:27-29

6.) A time for Restitution (all made new)

Rev. 21:1-4

The LORD is Not slack concerning his Promise! Everything will come to pass just as he said, and right on time!

"For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry." - Heb. 10:36-37

"He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus." - Rev. 22:20

News

News Blitz: Underlined texts are links to articles by various online media sources, if you are reading a printed copy of this issue you can find the links to these news stories on the front page of our website:

<http://baptistsforliberty.weebly.com>

Monday, December 2nd From 'The New American'-
"Iran Reaches Out to Saudi Arabia",
"Pope Francis Denounces Market-based Capitalism", and
"U.S. District Judge: Colorado Sheriffs Lack Standing to Join Gun Lawsuit"

From Reason.com "Sandy Hook 911 Tapes to Be Released Wednesday"
and "Allowing Cellphone Use in Airplanes Won't Create Chaos"

Tuesday, December 3 "Vaccine Court and Autism" [here](#)

Thursday, December 5 "VP of White Castle says, "\$15 minimum wage means layoffs" [here](#)

Wednesday, December 11th "Everything You Need To Know About Bi-Partisan Budget Compromise in 2 min!" [here](#)

Thursday, December 12th Breaking news: "Georgia Will Introduce Legislation To Nullify Obamacare & Sue The Federal Government"

From Life News, also on Thursday December 12th "Belgium: Senate Approves Measure Allowing Doctors to Euthanize Children"

Thursday, December 19th The New American posted ["Trans-Pacific Partnership \(TPP\): Assault on Our Sovereignty, Our Constitution, Our Liberty \(Video\)"](#) This story is still developing, The New American has posted multiple articles on the TPP before and since the one we're linking here, the Trans-Pacific Partnership is such a big topic touching on everything from economics to national sovereignty that the New American has also published a special edition issue focused just on this topic. Online readers may download the PDF of this special edition by [clicking here](#).

Also hitting the news on December 19th is [this article](#) on former KGB operative and current Russian president Vladimir Putin declaring that Russia is the last vestige of values in our corrupt modern world. Russia may not be a free nation but at least they've outlawed homosexuals, a rather sobering thought.

Friday, December 20 Ben Swann reports on what law makers call "Teddy's law" but many others call it the ["Worst Homeschool Law In History Just Attempted"](#) Mr. Swann's report includes a video as well as a transcript, source links and key contact information for those involved. As this is an ongoing story Mr. Swann continues to update with the latest information. After the video and homeschool groups made waves Ohio law makers began to back down, but vigilantes and prayer is vital.

Saturday, December 21st "Legal Victory for 9/11 Families: Families sue Saudi Arabia, wants Top Secret 9/11 & FBI Reports declassified" [Full story here](#).

Monday, December 23rd ["Population Control, Abortion Doesn't Protect the Environment"](#) Lifeneews.com takes on an article and idea by environmentalists. God's word tells us to be good stewards of His creation, however there is a huge difference in protecting the environment and false science used to devalue human life. Richard Doerflinger who writes this 'opinion' piece doesn't pull any punches as he points out the holes in the logic of population control advocates.

Press Releases: Short statements written by political officials or organizations addressing topics they're involved in. This month we've selected a few that give opposing views on the economic issues, as well as a couple of longer more detailed press releases on topics that may be under reported or ignored completely by main stream media. Learn more about your congressman and state legislator at <http://www.contactingthecongress.org> and <http://www.statelocalgov.net/>

Congress talks Economics-
December 4, **"Rep. Gosar Votes to Cut Business-Strangling Red Tape"**
'Set Our Small Businesses Free'
U.S. Congressman Paul Gosar, D.D.S. (AZ-04) voted in favor of the Small Business Capital Access and Job Preservation Act (H.R.1105), legislation that would eliminate excessive regulations that damage our economy, increase businesses' costs and restrict access to private sector capital that small businesses need in order to grow and create jobs. It would do so by exempting private equity firms that meet certain requirements from burdensome Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) filing criteria, allowing them to invest that money in businesses

rather than use it to comply with these excessive regulations. The House of Representatives passed H.R.1105 by a bipartisan vote of 254-159. After the vote, Rep. Gosar said, "Arizonans can never afford to have the federal government strangle businesses with red tape, but that is especially true now, when so many families are out of work. This bill will eliminate excessive regulations, making it easier for small businesses to gain access to capital so they can grow and create new jobs. We must set our small businesses free so they can do what they do best: put Americans back to work."

BACKGROUND:

The Dodd-Frank Act, passed in 2010, added more than 400 regulations to the already-excessive federal regulatory regime. One of those new regulations requires investment advisers who advise private equity firms and hedge funds to register with the SEC. Compliance costs for these firms, for just this one regulation, are estimated to be \$500,000 per firm. H.R.1105 would exempt from the SEC filing requirement those investment advisers who work for firms that have not borrowed and that do not have an outstanding principal amount more than twice their funded capital commitments, thus freeing millions of dollars for private investment.

December 5, "Rep. Gosar Introduces Bill to Protect Economy from Politics"

'Local Economies Are Not Political Pawns'

U.S. Congressman Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S. (AZ-04) introduced the Public Access to Public Land Guarantee Act of 2013 (H.R.3661), bipartisan legislation that would require the federal government to enter into an agreement with any state or municipality that offers non-federal funds to reopen and temporarily operate public lands (including national parks, national monuments and national recreation areas) during a government shutdown. If Congress retroactively appropriates funds, the Act would also require the federal government to refund the state or municipality. Reps. Ann Kirkpatrick (AZ-01), Trent Franks (AZ-08), Walter Jones (NC-3) and Tom McClintock (CA-04) are original co-sponsors of H.R.3661.

Rep. Gosar said, "The communities in Arizona and across the country that rely on our national parks, forests and other federal lands as drivers of their local economies are not political pawns. My bill requires the federal government to work with willing municipalities and state governments to keep national parks open during shutdowns and to repay states and local governments if Congress retroactively allocates the funds."

"This is critical for rural communities in my district, whose economies rely on tourism, outdoor recreation and natural resources development," Rep. Gosar continued. "My bill will mitigate the pain inflicted on these hardworking Americans during federal shutdowns."

BACKGROUND:

Federal parks and lands were closed during the federal government shutdown of October 2013. Consequently, communities that rely on these parks and lands as economic drivers were severely hurt. The Obama Administration initially refused to accept offers from state agencies to operate parks and recreation areas during the shutdown and only after significant Congressional pressure did the National Park Service begin negotiating agreements with willing states. If shutdowns occur in the future, states like Arizona are concerned that the National Park System will again be used as a political pawn and that, even if states are temporarily allowed to open and manage the national parks in their states, the federal government will not reimburse them after the shutdown ends.

H.R.3661 is needed to mitigate economic damage to local communities in the event of a federal government shutdown.

The Senate version (S. 1750) of H.R.3661 was introduced by Senator Flake last week and was cosponsored by Sens. John McCain (R-AZ), Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Mike Lee (R-UT).

"Jones Votes Against Ryan-Murray Budget Deal"

Bill would increase federal spending through FY 2015, cut military retiree benefits, and raise taxes on airline passengers

Dec 12, 2013 Issues: [Budget Spending and Taxes](#)

Congressman Walter B. Jones (NC-3) announced his opposition to the "Ryan-Murray" Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 (H. J. Res. 59) that purports to trim the deficit by a small margin over the next 10 years but enacts immediate increases in federal spending. He issued the following statement regarding his vote against the bill:

"Americans are fed up with the tired Washington game of spending more today while promising cuts in the distant future, most of which never materialize," said Congressman Jones. "Sadly, this budget deal is just more of the same, and it will increase federal spending by \$63 billion over the next two years. At a time when the national debt is an astonishing \$17 trillion, our focus should be on eliminating wasteful federal spending now – particularly overseas spending in countries such as Afghanistan, which will continue unabated under the terms of this bill. The bill also breaks faith with our retired service members by cutting the retiree benefits they have rightfully earned through their years of selfless service to our country. Furthermore, the bill imposes an increased 'fee' – otherwise known as a tax – on every airline passenger in the country. Given these facts, I cannot in good conscience support this legislation."

The "Ryan-Murray" Bipartisan Budget Act has garnered opposition from a wide variety of conservative organizations, including [Heritage Action for America](#), [Americans for Prosperity](#), the Family Research Council, RedState, Tea Party Patriots, [FreedomWorks](#), the [American Conservative Union](#), the National Taxpayers Union, Americans for Limited Government, The Madison Project, and The Club for Growth. Also opposed to the deal is The Military Coalition, an alliance of uniformed services and veterans associations.

"Maloney Votes for Budget Compromise"

December 13, – *Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney (NY-12) today released the following statement after voting in support of the budget compromise.*

"I do not support every element of today's bipartisan budget deal, but I believe it is a necessary step to finally break through the partisan gridlock that has eliminated the potential for progress on the crucial issues facing the American people.

"This budget repeals most of the devastating across-the-board cuts from sequestration that have harmed critically important programs in the district I represent. It also repeals sequestration evenly between defense and non-defense programs.

"I am deeply disappointed that this budget fails to extend emergency unemployment insurance for over a million Americans who continue to look for work in a tough job market. This is wrong and Congress must address this issue.

"However, as the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities noted, this budget agreement represents a modest step forward. Given all the recent budget setbacks we've faced, our economy needs the certainty that this two-year budget will provide. It is long past time to move forward with a good faith compromise, especially when the alternative – the risk of another government shutdown – is far worse."

Friday, December 13 press release & e-mail written by Congressman Raul Labrador "**A Bad Deal, Plain and Simple**"

Dear friend,

This week, I voted against a budget plan to raise taxes and increase government spending by \$63 billion over the next two years.

The budget plan – which passed the House and is awaiting action in the Senate – was sold to the American people as cutting the deficit by \$23 billion over the next 10 years. But if you look at the fine print, what it does is make promises of future spending cuts in exchange for actual spending increases today.

Those spending increases gut the hard-won spending cuts Republicans fought for during the debt ceiling battle of 2011, otherwise known as the “sequester.” The “sequester” – which ended up generating bipartisan support, and was signed into law by President Obama – forced necessary and long-overdue cuts in discretionary spending. And while it wasn’t perfect, it was a big step forward in the fight to get our \$17 trillion debt under control.

The “sequester,” however, was never going to be the final answer. After all, the biggest drivers of our debt aren’t discretionary programs, but entitlement programs, like Medicare and Social Security. That’s why Republicans made a promise to the American people that we would use the sequester to fight for real entitlement reform.

This week, I advocated for keeping that promise. I told my colleagues – both Republican and Democrat – that we had a historic opportunity to find common ground in order to save Medicare and Social Security. But they decided to go in a different direction. They decided to kick the can down the road while making empty promises to the American people. To me, that didn’t make any sense.

I continue to believe that cutting spending and reducing the debt are vital components to bolstering our economy and preserving the American Dream. Since Republicans took control of the House in 2011 – and made fiscal responsibility one of our top priorities – government spending has shrunk by the largest amount in decades and the deficit has been cut in half. Meanwhile, the economy has grown at a faster rate and the unemployment rate has fallen. This is in sharp contrast to the doomsayers who claimed that cutting spending would weaken our economy. In truth, the opposite has happened.

The deal that passed the House this week was a bad one, plain and simple. We could have done better, and we should have done better. But the fight for fiscal sanity will continue. And I pledge to keep being a leader in that fight.

Immigration Reforms- “Rep. John Lewis Leads Push Toward Comprehensive Immigration Reform”

December 12, In recent meetings of the House Democrats, Rep. John Lewis encouraged members of his caucus to send “the strongest possible message” to the Speaker of the House, the Republican House leadership, and the American people that there are members of Congress who want to take action to pass comprehensive immigration reform in this Congress.

The Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi pulled the entire caucus together to join with the Fast 4 Families protest, a coalition of groups fasting for immigration reform in tents near the U.S. Capitol. Members who fasted and those who are supportive of reform participated in a news conference with some of the 1200 Fast 4 Families lobbyists today. Some members marched to the Fast 4 Families tent after the news conference hand-in-hand with protest leaders and clergy. This is Rep. Lewis statement made at the news conference as written:

Thank you, Leader Pelosi, for organizing this effort to send the strongest possible message to the leadership of the House of Representatives.

There are members of this body who want to make a difference in the lives of immigrants in this country.

There are young children in America who live in constant fear. They are afraid to go to school, afraid someone will point them out. They are afraid their mothers and fathers will be deported. We don’t want to go home and start this holiday season of love, forgiveness and compassion and turn our backs on those who live in fear in America.

The Senate has already passed comprehensive immigration reform. The House has a companion bill, H.R. 15, with over 190 bi-partisan co-sponsors. If the Speaker would bring that bill to the floor, we could begin the process of immigration reform in America tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, millions of lives are hanging in the balance as this Congress leaves for a break. How can we turn our backs on the families who must hide in the shadows of this country? They help advance our economy and add to the richness of our culture. We are joining with Fasting 4 Families today to say we want to confront the challenges of immigration, including the issues around citizenship and border security.

We want to put these issues on the table and begin the process of reforming our law to end the humanitarian crisis our current policy creates.

We still have time to bring H.R. 15 to the floor for a vote. Mr. Speaker, as a nation and as a compassionate people, we can do better. It has been said maybe our foremothers and forefathers all came here in different ships, but we’re all in the same boat now. We’re all one people, one family, the human family.

Let’s do what the American people sent us here to do. Let’s us work together and lead this nation. Let’s find reasonable and humane solutions to human problems. Let’s pass comprehensive immigration reform today, in this Congress. Thank you.

Private Property & Privacy issues-

December 9, “The End of Private Property in the Era of the American Police State”

By John W. Whitehead of the Rutherford Foundation

“No power on earth has a right to take our property from us without our consent.”—John Jay, first Chief Justice of the United States

“How ‘secure’ do our homes remain if police, armed with no warrant, can pound on doors at will and ... forcibly enter?”—Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the lone dissenter in *Kentucky v. King*

If the government can tell you what you can and cannot do within the privacy of your home, whether it relates to what you eat, what you smoke or whom you love, you no longer have any rights whatsoever within your home.

If government officials can fine and arrest you for growing vegetables in your front yard, praying with friends in your living room, installing solar panels on your roof, and raising chickens in your backyard, you’re no longer the owner of your property. If school officials can punish your children for what they do or say while at home or in your care, your children are not your own—they are the property of the state.

If government agents can invade your home, break down your doors, kill your dog, damage your furnishings and terrorize your family, your property is no longer private and secure—it belongs to the government. Likewise, if police can forcefully draw your blood, strip search you, and probe you intimately, your body is no longer your own, either.

This is what a world without the Fourth Amendment looks like, where the lines between private and public property have been so blurred that private property is reduced to little more than something the government can use to control, manipulate and harass you to suit its own purposes, and you the homeowner and citizen have been reduced to little more than a tenant or serf in bondage to an inflexible landlord.

Examples of this disregard for the sanctity of private property—whether in the form of one’s home, one’s possessions, or one’s person—abound. Here are just a few.

In San Rafael, California, it is now illegal to smoke a cigarette or other tobacco product inside “apartments, condos, duplexes, and multi-family houses.” Although lawmakers hope the ordinance will be “self-enforcing,” they’re encouraging landlords to threaten tenants with eviction should they run afoul of the law.

In Ohio, it’s illegal to alter one’s car with a hidden compartment if the “intent” is to conceal illegal drugs. Although Norman Gurley had no drugs on his person, nor in his car, nor could it be proven that he intended to conceal drugs, he was still arrested for the “crime” of having a hidden compartment in the trunk of his car.

In Florida and elsewhere throughout the country, home vegetable gardens are being targeted as illegal. For 17 years, Hermine Ricketts and Tom Carroll have tended the vegetable garden in their front yard, relying on it for 80 percent of their food intake, only to be told by city officials that they must get rid of it or face \$50 a day in fines. The reason? The vegetable garden is “inconsistent with the city’s aesthetic character.”

In Iowa, a war veteran attempting to wean his family off expensive corporate farm products, GMOs and pesticides has been charged with violating a city ordinance and now faces up to 30 days in jail and a \$600 fine for daring to raise chickens in his backyard for his personal use, despite statements of support from his neighbors.

In Virginia, school officials suspended two boys for the remainder of the school year and charged them with possession of a firearm after they were reported to the police for playing with toy airsoft guns in their front yard, while waiting for the morning school bus. At no time did the boys attempt to take the toy guns on the bus or to school.

The most obvious disrespect for property rights comes in the form of the tens of thousands of SWAT team raids that occur across the country on a yearly basis. Usually undertaken under the pretense of serving a drug warrant, these raids involve police arriving at a private residence in SWAT gear, armed to the hilt, kicking down doors, apprehending all persons inside the home, then determining if a crime has been committed. That was Judy Sanchez’s experience when FBI agents investigating gang activity used a chainsaw to cut through her door, then forced Sanchez and her child to the ground. It was only after invading Sanchez’s home and terrorizing her family that agents realized they had targeted the wrong address.

Unfortunately, we in America get so focused on the Fourth Amendment’s requirement of a warrant before government agents can invade our property (a requirement that means little in an age of kangaroo courts and rubberstamped warrant requests) that we fail to properly appreciate the first part of the statement declaring that we have a right to be secure in our “persons, houses, papers, and effects.” What this means is that the Fourth Amendment’s protections were intended to not only follow us wherever we go but also apply to all that is ours—whether you’re talking about our physical bodies, our biometric data, our possessions, our families, or our way of life. However, in an 8-1 ruling in *Kentucky v. King* (2011), the U.S. Supreme Court sanctioned SWAT teams smashing down doors of homes or apartments without a

warrant if they happen to “suspect” you might be doing something illegal in your home.

At a time when the government routinely cites national security as the justification for its endless violations of the Constitution, the idea that a citizen can actually be “secure” or protected against such government overreach seems increasingly implausible, while suggesting that a person take steps to secure his person and property against the government could have one accused of fomenting anti-government sentiment.

Nevertheless, the reality of our age is this: if the government chooses to crash through our doors, listen to our phone calls, read our emails and text messages, fine us for growing vegetables in our front yard, jail us for raising chickens in our backyard, forcibly take our blood and saliva, and probe our vaginas and rectums, there’s little we can do to stop them. At least, not at that particular moment. When you’re face to face with a government agent who is not only armed to the hilt and inclined to shoot first and ask questions later but also woefully ignorant of the fact that he works for you, if you value your life, you don’t talk back.

This sad reality came about as a result of our being asleep at the wheel. We failed to ask questions and hold our representatives accountable to abiding by the Constitution, while the government amassed an amazing amount of power over us, and backed up that power-grab with a terrifying amount of military might and weaponry, and got the courts to sanction their actions every step of the way.

However, once the dust settles and you’ve had a chance to catch your breath, I hope you’ll remember that the Constitution begins with those three beautiful words, “We the people.” In other words, there is no government without us—our sheer numbers, our muscle, our economy, our physical presence in this land. There can also be no police state—no tyranny—no routine violations of our rights without our complicity and collusion—without our turning a blind eye, shrugging our shoulders, allowing ourselves to be distracted and our civic awareness diluted.

So where do we begin? How do we go about wresting back control over our freedoms and our lives in the face of such seemingly insurmountable odds?

There’s an old adage, albeit not a very palatable one, that says “when eating an elephant take one bite at a time.” The point is this: when facing a monumental task, take it one step at a time. In other words, we’re going to have to wage these battles house by house, car by car, and body by body. Most importantly, as I point out in my book *A Government of Wolves: The Emerging American Police State*, we’re going to have to stop the partisan bickering—you can leave that to the yokels in Congress—and recognize that the suffering brought about by a police state will be the great equalizer, applying to all Americans, regardless of their political leanings (the fact that we are all now being targeted for government surveillance is but a foretaste of things to come).

As John Adams rightly noted, “The Revolution was effected before the war commenced. The Revolution was in the minds and hearts of the people. This radical change in the principles, opinions, sentiments and affections of the people was the real American Revolution.”

It’s time for a second American Revolution. Not a revolution designed to kill people or tear down and physically destroy society, but a

revolution of the minds and souls of human beings—a revolution promulgated to restore the freedoms for which our founders sacrificed their fortunes and their lives.

Other Topics-

“Rutherford Institute Asks U.S. Supreme Court to Ensure that Lawful Gun Ownership Is Not a Trigger for ‘No-Knock’ Police Raids”

December 19, — Warning against encroachments on the Second Amendment right to bear arms, The Rutherford Institute has asked the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the case of a Texas man whose home was subject to a no-knock, SWAT-team style forceful entry and raid based solely on the suspicion that there were legally-owned firearms in his household. Although police had obtained a search warrant for John Quinn’s home based on information that Quinn’s son might possess drugs, the warrant did not authorize police to enter the residence without knocking and announcing their entry. During the raid, Quinn was shot by police because he had reached for his lawfully owned firearm, thinking that his home was being invaded by criminals. In asking the Supreme Court to hear the case of *Quinn v. State of Texas*, Institute attorneys argue that making lawful gun ownership and possession grounds for police to evade the protections afforded by the Fourth Amendment improperly penalizes and limits the Second Amendment right to bear arms.

“Whatever the issue might be, whether it’s mass surveillance, no-knock raids, or the right to freely express one’s views about the government, we’ve moved into a new age in which the rights of the citizenry are being treated as a secondary concern by the White House, Congress, the courts, and their vast holding of employees, including law enforcement officials,” said John W. Whitehead, president of The Rutherford Institute and author of *A Government of Wolves: The Emerging American Police State*. “The disconnect, of course, is that the Constitution establishes a far different scenario in which government officials, including the police, are accountable to ‘we the people.’ For it to be otherwise, for government concerns to trump individual freedoms, with government officials routinely sidestepping the Constitution and reinterpreting the law to their own purposes, makes a mockery of everything this nation is supposed to stand for—self-government, justice, and the rule of law.”

In August 2006, Collin County (Texas) police obtained a warrant to search John Quinn’s home based on information that Quinn’s son might be in possession of controlled substances. The warrant did not authorize police to enter the residence without knocking and announcing their entry. Nevertheless, based solely on the suspicion that there were firearms in the Quinn household, the SWAT team forcibly broke into Quinn’s home after he had gone to bed and proceeded to carry out a search of the premises. During the raid, Quinn was shot by police because he had reached for his lawfully owned firearm, thinking that his home was being invaded by criminals. The raid resulted in police finding less than one gram of cocaine, which Quinn was charged with possessing.

Lower courts rejected Quinn’s objection to the “no-knock” entry on the grounds that because police had information that guns were present at the residence, they were justified in making a forced and unannounced invasion into Quinn’s home. Although established Fourth Amendment jurisprudence dictates that police officers entering a dwelling must

knock on the door and announce their identity and purpose before attempting a forcible entry, police may disregard the knock and announce rule under circumstances presenting a threat of physical violence or a danger that evidence will be destroyed. In their petition to the U.S. Supreme Court, Rutherford Institute attorneys argue that in the absence of any evidence of actual danger to police, the legal possession of a firearm, as guaranteed by the Second Amendment, is not sufficient to justify allowing police to override the Fourth Amendment’s protection against unannounced “no-knock” home invasions when executing warrants. Affiliate attorney James A. Pikel of Scheef & Stone, LLP, in Frisco, Texas, is assisting the Institute in defending the rights of Quinn. The Rutherford Institute, a nonprofit civil liberties organization, provides legal assistance at no charge to individuals whose constitutional rights have been threatened or violated.

December 20, 2013

Congressman Dent’s Statement on President Obama’s Decision to “Exempt” Individuals from the Health Care Law

Once again, the President’s administrative action further calls into question his credibility on the unfolding implementation disaster of the health care law.

When the reality of the staggering flaws in the law began to sink in with the country, President Obama did an end-run around Congress and delayed the employer mandate.

The House then voted to delay both the employer and individual mandates. President Obama tried to turn us into villains for our necessary actions and said he’d veto both bills.

Now, the reality of millions of Americans losing their insurance as a result of this flawed law has caused President Obama to partially delay the individual mandate.

The Senate should immediately take-up the House passed bills on the delays to the individual and employer mandates and pass them. President Obama then needs to sign them. We are not a country ruled by fiat from the White House. It’s time that President Obama recognized the restraints that the constitution places on his power.

“PA House Unanimously Endorses Barletta Firefighters Bill” - Resolution Encourages U.S. Congress to Pass Rep. Barletta’s H.R. 3685 -



(Rep. Barletta promotes his bill to exempt volunteer firefighters from the Affordable Care Act at the Steelton Fire Department)

HARRISBURG – Congressman Lou Barletta, PA-11, today commended the members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for their unanimous passage of a resolution urging Congress to immediately consider and pass Barletta’s federal legislation to exempt volunteer firefighters and emergency rescue personnel from the employer mandate of the Affordable Care Act. Sponsored by state Rep. Gordon Denlinger (Lancaster), H.R. 584 passed the House by a vote of 198-to-0 this week and requires no further legislative action.

“Everywhere I have traveled in my district and elsewhere, I meet people who tell me they support their local fire departments and don’t want them potentially driven out of business by being forced to provide health care for their volunteers, or pay a fine,” Barletta said. “Since there is also a bipartisan companion bill in the Senate, I am optimistic that we can have a floor vote on it in the House early in the new year. I appreciate the leadership of Rep. Denlinger on this important issue, and I am grateful for the endorsement of the Pennsylvania House. Every bit of support helps.”

“This matter is critical to the survival of our volunteer fire companies and the safety of residents across our Commonwealth. I applaud Congressman Barletta for being a strong advocate for our volunteer firefighters and emergency responders and hope Washington policymakers will rally around his effort,” said Rep. Denlinger. “I am thankful that Congressman Barletta heard this unified request from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and I applaud his work to protect the viability of our volunteer firefighters and emergency responders.”

On December 11, 2013, Barletta introduced the **Protecting Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders Act** to specifically exempt volunteer firefighters and volunteers providing emergency medical services from the employer mandate provision of Obamacare. Barletta has been concerned that since the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) currently views volunteer firefighters as employees, fire companies and municipalities would be forced to provide health insurance or pay a fine, saddling them with unbearable financial burdens and threatening public safety. Barletta sent the IRS a letter in November requesting a clarification, but the correspondence has gone unanswered as of today.

Under the Employer Mandate Provision, employers with 50 or more employees must provide health insurance or pay penalties for workers who put in at least 30 hours per week. This could be problematic for fire companies, particularly in Pennsylvania where 97-percent of stations rely exclusively or mostly on volunteers. Fire companies could exceed the 50 employee threshold in several different ways: by themselves based on their size, by being part of a larger combined force under several different chiefs, or by being part of a municipality that has 50 or more public employees in total.

[Pennsylvania House Resolution 584](#) reads, in part:

“WHEREAS, The impact on our volunteer emergency services and our local governments, if not exempted from the employer mandate provision of the ACA, would be very devastating.”

“...therefore be it RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the Congress of the United States to immediately consider and pass H.R. 3685, which exempts emergency services volunteers from being counted as full-time employees under the Federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; and be it further RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the President, to the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.”

Background:

Barletta was first alerted to the issue during a parade in the 11th District

by Robert Timko, a volunteer firefighter for the Fairview Township Fire Company, who also serves as Pennsylvania Alternate Director for the National Volunteer Fire Council. Barletta then sent a letter to the IRS seeking the clarification regarding volunteer firefighters and their status under the Employer Mandate Provision contained in Obamacare:

“Forcing volunteer fire companies to comply with the Shared Responsibility Provision will not extend health insurance to the uninsured – rather it will close firehouses and place communities at risk,” **Barletta wrote to Acting IRS Commissioner Daniel Werfel.** “Furthermore, subjecting volunteer fire companies to the Shared Responsibility Provision may force them to eliminate volunteers in order to avoid classification as a large employer.”

Though the IRS has not responded to Barletta’s inquiry, it has been the general practice of the tax agency to treat all firefighters as employees for federal tax purposes. The agency even specifically addresses that question on its [website](#):

“Generally, tax laws apply to firefighters in the same manner as for other types of workers. It does not matter whether firefighters are termed ‘volunteers’, are considered employees, or are identified by any other name, if the work they do is subject to the will and control of the payer, under the common-law rules, they are employees for Federal tax purposes.”

If the IRS continues to regard the volunteers as employees, then the important question would center on the counting of the hours the firefighters are working. A 30-hour work week would trigger Obamacare’s penalties.

Barletta’s legislation is supported by the National Volunteer Fire Council, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, Congressional Fire Services Institute, the National Association of Counties, the National Association of Towns and Townships, the National Association of EMTs, and the National Association of State EMS Officials.

“The End of a Sinful Nation”

by Bro. Todd Bryant

“The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God” – Psalms 9:17

One will search the Old Testament far and wide to find where God punished the nation of Israel due to bad economic policy. Surely, we see the chastening hand of God on His chosen earthly people numerous times in the Bible. And yet, in each and every instance, their punishment was due to their refusal to acknowledge Him and His holy Law. Israel forgot God. As a result, they were continually facing judgment in the form of plagues, famines, captivity and numerous other ways.

It is with great sadness that I listen to the debates on the floor of the House and Senate in Washington. Though both sides may present well thought out, logical answers to this nation’s problems, one thing is missing from the platform of both political parties today. Often we, as believers, have even put aside faith for politics. Many in Christendom today seem far more concerned about high taxes or national healthcare than they do about God and His values in the leaders they vote for. Let this be stated plainly – no matter how conservative our approach to the

economy and the national debt may be, “all the nations that forget God” will fall. America is no exception.

Psalms 33:12 says unmistakably, “*Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord*”. The harmony between this verse and our text couldn’t be more apparent. God is going to bless the nation that is spiritually sound. God is going to judge the nation that forgets Him. There are no other factors listed here. There’s nothing about national healthcare. There’s nothing about taxes. There’s nothing about social security. Obviously, these policies are affected by the spirituality of those in office. But the bottom line is, if we are faithful to God, He will bless us. If we are not, He will judge us.

Can a nation really expect to be blessed by economic policy despite its spiritual wickedness? The Antichrist will take this world over in such a way. “*Through his cunning, he shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule*” (Daniel 8:25). Seemingly, the world will prosper under the Antichristian regime despite having the most corrupt, wicked leader it has ever known. And yet, Bible believing Christians know that his empire will be short lived. Jesus will return and destroy it less than 7 years after the Antichrist comes to power.

This article does not mean to dismiss the importance of good, sound policies. However, these must be the outpouring of a spiritually strong people...a thing which America simply is not today. Christians, wake up. The words in our text verse are as true today as they were when they were penned. The nation that forgets God will be turned into hell. If America continues down this road, despite whatever conservative fiscal policy of the leaders, we will fall. Pray for your leaders. Cast your vote for spiritually sound men. Do not waste your vote for a candidate who denies the Lord in all that he does.

“Danger of False Teachers: The Times in Which We Live”
by Bro. Stephen McCool Sr.



II Timothy 4:3,4 “*For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.*”

The verses above describe perfectly the times in which we live. Paul warned Timothy of a time when the Lord's people would not listen to the truth of God's word but would rather study under those who teach what the people want to hear. People today do not want to be convicted of their sin but want to be told it is ok to sin. And this all in the name of God's Grace. We live in a world where the religious leaders have convinced people that God is love and does not hate. We live in a world where religious leaders have taught for several generations that anyone can go to heaven if they live a good life or they do good deeds. As I have shown in the past few articles on false teachers we are a society that thrives on fiction and fables.

Preachers and teachers have traded their God written Bibles for books written by men. Several years ago I read where someone had come up with a Sunday school lesson plan based on a television show. Seems someone thought the Andy Griffith Show would make a good lesson plan for Sunday school. Now I admit that this show is one of the few shows I enjoy watching from time to time, but to make a Sunday school lesson plan from this? What's wrong with basing our lesson plans on God's word? Have we reached a point in our place in time that God's

word is not enough. Have we reached a point where man's word is better than God's?

Pastors and churches are so desperate to bring in people and/or to keep their congregations number high they are reaching out to whatever the people want. Any form of entertainment will do. From the children all the way up to the elderly, churches will try anything to capture the attention of a crowd. Movies, plays, role playing, parties, holiday celebrations, political rallies, motivational speakers, etc. Many times these events consume the whole service and the Lord's word is never opened. None of these have a place in the Lord's church but this is what the people want so the preachers and teachers go along.

II Timothy 3:1-17 “*This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from which turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as their's also was. But thou hast fully know my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thourghly furnished unto all good works.*”

“Our Changeless God”
by Bro. Todd Bryant

“For I am the LORD, I do not change” (Malachi 3:6)

Is it not somewhat amazing that there are so many ideas about God in the world today? Throughout various religions and even many sects of Christendom God is seen differently. However, the same God that created the heavens and the Earth has not changed. The same God that destroyed this world in the Flood still reigns today. The God of the Bible Who brought the children of Israel out of Egypt with a mighty hand is still able to do the same today.

“But pastor, we are living in the year 2011. Things have changed” many would declare. All of this is true. “Things” have changed. Man has taken a beautiful creation that he was given and has corrupted it. Is there any real doubt that man, at some point, will launch a world war that destroys much of the world? Is there any comfort to be found in this? Absolutely. God has told us already what is going to happen. He has told us that He is in control. Man may, in fact, perform some horrible atrocities. But,

God will not allow the human race to destroy itself. He will preserve us until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Christian groups that once promoted a bit of truth now declare that Jesus is “one way” or “the best way” or even “the easiest way.” Politicians have become notorious for asking their constituents to pray to “whatever god they pray to”. Is this where we are? God’s Word has not changed. There is but one God and His name is Jehovah. “There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism” (Ephesians 4:5). Jesus is NOT “one way” into fellowship with God. He is not even “the best way”. Jesus is “the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through” Him (John 14:6).

Many professing believers today would say, “God is all love. He would never send anybody to hell.” My Bible says, “For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God” (Deuteronomy 4:24). Also, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord” (Romans 12:19). And again, “The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked” (Nahum 1:3). The Bible knows nothing of this god that wouldn’t send anybody to hell. God is righteous. That does not change. He cannot overlook sin. It must be punished. If He doesn’t punish it, He ceases to be righteous and we know this cannot happen because He does not change.

Folks, it seems that almost everybody is trying to mold a god into the form they want him to be today. But, this is not the way we are to respond to God. He is right. We are wrong. He is holy. We are unholy. He is righteous. We are corrupt. He doesn’t need changing. We do!

Child of God, stop trying to change God into whatever you want Him to be. Don’t enter your personal Bible study to prove whatever you want God to be. Open His Word with the idea that it needs to change you. We are the ones that need changing.

“Falling in One Foot at a Time”

by Bro. Jeff Short



“Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.” ~ 1 Corinthians 10:12

“Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew. And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.” ~ Matthew 26:74-75

Peter denied the Lord Jesus Christ, not once, but three times. This happened even after Jesus told him it would happen and Peter vehemently objected that it would happen. But it did. If we look closely, we realize Peter’s failure was not an isolated act that happened suddenly in a moment. His denial was the culmination of a chain of events that were leading him to this point. Let’s follow the links of this chain.

At the Mount of Olives, Jesus prophesied that all His disciples would be offended that night and flee. Peter was boasting and self-confident.

“But Peter said unto him, Although all shall be offended, yet will

not I.” ~ Mark 14:29

“But he spake the more vehemently, If I should die with thee, I will not deny thee in any wise.” ~ Mark 14:31

In the garden, when he was supposed to be watching, he was sleeping.

“And he cometh, and findeth them sleeping, and saith unto Peter, Simon, sleepest thou? Coudest not thou watch one hour?” ~ Mark 14:37

When Jesus was taken to Caiaphas, Peter followed them at a distance so to see what would happen but not be associated with Him.

“But Peter followed him afar off unto the high priest’s palace, and went in, and sat with the servants, to see the end.” ~ Matthew 26:58

At the high priest’s palace, Peter chose to hide in plain sight and sat down with the enemies of Jesus at the fire.

“And the servants and officers stood there, who had made a fire of coals; for it was cold: and they warmed themselves: and Peter stood with them, and warmed himself.” ~ John 18:18

Among these evil associates, Peter denied the Lord three times.

And as Peter was beneath in the palace, there cometh one of the maids of the high priest: And when she saw Peter warming himself, she looked upon him, and said, And thou also wast with Jesus of Nazareth. But he denied, saying, I know not, neither understand I what thou sayest. And he went out into the porch; and the cock crew. And a maid saw him again, and began to say to them that stood by, This is one of them. And he denied it again. And a little after, they that stood by said again to Peter, Surely thou art one of them: for thou art a Galilaeen, and thy speech agreeth thereto. But he began to curse and to swear, saying, I know not this man of whom ye speak. And the second time the cock crew. And Peter called to mind the word that Jesus said unto him, Before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. And when he thought thereon, he wept. ~ Mark 14:66-72

This is often the way it is with sin. A great failure is the capstone of a building of many small blocks of failure. Jesus taught that outward acts of sin start with inward sins in the heart. *“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*

“O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.” ~ Matthew 12:34-35

This is why we are to mortify the deeds of the flesh. This is why we are to war against sin, even the sins that seem small and of little significance. Little gains and little victories will help keep us from the big failures.

We are often like the little boy whose mother tells him not to get wet. He starts by walking up to the edge of the water. He tosses a couple of rocks in. He tests it with his toes. He stirs it with a stick. He drops the stick in and, of course, he must retrieve it. His mother returns to find him splashing and wet from head to toe. The look on her face is enough

accusation and he pleads, "But Mommy, I just fell in." And so he did— he fell in one foot at a time.

*Point Of View: Sis. Mariza Mag-
aso -
Villasor*



(Bro. & Sis. Villasor)

"I am Mariza Mag- aso - Villasor, living in Bgy. Quezon, San Carlos City, Negros Occidental. My husband is a Pastor (Hansel L. Villasor) of Providence Baptist Church here in the Philippines. My parents are already saved by the Grace of God. Their names are Nieves Panares & Ismael Mag-aso.

How long have you and Bro. Villasor been married? How long has he been the pastor? Do you have children?

[Married] 7 years, and a pastor for 3 years.

[we have] No children, but I have 2 teens living with us whom I sent to school."

God called me through my husband when He discussed the real way of Salvation & He also negate Catholicism. At first it was not easy for my parents are [where] devoted Catholics, they strongly objected of Him being my fiancée. But because of His determination to tell the truth, God convicted me. Sometimes on October 2006 , I accepted Jesus as my personal Savior. I was baptized on February 2007. After knowing that the church baptized me had no proper authority, I was re-baptized by a True Church on January 24, 2013 at Marikina , Manila Philippines.

God uses the books of C.D. Cole and T.P. Simmons to bring him [Bro. Villasor] to the sheepfold. He is fond of reading and researching whenever he has questions.

I am a public school teacher. I've been teaching for 7 years. Students age bracket (13-19) What I like most being a teacher is that I can teach them to become a good person, share to them the Gospel."

About The Philippines:

"It is a favorite tourist destination, because of the beautiful spots present in our country. And of course the people are hospitable and friendly."

How many languages and people groups are in the Philippines?

"25 ethnic groups & 175 dialects. Aetas is the only ethnic groups present

in our community, they composed a small numbers. We are in the Visayas region, there are 3 dialects spoken : Cebuano, Waray & Ilonggo."

"The neighboring countries are; Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Taiwan, Singapore & Brunei. They are on good relation."

What kind of political system does the Philippines have?
Democratic Country.

What is the religious atmosphere like there?
Most people here are Roman Catholic.

Are there any dangerous to being a genuine Christian where you live?
No

How was your family and the church effected by the storms in November?

"There is a tree falling down in the church roof. The source of livelihood which is farming where severely damage. Some of houses were unroofed."

Do the people in your area need any aid, if yes what can others do to help?

"Yes, they need food, vitamins, clothes, medicines. Blankets & mattresses."

[You can contact Bro. Vilassor via Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/hansel.villasor>, if you'd like to ask how to help.]



(The meeting house of Providence Baptist Church)

About the church:

"The folks members/ attending of the church are all farmers & laborers."

When was the church there organized?

"April 13, 2013"

How long was it a mission before it was organized?

"2 years"

Who was the Missionary and sending church that started the mission work?

"Hansel Villasor"

Are there any other churches or missions near by that you fellowship with?

“None.”



(Worship service at Providence Baptist Church)



(Bro. and Sis. Villasor)

Is the Bible in your pictures in English?

Yes

Are the worship services in English?

No

Do you have scriptures in your native language(s)?

Yes

“As the days of Noah were...”

by Bro. Todd Bryant

“But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.” – Matthew 24:37-39

Jesus is coming soon. That is a fact. With events in the Middle East, the dependence between world governments, the universal acceptance of sin and many other factors, we can see that the coming of our Lord is drawing near. For the child of God, this is a time to rejoice.

The verse before us illustrates a time very similar to our generation. Folks are not looking for the coming of Christ. Just as the people before the flood were doing, so our generation is carrying on with normal life without any thought that Jesus could return today. Sadly, many of our friends and loved ones will be caught unaware when the Lord returns. What are a few signs of the coming of Christ? First, “...scoffers will come in the last days, walking in their own lusts, and saying, ‘Where is the promise of His coming?’” (II Peter 3:3). This is a description of this day and age. Everywhere you look, people are “walking in their own lusts.” Few people today have any concern for God. Most today never consider that they will stand before a Thrice Holy God and be judged. So many have dismissed any thought that Jesus will return. This is our generation. We are in the last days.

Secondly, Timothy speaks of the “last days” and describes them as a time that will be consumed with sins including covetousness, pride, boastfulness, and blasphemy (II Timothy 3:1-4). He says men will lack self control as it relates to sin. He says many will have a “form of godliness”, but, it would not be real Christianity. We are in the last days. Timothy also describes this time by saying, “they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables” (II Timothy 4:3-4). The most common brand of “Christianity” today doesn’t know a God Who saves and a depraved man that needs saving. Most of what we see today is merely “a form of godliness” without any real root of faith. We are in the last days.

Child of God be encouraged. Your Lord and Savior is soon to return to this Earth. He has promised that He went away to prepare a place for us and that He would return again for us (John 14:2-3). Be watching and waiting for His coming. Be working as well – telling those that are lost that the Day of Judgment is approaching. Tell them that the only way to escape God’s wrath is to flee by faith to Jesus Christ. There is no other hope for mankind.

Baptist For Liberty can be found online at

<http://baptistsforliberty.weebly.com>

You can also look us up on Facebook

Send letters to the Editor at worksjoanna@yahoo.com

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