

The DEFENDER - May 2020



“. . . defending the faith once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3)

A monthly publication of the
IN DEFENSE OF TRUTH radio broadcast.



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK: Freedom is Not Free

We celebrate Memorial Day on May 25th this year, in remembrance of those who gave their lives in battle to protect and maintain the liberties given to these United States by our founders. Freedoms like the right to peaceably assemble, exercise our religion, and keep and bear arms. I wonder what those dead heroes would think if they were alive today, as we see the freedom of worship, association, movement, and expression all being stifled. Is this what they fought and died for? Our founders, like Jefferson, Franklin, and Madison knew the consequences of not keeping checks on the powers of the State. We are a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. Unfortunately, over the years we've had to deal with elected officials who somehow have gotten that turned around to where they think we work for them. They fancy themselves as our Big Brother rather than our public servant, as they lock up the basic God-given freedoms that have been engrained in us as Americans.

The longer the economic shutdown of America continues, the more convinced I am that this is a judgment from God. But please don't misunderstand. I don't think the judgment has come in the form of COVID-19. We've had viruses before—the flu, H1N1, Ebola, and HIV-AIDS. And we've withstood them all without 25 million workers being unemployed and a 22 trillion dollar economy screeching to a halt. Rather, I believe the judgment is being leveled against us through the vehicle of the far-left progressive movement along with the Deep State bureaucrats who want to stop the freedom movement—politically and economically—initiated by President Trump. By keeping America at a standstill, the socialists are able to bring about the changes they can't accomplish at the ballot box—economic recession, cradle to grave government control, and the defeat of Donald Trump in November. And if that happens, don't expect the judgment to stop. It will only get worse with the leftwing opposition in charge.

But whereas this warning of coming disaster may be unavoidable, with it there are also glad tidings. **Psalm 46:1** says “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble.” And in **Psalm 118:6** we read “The Lord is on my side, I will not fear. What can man do to me?” Jesus said in **John 14:27** “My peace I give unto you, not as the world gives...let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” And from **Psalm 23:4**, “Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me.”

The world is evil. There's danger lurking around every corner. And yet, the Lord's people have a peace about them that passes all human understanding. And it's free for the asking. If you don't have it, what are you waiting for? And if you don't want it now, then when?

Rev. David Lewis

Bible Basics for Christians **Part V – The Eternal Blessing of Grace**

By Robert Luthardt, Sr.

Grace led our Savior to die on a cross in our place. Though He owns the universe He had to be buried in a borrowed tomb (John 19:41-42). On the third day He rose from the dead a victor over the Devil, death and hell (1 Cor. 15:4). After 40 days He ascended back to His throne and His former glory (Acts 1:10). His resurrection and ascension are proof enough that God's justice was met (Rom. 4:25, 5:1).

God could have instituted a plan of salvation such as is found in all religions and beliefs except Bible centered Christianity. He could have granted salvation to those who earned or deserved it by doing certain prescribed works. He didn't. He gave salvation as a GIFT (Rom. 6:23) to those He foreordained, predestinated, called, justified and glorified (Rom. 8:28-30) before the world was even created (Ep. 1:4-6) by "the riches of His grace" (vs. 7). Quite a blessing.

God rejects man's attempts at works-based righteousness, "Now to Him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace ... to him that worketh NOT, but BELIEVETH ... his faith is counted for righteousness (Rom. 4:4-5). For by GRACE are ye saved through faith ... the GIFT of God; NOT of works ..." (Ep. 2:8-9).

Over 100 times in the New Testament salvation is said to be received by "believing" on the Savior and His work (ex. John 3:16, 3:36, 5:24, 6:47; Acts 16:31). Believing by faith yields God's ordained righteousness (Acts 13:48). Belief is not a mere assent to historical facts. It is effectual only when one receives that gift of faith from God and is born again (John 3:3-5; Ep. 2:1). Faith is not a condition or a conduit to earning one's own salvation. It is a manifestation of a totally new nature imputed to God's elect on the foundation of Christ's righteousness ALONE (Rom. 4:6) on those that believe (vs. 11) from God's gift of faith (vs. 13; Rom. 5:17, 6:23, 8:32). None can boast of achieving salvation, they simply awake to the "draw" of God on their heart (John 6:44, 65). It is the object of faith (Christ) not the amount that matters. A lifetime of kissing the feet of an idol is faith in counterfeit. The first breath of life breathed into a spiritually resurrected child of God yields saving faith to last for all eternity (Gen. 2:7; Ep. 2:1, 5-6).

Those who claim that Christ only paid part of our sin debt and so we must add our "righteousness" are denigrating both God's grace AND His glory. It is either by grace alone or by God's will alone (Phil. 2:13) or it is by added works from man: "And if by grace, then it is NO MORE OF WORKS": otherwise grace is no more grace ..." (Rom. 11:6). As plain and clear as this is, some continue misleading others to believe their good works will earn them God's favor and heaven and all the while their good works are an abomination (Is. 64:6).

No mortal or confederation of mere men can make God a debtor or a genie to do their bidding or be obligated to accept a man-centered works-righteousness program. Salvation was and is always of God's unmerited mercy and that to those He has called (Rom. 9:16-21). Since

man's chief end is to glorify God (1 Cor. 10:31), the sin of prideful boasting of works of righteousness is condemned by God's law of faith (Rom. 3:27) and Christ's commandment of perfect obedience (Matt. 5:48; James 2:10).

If men could save themselves as every other religion and apostate Christianity teaches, then Christ need not have died (Gal. 2:21), but scripture teaches there is but one way of salvation – Christ is the only and the exclusive way of saving faith (1 Cor. 3:11). To teach men to add to Christ's work is to say His death and resurrection and His blood was inadequate (Col. 3:11b). Christ came that He would save sinners: not to help them save themselves (1 Tim. 1:15; Luke 19:10). Our good works are not the root of salvation but the FRUIT (Titus 2:14).

James rightly taught that righteous living and good works always FOLLOW upon the life of the NEW CREATION in Christ (James 1:22-25; 2 Cor. 5:17). Our faith from God does not appear to physical eyes, but our true repentance and heart-felt service can and should be seen: "By their fruits [good and bad] ye shall know them" (Matt. 7:16-20). We cannot see or judge motives, but we can inspect fruit all day long since deeds are easily seen and speak for themselves, so this is no violation of the command not to pridefully judge another (Matt. 7:1-2). If we only inspect fruit, we then judge "righteous judgment" (John 7:24).

It can stagger the imagination to know that when Christ's righteousness is divinely imputed to us by grace we become heirs of fabulous wealth: "Eye hath not seen nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man the things that God hath prepared for those who love Him" (1 Cor. 2:9; Ep. 1:11, 18). "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven (Matt. 6:19-21). "He that spared not His own Son ... shall ... freely give us ALL THINGS" (Rom 8:32).

Our first treasure is our redeemed soul (Rom. 8:1) and our freedom from the slavery of sin (Rom. 6:14) and one day even free from its presence (1 John 3:2) and more than all, free from Hell. When born again, one is born from above (Titus 3:5-6) and given a new nature, justified by God the Son and at peace with God forever (Rom. 5:1). None can condemn those God calls (Rom. 8:33-34) for we have been delivered from the power of darkness into Christ's Kingdom (Col. 1:13-14) by the rarest treasure of all – the shed blood of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ (1 Pet. 1:18-20).

More treasure is manifested in the full and complete forgiveness of our sins (Ep. 1:7) that God removes (Ps. 103:12) and counts us reconciled to Him (Rom. 5:10) with an ongoing sanctification (Heb. 13:12; 1 Pet. 1:2) after being baptized by the Holy Spirit into the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13) and made known to all men and angelic beings (Ep. 3:9-11). The Spirit comes into our hearts as an earnest (a token, or a down payment) of our future hope (Rom. 8:11; Titus 2:13; 1 John 4:13). Simply put, we are now one in God's Royal Family (Ep. 1:13) with His Spirit in us (1 Cor. 6:19) and we in Him (John 17:22-23). "For in Him we live and move, and have our being ... for we are His offspring" (Acts 17:28) and our bodies the very temple of God the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19 where also Christ lives (Ep. 3:17; Co. 1:27) and even the Father (Ep. 4:6). Who can know it? (Jer. 17:10).

Those born again have everything needful spiritually nor will they ever be left alone or forsaken for eternity (Col. 2:9-10; Heb. 13:5) for we become the very children in God's family (John 1:12) by His will not ours (vs. 13). He adopts us out of Satan's slavery (Ep. 2:2-3; 2 Cor. 4:3-4;

Ep. 1:4-5) being true children of God, not stepchildren (Gal. 4:4-7) and though we be guilty sinners, God by grace expunges our old record (Rom. 5:20) to be “remembered no more” (Heb. 8:12). Just as God loves His Son Jesus Christ He also loves us (John 17:23b) and gives us eternal life (John 5:24) and a mansion (John 14:1-3) in heaven as God’s heir (Rom. 8:17) and we say as the Apostle, “all things” are mine ...” (1 Cor. 3:22-23).

The saved are the object of our Lord’s constant care as our advocate and High Priest (1 John 2:1; Heb. 10:21-22) and we are His under shepherds or Priests (1 Pet. 2:5, 9) and His ambassadors on earth (2 Cor. 5:20) and we share in His glory here AND there (John 17:22) the fulness being yet future (1 John 3:2) when the rest will be revealed (Ep. 2:7) and our inheritance will bear the label “Made In Heaven” (Ep. 1:3) and it will be “finished” (John 19:30).

How can we have assurance of all this? One thing should be clear: If salvation is by works, we cannot have true assurance. When would enough good works be enough? Can we even be sure the works done are the required kind that pleases God? No one could ever be certain. If salvation, however, is as scripture teaches that we are saved by grace through faith, in an irrevocable gift from God, then we can be assured that the promise is to “all the seed” (Rom. 4:16). The Apostle Paul knew he was saved (2 Tim. 1:12; Titus 3:5, 7); we can as well (1 John 5:13, 20). God said it, that settles it – whether we believe it or not – whether sinners or enemies (Rom. 5:8-10). Those who say we cannot know we are saved make God a liar (1 John 5:10).

Christians gain assurance by their newly-found loathing of sin (Matt. 6:13) and also by a new thirst to learn of Christ (Matt. 11:29; 1 Pet. 2:2-3) and for guidance (Rom 8:14) and for holiness and obedience (1 John 2:3) and love for the brethren (1 John 3:14a).

The spiritually dead are resurrected to new life (Col. 2:13) because they were chosen to be in Christ from before the foundation of the world (Ep. 1:4-6; 2 Tim. 1:9). Those the Father so adopted He will draw to Christ (John 6:37, 44; Rom 8:28-31). Salvation of the spiritually dead depends solely upon Christ’s sacrifice which was perfect, complete, and finished (Heb. 10:12) allowing NOTHING from man (vs. 18). It should be remembered that the new life God gives to new Christians is ETERNAL life: “I give them life and they shall NEVER PERISH...” (John 10:28) and God cannot lie nor break a promise – He justified us, so He WILL glorify us (Rom. 8:30).

He is able also to: “Keep you from falling” (Jude 24) until “the day of Jesus Christ” (Phil. 1:6). Our High Priest advocates for us (1 John 2:1), prays for us (John 17:1-26), intercedes for us (Heb. 7:25), and gives us His Holy Spirit, forever (John 14:16-17). Once God resurrects our dead spirit (...“though he were dead yet shall he live ...” – John 11:24-25) and become new creations spiritually (2 Cor. 5:17) we are kept by the very power of God (1 Pet. 1:5) as His “living sacrifices” (Rom. 12:1-2).

By God’s providence and grace we are looking for our King’s return in: “that blessed hope and glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior, Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13): our greatest reward. Keep looking up.

Chief Source: The Grace of God (1960 edition)
Author: William MacDonald
Publisher: Walterick Publishers, 3207 State Avenue, Kansas City, Kansas

The Christian Life – Part IV – Generosity

By Nancy Long

Prov. 3:9 – *“Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase.”*

Prov.11:24-25 — *“There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth, and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty. The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.”*

Malachi 3:10 – *Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove Me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, If I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.”*

Acts 20:35 – *“I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.”*

2 Cor. 9:6 – *“But here I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.”*

Phil. 4:19 – *“But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”*

Continuing on in our study of the attributes of God, this month we will probe into God’s characteristic of generosity. Scripture tells us in Acts, chapter 20, last part of verse 35 that *“..... It is more blessed to give than to receive.”* In today’s world though, it almost appears contrary. These words of Jesus, it seems, have become very trite and commonplace. They’re quoted much, but practiced little!

Paul sets down a basic and fundamental principle in 2 Cor. 9:6, *“He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.”* In this verse “sowing” corresponds to giving; and “reaping” corresponds to receiving. Does this principle make any sense? Yes, I believe it does. Happy, and more importantly, full of joy, is the one who gives generously, liberally, and unselfishly, with no thought of recompense or reward.

I have lived long enough to realize the truth of God's Word, that whatever is sown (good or bad) will most assuredly be reaped (Gal. 6:7). Thinking about this topic of generosity, the more a person gives of himself, his time, his finances, etc. the more content he finds himself. The less focus is placed on self, the less concern, anxious, "worry" about the things of this world, the more freedom there is to be concerned about the spiritual and physical needs of those around us. This is what's important to Christ! The Holy Spirit will perfect His love and generosity in us when we adhere to this principle.

Paul tells us in 1 Timothy 6:18 that we who call ourselves Christians should be ready, and willing, to give of ourselves and our possessions. We are to open our eyes to the needy and be willing to share cheerfully. We've all heard it said, "... *but if I give my money to those in need, I'll have nothing left for my family or myself.*" Once again God's Word addresses this. His promise to those who are charitable is that they will never lack. Their needs will always be supplied (Prov. 28:27 and Phil. 4:19)!

I read somewhere that one can never out give the Lord. I believe that God will more than abundantly bless a cheerful giver, not necessarily with material wealth, but for sure with spiritual advantages and blessings. That's a promise!! Our Lord takes care of His own! There is wonderful peace, comfort, joy, and freedom in knowing this truth (2 Cor. 9:8-11).

There are so many advantages (benefits) to giving. The blessings of true generosity cannot be counted. Our God is a benevolent and a liberal giver, and will plentifully pour out of His riches more than is sufficient for each and every one of us (Mal. 3:10).

I think of the song, written by Gloria and William Gaither, entitled:

I Could Never Outlove the Lord

There've been times when giving and loving brought pain,
And I promised I would never let it happen again;
But I found out that loving was well worth the risk,
And that even in losing, you win.
He showed us that only thro' dying we live,
And He gave when it seemed there was nothing to give;
He loved when loving brought heartache and loss;
He forgave from an old rugged cross.

Chorus

I'm going to live the way He wants me to live;
I'm going to give until there's just no more to give;
I'm going to love love 'til there's just no more love;
I could never never out love the Lord!

Loving and giving are synonymous interchangeable equal the same!
Thank you, Lord, for showing us, a little more of Yourself through Your love, as well as
Your generosity.

I pray the Lord's blessings on all our Defenders as we begin a new month together,
and that we will continue to *"earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered
unto the saints"* (Jude 3).

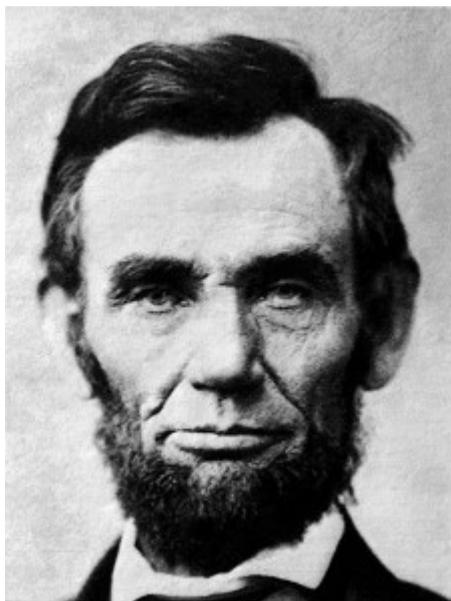


C. S. Lewis wrote this in 1948 about the atomic bomb, but he could have just as well been talking about the Corona-virus:

In one way we think a great deal too much of the atomic bomb. "How are we to live in an atomic age?" I am tempted to reply: "Why, as you would have lived in the sixteenth century when the plague visited London almost every year, or as you would have lived in a Viking age when traders from Scandinavia might land and cut your throat any night; or indeed, as you are already living in an age of cancer, an age of syphilis, an age of paralysis, an age of air raids, an age of railway accidents, an age of motor accidents."

In other words do not let us begin by exaggerating the novelty of our situation. Believe me, dear sir or madam, you and all whom you love were already sentenced to death before the atomic bomb was invented; and quite a high percentage of us were going to die in unpleasant ways. We had, indeed, one very great advantage over our ancestors—anaesthetics; but we have that still. It is perfectly ridiculous to go about whimpering and drawing long faces because the scientists have added one more chance of painful and premature death to a world which already bristled with such chances and in which death itself was not a chance at all, but a certainty.

This is the first point to be made: and the first action to be taken is to pull ourselves together. If we are all going to be destroyed by an atomic bomb, let that bomb when it comes find us doing sensible and human things—praying, working, teaching, reading, listening to music, bathing the children, playing tennis, chatting to our friends over a pint and a game of darts—not huddled together like frightened sheep and thinking about bombs. They may break our bodies (a microbe can do that) but they need not dominate our minds.



“We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving Grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us!”

Abraham Lincoln

The Bible is God's holy and reverent Word and should show the utmost respect for our holy and sovereign God (which describes our beloved AV 1611 KJV). This is why we love and know that AV 1611 KJV is God's PROVIDENTIALLY PURE and PRESERVED WORD, and thus not one of the modern versions that do not verbally express the reverence that KJV does. We should NEVER bring our sovereign God's Word down to the creature's level. The Laodicean versions are typical of this ungodly compromising Laodicean church age: Note the Lord's prayer states "THY" kingdom come, not "THE" or "HIS" kingdom come. Modern day versions ("perversions," as they disobediently ADD and SUBTRACT from His Word, thereby reducing God's Holy Word down to today's modern and irreverent language). This is why true fundamental Bible-believing Christians overwhelmingly stick with God's PURE, PRESERVED Word. Hear God's final WARNING: Rev. 22:19 "and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the Book of Life and out of the Holy City, and from the things which are written in this book."

*In His Precious Name,
Pat Knight*

"If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" (Psalm 11:3)





Take a Stand

By Hank Arthur

Back then when I was just a lad,
living was tough and times were bad.
Fighting a battle over land and sea,
praying God would preserve our liberty.
We loved our country, the United States,
and welcomed all who entered our gates.
They became Americans and did their part,
supporting the Constitution from the start.
Later, others came with a traitorous mind,
disrupting anything they could find.
They loathe the 10 Commandments, and Bill of Rights,
anything that mentions God is in their sights.
Back then our enemies came from overseas;
we each helped bring them to their knees.
Today our problems come from within,
drugs, disorder and rampant sin.
Many are trying to bring our country down,
grinding our rights and freedom into the ground.
Only true Americans can halt this trend,
we must get our future on the mend.
Don't sit and think of what others should do,
get up, get started, we're depending on you.
Put God and country ahead of it all,
vote with your heart and conscience this fall.
Ask God to go with you to your polling place,
and help you determine who wins the race.
We must take a stand and follow our heart,
nothing will change, until we start.

LIBERTY AND SAFETY

By **Diane Hussey**

“Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety.” Benjamin Franklin

Over the past two months as we have dealt with the fallout from the global COVID-19 pandemic, I have read numerous articles and listened to several messages which caused me to pause and ask some questions. What happens to our liberty when the government uses emergency powers to force us under penalty of law to stay at home? Why have churches been declared non-essential and forced to close their doors? Do these lockdown orders violate our God-given rights under the U.S. Constitution?

At the close of the Constitutional Convention of 1787, a lady asked Benjamin Franklin, “Well, Doctor, what have we got—a republic or a monarchy?” “A republic, if you can keep it,” he responded. Are we still willing to fight for our republic, or will we become accustomed to government lockdown orders?

I listened for days to the media alerts about this pandemic, and very lengthy press briefings with the President and his medical and scientific experts telling us the worst was yet to come. We must all shelter-in-place because that is what the experts insisted would end this virus and save many lives. As the number of cases worldwide and in the U.S. increased and the death toll rose, they instilled fear in us. While the media fueled the flames of hysteria with dramatic stories of the tragic impact of the virus on families, our governmental leaders wanted us to believe that their recommendations would save us because their experts knew what was best for us. It was as if we were being told to go home and be quiet. It will all be over soon.

I love my family and my friends, and I pray for their health and wellbeing, but I am concerned about what we may have allowed to slip through our fingers when the government usurps power to control us that has not been given to them by the Constitution. Ron Paul refers to them as “unconstitutional power grabs.” On March 26, 2020 he stated, “I’m gravely concerned liberty and prosperity will become distant memories under the PERMANENT EMERGENCY STATE, growing before our eyes.”

President Thomas Jefferson declared, “The greatest danger to American freedom is a government that ignores the Constitution.”

As time passed under our state-mandated stay-at-home orders, I began to search for what others were writing or saying about constitutional issues, liberty, martial law and the future of our republic.

On March 20, 2020 John Whitehead of the Rutherford Institute wrote: “This is a test to see whether the Constitution—and our commitment to the principles enshrined in the Bill of Rights—can survive a national crisis and true state of emergency.” On March 21, 2020 the Department of Justice called for Congress to suspend certain constitutionally protected rights during coronavirus. Constitutional attorney Robert Barnes discussed in detail how governments across America used this pandemic to restrict or remove our rights under six of the first seven amendments to the Constitution. The exception was the third amendment (quartering of soldiers in homes).

I observed two clear violations of the First Amendment at the outset of this crisis. One is the free exercise of religion and the other is “the right of the people peaceably to assemble.”

Since the U.S. Constitution is the supreme law of the land, how can the government close our churches on the pretext of a national emergency? This is the first time in American history that citizens of this nation have not been allowed to attend church. What happened to the “free exercise” of religion detailed in the First Amendment of our Constitution? It was trampled under the feet of state governors and city mayors who ordered all non-essential businesses to close.

On March 16th Governor Larry Hogan of Maryland banned gatherings of more than 50 people, whether for social, religious or recreational purposes. By April 1st it was reduced to 10 people. To enforce his edict, Governor Hogan announced that 250 state police troopers had been activated and were ready for deployment. Anyone convicted of violating this order would be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to imprisonment of up to one year and fined up to \$5,000, or both. As of April 7th 14 arrests and nearly 700 warnings had been issued in Maryland for violating the executive order prohibiting mass gatherings.

Over the next few weeks additional orders were issued by Governor Hogan including, a requirement for everyone to wear face masks in order to ride on public transportation or to enter a retail or food service establishment. He also ordered physical distancing of 6 feet between customers. The same penalties for mass gatherings also applied to these new requirements.

Both Judge Andrew Napolitano and Pastor Chuck Baldwin from Montana remind us that all elected officials on both the national and state level are bound by oath to support the Constitution. “Yet it is being violated right before our eyes by the very human beings we have elected to uphold it,” stated Judge Napolitano. The Judge added, “What good are our Constitutional rights if they are violated when America gets sick?” On March 26, 2020 Pastor Baldwin wrote, “We again face a new version of subjugation under Martial Law—Medical Martial Law.

In a Commentary sent out by the Institute on the Constitution on April 18, 2020, Jake MacAulay asked the question, "Do Governors Have Authority to Shut Down State Economies and Commerce?" Mr. MacAulay stated, "The consistencies that I am seeing with the mentality of executive power on international, federal, state, and local levels is that these officers can unilaterally act and declare orders without consent of the law-making bodies in their geographic regions. This is not republican; it is despotic and it is unconstitutional on all levels from the President to your local mayor." He added, ". . . an executive order is only legally applicable when used to execute existing laws. No authority is given to a president, governor, sheriff or mayor to make law. Uniformly across America, lawmaking responsibility is given to democratically elected legislatures and councils."

Although our churches are shuttered as non-essential, and we are told to practice social distancing so lives will be saved, yet the government allows abortion clinics to remain open as if murdering unborn babies is "essential." Why are liquor stores allowed to remain open? And as a side note, Governor Hogan proclaimed April 12, 2020 (Easter Sunday) an essential service day for the Easter Bunny. Where are our priorities as a state and a nation?

Both Pastor Baldwin and John Whitehead addressed the potential dangers that lie ahead if America continues on this course. In an April 4th email entitled, "Now We Know How Germany Let it Happen," Pastor Baldwin writes, "For as long as I can remember, when freedom-loving Americans would gather in small groups to discuss world affairs, the question would come up, 'How did the German people come to allow themselves to embrace totalitarianism the way they did?' Then, after a time of discussion about it, the group would always conclude by saying, 'Thank God, this could never happen in America.' On a similar note, John Whitehead wrote, "Will we become so accustomed to our prison walls that we allow government to have its way in all things? Is this the 4th Reich emerging from the shadows?"

God will bring us through this pandemic storm, but the aftermath may be with us for years to come. Could this be a test from God? I wonder what might have happened if most of the churches in America had stood together and declared, "We will not close the doors of our churches and be silenced by government orders. We will remain open and proclaim God's truth." But only a scattered few tried to remain open. Several pastors were threatened with arrest, and at least one was arrested.

On April 21, 2020 a glimmer of hope appeared on the horizon with word that two churches in Kansas filed a federal lawsuit against Governor Laura Kelly's order limiting in-person attendance at religious services to 10 people. U.S. District Judge John Broomes believes there is a "good chance" that "Kansas is violating religious freedom and free speech rights" with this order. The judge blocked the enforcement of this order against the two churches until May 2nd. At an upcoming hearing, the judge will decide if he should "issue a longer-term or broader injunction." The Alliance for Defending

Freedom, a Christian legal organization, was involved in the case. This lawsuit may be just the beginning of many more lawsuits filed in support of the Constitutional right of American citizens to freely gather to worship God.



Our mission through the broadcast of In Defense of Truth and the publication of The Defender newsletter is to earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3). Our vision today is just as strong as it was back in 1963 when Dr. John Dekker began this outreach. We pray that you will continue to stand with us as we hold true to God's holy Word.

The Defender is available, free of charge, on audio CD.
Please contact us if you would like to receive a copy by mail.

FIND US ON THE WEB AT
www.indefenseoftruth.org
& www.facebook.com/cubhillchurch

FREE APPS NOW AVAILABLE
for **Android Smartphone & iPhone** users.
Go to your App or Play Store, and type in
"**Cub Hill Church**" and/or "**Evangelism Radio**"
and download!

In Defense of Truth can be heard online
at www.evangelismradio.com:
Sunday-Friday from 6:30-7:00 PM
and on WCBM AM 680 in Baltimore every Sunday from 6:30-7:00 AM

Listen also to IDOT's "Moment of Truth"
airing Monday through Friday
on WCBM AM 680 in Baltimore.

DEFENDER CONTRIBUTORS

Rev. David R. Lewis, MDiv., Director, IDOT
Robert Luthardt, Sr., Elder, CHBPC
Nancy Long, Member, CHBPC
Diane Hussey, Member, CHBPC
Hank Arthur, Defender
Patricia Knight, Defender

WRITE TO US!

Rev. David Lewis &
In Defense of Truth
2927 Cub Hill Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21234

Upcoming Events!

If you are in or around the Baltimore area, we'd love to have you join us for these upcoming events!

Adult & Children's Sunday School	10:15 AM
Sunday Morning Worship & Children's Church	11:00 AM
Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study	1:30 PM
Wednesday Evening Bible Study	7:00 PM

ALL OF THE ABOVE SERVICES/BIBLE STUDIES HAVE BEEN TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED!