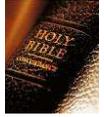


The DEFENDER - January 2021



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

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IN DEFENSE OF TRUTH radio broadcast
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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK: What Now?

As we watch the unforgettable year of 2020 disappear in our rearview mirror, we enter into the year of our Lord 2021. And make no mistake about it, it is His year, as our sovereign God has ordained all that will transpire in these next 12 months. The prophet Daniel clearly told us that in addition to removing and setting up kings, God also changes the times and the seasons (**Daniel 2:21**). All that happens is in His control, as history continues to wind its way to completion. But are we near the end?

In Matthew 24 the disciples asked Jesus for a sign of His second coming and of the end of the world. Among the things He listed was the warning found in verse nine: “they shall deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you; and you shall be hated of all nations for My name's sake.” As we begin the third decade of what is no longer a new millennium, we can easily see the increased attacks against the Lord's people worldwide, both Christian and Jew alike. The liberal establishment, along with their radical allies, envision a new era in which Judeo-Christian values are banished. Part of Barack Hussein Obama's fundamental transformation of America included his administration's antagonism toward biblical Christianity. His ultra-liberal agenda stimulated the anti-God, anti-religious left. You can see it in Hollywood and Madison Avenue every time you turn on your TV or Smartphone. You can see it in academia and the now defunct media. And you can see it in government: federal, state, and local. Radical left-wing commentator Bill Maher was quoted as saying “Religion must die in order for mankind to live.” According to him, “The irony of religion is that because of its power to divert man to destructive courses, the world could actually come to an end.” The irony of Mr. Maher's statement is that, like many others, his vocabulary doesn't contain the word ‘sin,’ as in “...because of (sin's) power to divert man to destructive courses...” In Jesus' aforementioned Olivet Discourse of Matthew 24 regarding the end times, our Lord recognizes the destructive effects of sin and the ensuing great tribulation by proclaiming that “...except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved...”

I don't pretend to know what this year of 2021 holds for us, but I'm glad I know the One who does. And whether this year brings the culmination of history or not, Jesus gave us our marching orders in Matthew 24:14 of what to do until it does. America will not be saved. But while it continues to crumble and fall apart, we who **are** saved, by the grace of God, need to stand in the gap and redeem the time. Jesus said the gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and **then** the end shall come. Work the works of Him that sends us while it is day, for the night is coming when no man can work (**John 9:4**).

Rev. David Lewis

Understanding Biblical Prophecy

Part I – The Millennial Reign of Christ

By Robert Luthardt, Sr.

Allan A. MacRae, Ph.D., was President of Faith Theological Seminary from 1937 to 1971. He was a giant of the faith that stood against the radical liberalism that infested the Presbyterian radical denomination and its seminaries in the first half of the twentieth century. Another story for another time, perhaps.

God formed a new unique, unified entity from two formerly distinct and absolutely separated peoples: believing Jews and gentiles.” This group has been called the “Body of Christ” (1 Cor. 12:27; Eph. 1:22-23, 4:12; Col. 1:24) or simply the “Church” (Col. 1:18, 27, 3:16-19; 2 Cor. 6:16) and was birthed on the “Day of Pentecost” (Acts 2:1-6). Christ’s disciples and the multitudes in Jerusalem witnessed the miracle of hearing the gospel in their own native languages (a partial fulfillment of Joel’s (2:28 et.al) prophecy (Acts 2:21-32).

Shortly thereafter, Peter was again used miraculously to point out the origins of this new entity of unity between Jews and gentile believers (see Acts 10 and 15 et.al.). This “Body of Christ” has existed unto our own day and will be on earth until “caught up ... to meet the Lord in the air ... wherefore comfort one another with these words” (1 Thes. 4:13-18). Now we are called to be “priests of God and of Christ and SHALL REIGN with Him a THOUSAND YEARS” (Rev. 1:6, 19:11-16, 20:1-15). (See also Micah 3:8 to 4:4 and Isaiah 11:1-10.)

Each of these Holy Spirit guided and inspired writers (Isaiah, Micah, and John) were blessed to receive a glimpse of the future blessings in store for God’s called out children. As in our own time, these men lived and wrote in dark days when unbelief and spiritual rebellion were rampant. Thankfully, Jesus taught us that in spite of all we are to “look up and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh” (Luke 21:28). “The kingdoms ... are become the Kingdoms of our Lord ... and Christ” (Rev. 11:15).

The prophetic vision that shows the successive world order of kingdoms (Daniel chapter two) from the Babylonians to the Romans, is paused by God (Dan. 12:4, 8-9). The coming Kingdom of God includes all that Christ created (John 1:1-3; Heb. 1:1-2). Even the very breath drawn to utter blasphemy is only allowed because God permits it and remains subject to God’s creative will.

There is another second sense where God’s presence is among men – those already called by God and who acknowledge His Sovereignty. None need fear for God has prepared a Kingdom for them (1 Cor. 2:9; Mark 12:30; Ep. 2:5-7). Our Lord, Jesus Christ, is the promised Holy One who was and still is in our midst. It is in this third sense of Christ’s future coming and the certainty of His thousand-year reign that the hope of the world comes in spite of adversity.

Note how clearly the Second Psalm brings Christ’s future coming rule before the world. The lesser kings take thought against the Lord to break His bands, but Jesus Christ alone is “God’s Son” who will rule the earth. Blessed are they who trust in Him. Psalm 110 tells us that one day all nations shall be subjects of the eternal KING OF KINGS (Rev. 19:19-20).

The promises of Isaiah 11 and Micah 4 are not mere hopes that something “might occur,” but are definite promises of Almighty God, “for the Lord ... hath spoken it” (Mica 4:4). Christ’s disciples asked Him, “Lord wilt Thou at this time restore again the Kingdom to Israel?” His answer, “It is not for you to know the times or the seasons which the Father has put in His own power” (Acts 1:6-7).

God is yet going to perform what He promised for the future but the disciples were to take on the task at hand that would start on the Day of Pentecost but be more fully revealed over time; to them and through them (the Book of Acts).

In Revelation, God’s promise of ultimate triumph is constant. Our faith rests in God’s many promises of a future time of universal righteousness of peace on earth. At times it seems hard to believe even for committed Christians, but what God has promised He will perform.

We are assured that this future Kingdom of God is an earthly Kingdom. Micah (from 3:8 to 4:4) and Isaiah (11) and Revelation (20) leave no doubt that God’s promised Kingdom occurs ON EARTH. Micah (3:12) speaks of Jerusalem’s coming desolation, “therefore shall Zion for your sake be plowed as a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps ... (Micah 4:1-4) in the LAST DAYS ...” This plowing of the Temple Mount was literally fulfilled by Roman edict who even made it unlawful for Jews to even walk there.

In Isaiah (chapter two) he writes, “... the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.” If space permitted, passage upon passage could be shown that God’s kingdom takes place right here on earth. Why not? Men once lived nearly a thousand years at the beginning of the creation era, why not again? We don’t know when, but the Lord WILL create a new heaven and a new earth, and the former shall NOT be remembered (Is. 65:17). There shall be no more “an infant of days ... for the child shall die a hundred years old ... nor an old man that hath not filled his days ...” (vs. 20). “Before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear” (vs. 24).

God’s external peace and safety will rule in His coming earthly kingdom. “There shall sit every man under his vine and under his own fig tree; and none shall make them afraid” (Micah 4:4). This promise is not for us to simply be peaceful during times of terror, but for the future time when locks are no longer needed (Micah 4:3-4).

Even the animals whose nature is to kill and destroy will live in peace with one another (Is. 11:6-9). “The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the leopard ... with the kid ... the lion shall eat straw The era of warfare and cruelty shall be no more” (Micah 4:3-4). “The sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp ... his hand on the cockatrices’ den” and the child will not be harmed. “The cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones together” ... “and a little child shall lead them.”

In the early days of the Christian era when Roman enforced peace (Pax Romana) seemed to be everywhere, some writers tried to say these prophecies were fulfilled. Soon enough the decadence of luxurious living and the increasing invasions of the barbarians from the North dashed those hopes. By the Middle Ages came near universal war and danger.

By 1918 (WWI) the thought was that such a great war could never happen again (8 million died). Then came WWII and over 52 million perished. The promise of universal peace has yet to be fulfilled and God not man brings about the time of universal earthly peace and safety (Hab. 2:14).

We noted that God's coming Kingdom will be world-wide, "... as the waters cover the sea ...". Psalms 2 and 110 stress that the nations are Christ's inheritance, and all His enemies are His possession ... "made His foot stool" (Matt. 22:44; Heb. 1:13). There will be none who can lift up head against this complete and total victory of Christ. All nations will belong to God and His only begotten Son; "then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the Kingdom to God, even the Father ... till He hath put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is DEATH ... when all things shall be subdued ... and God becomes for believers our 'All in All'" (1 Cor. 15:24-28).

Before the end of the promised coming Kingdom will come that glorious era of absolute universality when all power shall be subject to the Lord and His will.

A very important fourth feature of this millennial Kingdom is that it is to be a time when God's curse shall be removed (Gen. 3:15-19). Part of the curse is thorns and thistles; enmity between animals and humanity. The infirmity of the human body is a part of God's curse upon the world because of the sins of mankind. Isaiah pictured the removal of the curse (chapter 11) as does the Apostle Paul (Rom. 8:18-23) and John in Revelation 20:1-3, 5-6.

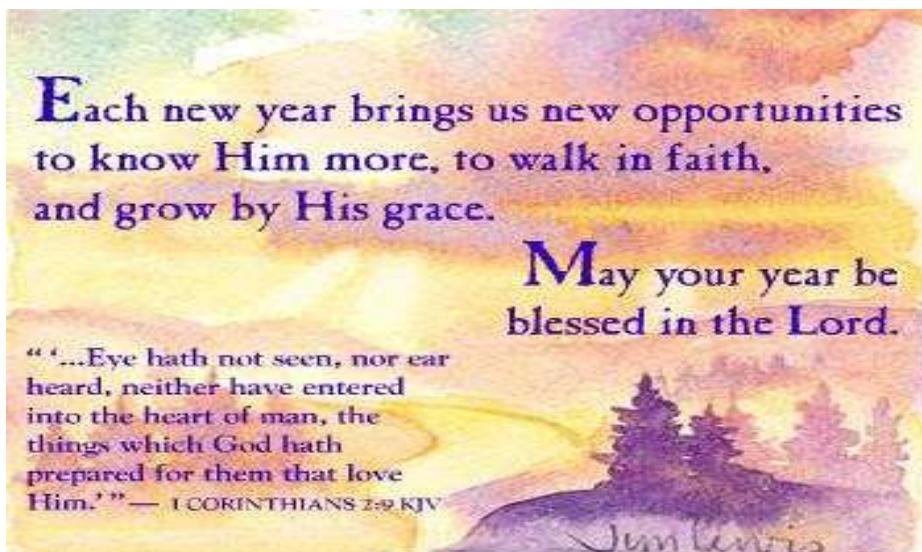
Dr. MacRae concludes with, "Where will you be in the Millennial Kingdom? Is Christ your personal Savior? Did He die and shed His blood on the cross for you? If so, rejoice for you will reign with Him. If not, pray for God's grace and He will save you (Acts 16:30-31, 34; John 3:14-15; Rom. 10:9-10, 13). And then:

Keep looking up (Luke 21:28).

Source:

**Dr. Allan A. MacRae's Sermon
"The Millennial Kingdom"
20th Century Reformation Hour
The Christian Beacon
Date Unknown**

Publisher:



Joyful Living

By Nancy Long

Romans 12:2 – *“And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”*

Phil. 4:4-8 – *“Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”*

There is much celebration and excitement in the air as we begin the New Year 2021, with many people resolving, and determining in their own minds (once again), to start over, by improving some area in their lives. New Year's Resolutions, as they're commonly called; a perfect time to give up bad habits, and implement some good ones. Considering the first of January each year to be a new beginning, promises are vowed, and new goals are established, all intended to make us healthier, stronger, happier, and possibly even more content.

We've just come through the Christmas season and have repeatedly sung carols such as, “Hark, the Herald Angels Sing”, “Joy to the World”, “Angels we Have Heard on High”, and the like, providing great delight and gladness to our hearts, and making us smile a lot!! We've heard the Scriptures read, “ *Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men*” (Luke 2:10, 13-14).

The Prince of Peace has come!! Jesus Christ, God in the flesh, willingly left the glories of heaven, to come to this sin sick earth, and live a perfect life and ultimately to shed His precious blood as the required sacrifice, in order to bring back those of us who have been given the faith to believe, into a proper relationship with God!! We Christians are a blessed people, having the assurance of a peaceful eternity in heaven!! *“Joy unspeakable and full of glory”* (1 Peter 1:8b).

Why then, do we see far too many anxiety ridden, and gloomy Christians, having a shortage of joy, and lacking inner satisfaction, and contentment? We, of all people, who've been given the most treasured, priceless gift ever that being a new life in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17), ought to be the most positive, happy, grateful, satisfied, and contented people on the face of this earth!! What are we doing living **under** those circumstances that the Lord has providentially given to all His children, to be used as opportunities for our growth, as well as His glory (Rom. 8:28)??

Some might say, “..... *but you don't know what I'm going through! Joyful living is indeed situational, isn't it? How can I be full of peace and contentment when my whole world is falling apart?*” “*I've lost my job.*” “*I've recently been diagnosed with a fatal illness.*” Certainly **not** news about which to rejoice!!” “*I'm estranged from my kids.*” “*My spouse just died.*” **Where is God in all this confusion??**

Jesus explained it like this: “*Peace I leave with you. My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid*” (John 14:27). “*The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus*” (Phil. 4:7).

Many make resolutions, and promises, at the start of a new year, but you and I cannot possibly know what the next **minute** will hold, much less the whole year!! Not only this, but most, if not all, those commitments are made, hoping to find that ever illusive joy and peace, which can never, ever be found in worldly pursuits!

One thing we do know though, is that there will be some highs and some lows on the days that God gives, and there will be some conditions in life of which we have absolutely no control! “*These things I have spoken unto you, that in ME ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world*” (John 16:33). The Lord promises “*perfect peace*”..... **only** when our hearts and minds are focused on Him (Isaiah 26:3). It's the responsibility of every Christian, to delight more in **Him** and submit to **His** leading. “*Teach me Thy way, O Lord; I will walk in Thy truth*” (Psalm 86:11a). Thou are the Potter we are the clay (Isaiah 64:8). Mold and shape us into instruments and vessels for use in Your kingdom!

I recently came across an old chorus, written in 1938, by Norman J. Clayton, entitled “*Only To Be What He Wants Me To Be*”. What a wonderful prayer to be on the lips of every believer!!

*“Only to be what He wants me to be, Every moment of every day,
Yielded completely to Jesus alone, Every step of this pilgrim way.
Just to be clay in the Potter's hands,
Ready to do what His Word commands.
Only to be what He wants me to be, Every moment of every day.”*

“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be thankful” (Col. 3:15).

Happy New Year 2021, Defenders!!



2021: A NEW YEAR OF HOPE?

By Diane E. Hussey

“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” John 8:32

With the beginning of a New Year, 2020 has now come to an end . . . or has it? Will we finally be able to look forward with hope for the future, or will the events that began last year continue into 2021? Only God knows what the future holds.

What is the first freedom listed in the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America? When asked that question, many people will respond that it is the freedom of speech. Examine the wording carefully:

AMENDMENT I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

In an article entitled, “The First Freedom,” Andrew P. Napolitano stated, “If the framers were trying to tell us which freedom is the first among equals, they did so by listing the religion clauses ahead of the freedom of speech.” This has proven to be a crucial issue during most of 2020 as the right to the free exercise of religion was attacked and undermined repeatedly by numerous government officials on the local as well as on the state level. From the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, churches were considered “non-essential.” Some other facilities and businesses were allowed to remain open because they were deemed “essential, especially large businesses” (*LewRockwell.com*, “The First Freedom,” Andrew P. Napolitano, 12/3/2020).

A recent decision by the US Supreme Court may be the beginning of a turn-around in defending religious liberty in America. What happened to bring about this change? When Governor Cuomo of New York decided to limit the number of worshippers because he decided the right to worship was not essential, lawsuits were filed against him. Governor Cuomo did not set limits on other facilities and businesses because he considered them to be “essential.” The congregations who filed the lawsuits lost at the trial court, but on November 25, 2020 “the Supreme Court interceded in a splendid 5-4 decision that defended religious liberty in the face of government efforts to sweep it aside” (Andrew Napolitano). The right to worship is fundamental. The Supreme Court decision stated, in part, “But even in a pandemic, the Constitution cannot be put away and forgotten.” Justice Neil Gorsuch wrote that “government is not free to disregard the First Amendment in times of crisis.” According to former Judge Napolitano, “Freedom of religion is not the first freedom by mistake. It was the judgment of the framers that this freedom is as essential to human fulfillment as are any other free choices that free people make.” Now a precedent has been set by the Supreme Court so other churches can file similar lawsuits requesting that their churches be allowed to open for worship.

John MacArthur's Grace Community Church has been facing numerous legal challenges in its efforts to remain open during 2020, but the pastor and congregation were hopeful after a decision in mid-November. In an article in *The Christian Post* it was announced that LA public health officials lifted all outbreak related requirements and restrictions on Grace Community Church. Three Covid-19 cases had been confirmed in the church, but the church's attorney argued that was "not an outbreak because over 7,000 attend this church" (*The Christian Post* , "LA County Clears John MacArthur's Megachurch in COVID-19 Outbreak Probe," Anugrah Kumar, 11/16/2020).

Mat Staver of Liberty Council reported that on December 3, 2020 the Supreme Court ruled in favor of Harvest Rock Church and Harvest International Ministry (162 churches in CA) and against Governor Newsom's unconstitutional order banning almost all worship in the State of California. The Supreme Court is considering this case in light of its ruling on November 25th in favor of churches and synagogues in New York. Mat Staver commented, "This is a giant leap forward in our fight to defend freedom of religion, but this is only the beginning of the battle" (*Liberty Council* , "Huge Victory for California Churches," Mat Staver, 12/4/2020).

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

On the other side of the religious liberty issue an article appeared in *Technocracy News & Trends* on December 17th with a detailed "plan" which is being presented to the Biden team for how to "clamp down on religious liberty in this country." A group of congressional Democrats who call themselves the *Secular Democrats of America* have given the Biden team a 28-page document advising them to take away "First Amendment rights from Christians who advocate traditional biblical positions on sanctity of life, marriage, education and the nuclear family." This group intends to wipe "all vestiges of Christianity from public life from the federal level all the way down to the state and local levels." Mentioned as a leader in this group is Representative Jamie Raskin (D-MD), who has connections to the Democratic Socialists of America, is a communist sympathizer and a collaborator with a neo-communist organization (*Technocracy News & Trends* , "Christian Purge Envisioned During Biden/Harris Administration," posted by Leo Hohmann, 12/17/2020).

On December 14th on Worldview Weekend TV, Brannon Howse had as his guest, Trevor Loudon, an author and filmmaker specializing in communist revolutionary movements throughout history. Mr. Loudon stated that this document "demonizes conservative Christians as enemies of the state, equating them with white nationalists and white supremacy." He also stated that the document is "Marxist to the core." He added, "The Marxist's main enemy in this country is traditional Christianity," and Christians are considered "dangerous" people. The document states, in part, "We urge you not to underestimate the institutional strength of . . . the Christian nationalist movement or religious right . . . Its political ideology is anti-democratic and anti-scientific." Loudon warned that "this could be interpreted as a recommendation to send conservative Christians to re-education camps", or at least, "re-educate or re-program" them. Loudon challenged Christians to get prepared for "the most anti-Christian administration in history if Biden is inaugurated and urged them not to give up their First and Second Amendment rights without a fight" (*Technocracy News & Trends* , "Christian Purge Envisioned During Biden/Harris Administration," posted by Leo Hohmann, 12/17/2020).

A surprising article appeared in a Johns Hopkins news-letter with the headline, "A Closer Look at US Deaths due to COVID-19." The article was based on a study done by Genevieve Briand, PhD, assistant program director of the Applied Economics master's degree program at Johns Hopkins. In her webinar on November 11th, Professor Briand notes that there was a sudden increase in deaths in

early 2020 compared to previous years due to COVID-19, but she also noticed a decrease in deaths due to other causes, such as heart disease. Professor Briand stated that this suggests that the COVID death toll is misleading, and she believed that deaths due to heart disease, respiratory diseases, influenza and pneumonia may have been recategorized or misclassified as being due to COVID. She stated, "All of this points to no evidence that COVID created any excess deaths. All total death numbers are not above normal death numbers. These data analyses suggest that in contrast to most people's assumptions, the number of deaths by COVID is not alarming." The response by Johns Hopkins University was almost immediate, and a statement was released, "It (the report) was used to support dangerous inaccuracies." Of course, it was pulled from the site. Patrick Wood commented, "Johns Hopkins published a devastating expose of hysterical pandemic exaggeration, which was dramatically 'unpublished' shortly thereafter." (*World Net Daily*, "Johns Hopkins Retracts Report Finding COVID Death Count 'Not Alarming,'" Art Moore, 11/27/2020; *Technocracy News & Trends*, "Johns Hopkins: US Death Rate Remains Normal Despite COVID-19," posted by Yanni Gu via Johns Hopkins News-Letter, 11/30/2020; *LewRockwell.com*, "Johns Hopkins Study Explodes COVID Death Hoax: It's Re-Labeling on a Grand Scale," Jon Rappoport, 12/1/2020).

"My times are in Thy hand; deliver me from the hand of mine enemies, and from those who persecute me. Make Thy face to shine upon Thy servant; save me for Thy mercies' sake." Psalm 31:15-16

Numerous people have been negatively affected after taking the COVID-19 vaccinations. In an article on ZeroHedge on December 20th, Tyler Durden wrote, "Thousands of people have been unable to work or perform daily activities, or required care from a healthcare professional after getting the new COVID-19 vaccine." This new data was from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

As of December 18th, 3,150 people reported "health impact events," (as noted above) after receiving the vaccine. The vaccines have "systemic side-effects," but they are "generally mild." Side-effects can include tiredness, headache, muscle pain and chills. The CDC stated that they had identified six reports of anaphylaxis, a severe allergic reaction, to the vaccine. The CDC stressed that anyone who has ever had a severe allergic reaction to any of the ingredients in the vaccine should not take the vaccine. As of December 19th, 272,000 doses of the vaccine have been administered in the US. (*ZeroHedge*, "CDC Issues New Guidelines, Launches Probe After 1000s Negatively-Affected Following COVID-19 Vaccination," Tyler Durden, 12/20/2020).

On December 28th Tyler Durden wrote about a growing mistrust of the COVID-19 vaccines in the US, but also in a number of European countries. People are increasingly skeptical because the vaccines were rolled out so fast, some contain new technology (mRNA) and because of an unexpected spike in allergic reactions to at least two of the vaccines (Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna). Percentages vary from country to country, but only 15-40% of people in some European countries say they will volunteer for a vaccine in the near future. It does not appear that the plans for everyone to be vaccinated will be achieved in the near future (*ZeroHedge*, "Major COVID Vaccine Glitch Emerges: Most Europeans, Including Hospital Staff, Refuse to take it," Tyler Durden, 12/28/2020).

Dr. Joseph Mercola disclosed in an article on December 15th that several of the COVID-19 vaccines are made using human embryonic cells from aborted babies. The companies using aborted fetal cells include AstraZeneca, Jansen Research and Development/Johnson & Johnson, CanSino Biologics, University of Pittsburgh, ImmunityBio and Altimune. Dr. Mercola stated that some people may consider this a moral or ethical dilemma, but people should also be aware that vaccines made from aborted fetal cells are linked to autism and autoimmune diseases.

(*Mercola.com* , “Vaccine Fact-Checkers Falsely Debunk Aborted Fetal Cells Claim: Several COVID-19 Vaccines are made Using Aborted Fetal Cells,” Dr. Joseph Mercola, 12/15/2020).

Most people look forward to a New Year with anticipation and hope for a new beginning or an exciting future, but many people in this country and around the world suffered incredible losses in 2020. First of all, we should mourn the loss of those whose deaths were directly attributable to COVID-19 as well as those who died from other causes. Hundreds of thousands of people in the US lost their jobs or their businesses failed because of the lockdowns, and many people have been on or are still receiving unemployment benefits. Thirty major retail chains filed for bankruptcy in 2020, including Neiman Marcus, JCPenney, Lord & Taylor, Friendly’s and Sizzler USA.. The lines at food banks are growing longer, and homeless numbers are rising as tent cities grow nationwide. Most children have not returned to school, but are at home in front of a computer screen rather than with their friends and enjoying sporting activities. Quite a number of people are living in cities that have been blighted by fires and destruction during the riots. Major cities have decided to defund their police departments, so no one will respond to emergency calls. Suicide rates and drug overdose deaths are tragic reminders of people who lost hope.

As true believers in Christ, our hope is in Him. And we have a job to do: We are here for the purpose of spreading the gospel. We need to tell everyone we meet the Good News of salvation in Christ. We can encourage people to keep going and not give up on the life God has given them. We know that this earth is not our home, but while we are here, we are told to occupy until He comes (paraphrase of Luke 19:13c). Think of someone you know or have heard about who is going through a tough time. Pray for that person, and ask God for wisdom. Give them a call or visit them, and share what God has done to change your life. Share your hope in the Lord with someone this New Year. Guide another person toward a new beginning and an exciting future in Christ.

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.” I Peter 3:15



...One Nation Under God...

A Backward Look

By Hank Arthur

As you look back over your shoulder some things are best left behind.
Like mistakes you have made and those times you were unkind.
But remember, the bloodshed at Calvary washes away every sin.
He came, He died, then He rose again to redeem fallen men.

So when you look over your shoulder you won't see that empty cross.
The wood, the nails, the blood-soaked ground through the ages have been lost.
But the victory when He arose again still has the power today,
To heal our bodies, save our souls, and take us to live with Him someday.

Ask Him now to take control and save your soul from sin.
Accept the pardon that He offers, don't turn Him away again.
Then when you look over your shoulder, you can look for the good you've done.
Check the growth of the seeds you've sown and the souls that you have won.

They say hindsight is twenty-twenty, foresight can be that good too.
If you are walking the path in life God has ordained for you.
So before you look over your shoulder make sure the path you are on
Is the one leading to heaven as you follow Jesus, God's Son.

God Bless the USA

By Hank Arthur

From the Everglades of Florida to the rainforest of Washington State,
From Coney Island in New York, to Californian's bridge called the Golden Gate.
All who are proud Americans regardless of race or creed
Should stand up, lift their voices and to our heavenly Father plead.

Father we are sorry for the mess we have made down here.
We have allowed enemies of truth and right to flourish in this land we hold dear.
It's now a crime to speak the name of Your son Jesus Christ in prayer,
We cannot put a nativity scene on the courthouse square.

Your Bible teaches us plain as day marriage is a union of woman and man.
The Supreme Court says God You are wrong, they have a better plan.
The truths our country was built upon are being pushed aside today.
An atheist, Buddhist, or Muslim always seem to have their way.

When the pilgrims stepped upon our shore, they knelt down in prayer.
When our forefathers penned the Constitution, they made sure You were there.
Father once again we are in great need; it's getting worse each day.
Forgive us Lord. Hear our prayer. Please God — Bless the USA.

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.
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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

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