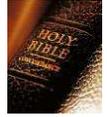


The DEFENDER - June 2021



“ . . . 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: Consider Your Ways

When Cyrus came to power in Persia, six centuries before the birth of Christ, he issued the edict that the Jews could return to their land and rebuild their temple. They had been 70 years in exile, and what better way to exclaim their faith and honor their God than by doing just that. But a funny thing happened on the way back home. Not everyone went. As unbelievable as that may sound, many stayed behind in Babylon. They were well established in the community. Many had businesses and nice houses. They had both feet planted firmly in the world. There was no need to confuse their new-found friends with their old-time religion. The Jewish historian Josephus said it best—they were not willing to leave their possessions. Many sent money to help finance the effort, but were not willing to ‘come out from among them’ (2 Corinthians 6:17), to consecrate themselves to their Lord. They hadn't yet heard Jesus ask, ‘what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and lose his soul’ (Mark 8:36)?

Not much has changed, has it? We have temples already built that we can't fill. Just look around at our churches today. Where is the commitment from the Lord's people?

It really should be obvious, right now, to even the most casual Christian observer, that our faith is at the very center of the enemy's attack on America. Our First Amendment right to the freedom of religion has been violated, as the national religion of atheism has been instituted by the government, the man-made god that they've created. I chose the above reference from the first chapter of Haggai because it serves as an analogy, a blueprint, of what we need to do as God's people in the light of our current dilemma. And we need to follow God's instructions, not because we expect Him to restore our nation, but because, as it pertains to our faith, it's the right thing to do. Please don't forget who we are. We are God's representatives on earth, endowed with power from on high. Will that change the hearts of God's enemies in our country, returning America to its former glory? I don't know. Will it be the spark that ignites the next great revival, bringing a new awakening of Christianity to America? Again, I don't know. Maybe it's the last call to those pre-ordained unto salvation as the Great Tribulation is ushered in and the Church is raptured out. Time will tell. But what I do know is what we as believers have been called to do. Consider your ways (Haggai 1:5,7).

Just as in Haggai's time, when people were making other priorities more important than God's work, many of us have fallen into the same trap. But God has given us Kingdom work to do, and no matter the surroundings in which we live, we have a holy calling to which we must answer.

Rev. David Lewis

The Prayers God Answers

Part I – Saving Orphans by God-Honoring Prayer

By Robert Luthardt, Sr.

George Mueller was born in Germany on September 27, 1805. His father, a government tax collector, educated his sons in the ways of the world and George quickly fell into many sins. By the age of 10, he was regularly stealing from his father's collections which the elder Mueller had to make good.

George's father planned for him to be educated as a clergyman, not to serve God but to receive the government paid salary and a comfortable life. George did do his schoolwork but preferred worldly indulgences and sinful practices. When he was 14, his mother died but he unknowingly played cards until 2 AM. His thirst for liquor was stronger than his love for his mother.

Just days before his confirmation and communion he was guilty of gross immorality (to which he admitted), and he lied about it instead of publicly confessing it at his confirmation. At 16, he spent four weeks in jail for running up a hotel bill and leaving his female companion behind who could not pay the bill.

George convinced his father to give him another chance. His father then sent him to live in the home of the Principal of his new school. There he began to play the model student though inwardly he knew he was as wicked as ever.

At 20, George entered Halle University to study theology, but his heart was still far from God. He could say of his seminary life as the Apostle Paul, "For the good that I would, I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do" (Rom. 7:19).

On a Saturday afternoon in November 1825, a friend invited George to a Bible study and prayer meeting held in a home where they sang hymns and read printed sermons. George went and observed a joy amongst believers he had never seen and hardly understood. He saw one kneeling and praying and thought, "I cannot pray that well though I have far more education than this man."

After leaving that meeting, George felt a strange new peace and happiness beyond all former pleasures. God had begun His work of grace in George's heart at that meeting, and it was the turning point in George's life. George continued to attend those prayer meetings and to study God's word and to pray with a greater intensity than ever before. He gave up spending time with his wicked companions and frequenting the tavern. Now he attended church for the right reason and openly confessed Christ despite the ridicule of former friends.

As George read about the work of missionaries, he thought this was the call on his own life. He wanted to share his newly found joy and lead others to Christ. He eagerly told his father and brother, but they rejected him and his witness for Christ.

Professor Tholuck, newly arrived at Halle University, helped to increase Mueller's faith and his desire to be a missionary. Since his father rejected his faith, George reasoned he could not take his money. His studies required two more years and he had to take in tutoring opportunities to survive. George taught German to several American professors who came to Halle to do research.

A short time later, Mueller met Herman Ball who was an evangelist working among the Jews in Poland, and now George's desire was to be a missionary there as well. During this time and to meet living expenses, Mueller took advantage of A. B. Franke's offer to live among the orphans at Franke's orphanage, which Franke allowed to theological students from Halle University nearby in Germany. What Mueller learned there at Franke's orphanage would yield great providential advantage in George's future work, guided by God's Holy Spirit.

Professor Tholuck at Halle pointed Mueller to "The Continental Society" in England, which intended to send a new missionary to Bucharest to assist the aging missionary at work there. Unexpectedly, his father now gave his consent and George sailed to England. Also, since the aging Herman Ball was to give up his mission to Polish Jews, George hoped to take his place either there or at Bucharest. Now Mueller's study of Hebrew was becoming a passion.

With Professor Tholuck's help, Mueller was accepted by the "London Society" for promoting Christianity among Jews in England, where he would be trained as a missionary student. But God had other plans for him.

As soon as Mueller arrived in London, he fell so ill he thought he was about to die. Still, he had a peace in his heart and spirit as he became weaker and weaker. He thought on his past sins but much more on Christ's present forgiving grace and love. He now knew well the "peace that passeth understanding" (Phil. 4:7). He was ready to go to be with His Lord if that was God's plan. After the doctor left, George prayed and took his medicine in feeble hope of its working. He prayed, "Father, let it work or let me come to my home in heaven; do with me as you please" (John 14:1-3, 27).

God's plan, however, was to very slowly return him to health, and friends invited him to a long stay in the country to recuperate. This unexpected open period gave Mueller a great deal of time to study God's Word and ways. He learned that God's written Word is at once and always the final "standard of judgment," and that God's Holy Spirit was his teacher of Divinity.

Now Mueller laid aside men's commentaries and books for the old "Sola Scriptura," the Bible alone for all matters of faith and practice. He said the first day he began to look to God's Word alone he learned more in a few hours than during the previous seven months of study.

Slowly returning to health, George returned to London to serve the Lord where He would lead. Still not called by the London Missionary Society, he began on his own to evangelize and teach the Jews in his midst. He soon was reading and teaching scripture to about 50 Jewish boys.

Now not working under the London society as their missionary, he should no longer take their support, but look solely to the Lord for his sustenance. He amicably dissolved that relationship to preach the Gospel wherever the Lord opened the door. George was called to take the pastorate of an 18-member chapel in Teignmouth. He soon learned that "only a life given to fervent prayer made a human vessel ready for the Master's use." Without God's providential blessings no house can stand (Matt. 7:26-27), so Mueller began daily to claim God's promise, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13).

God led George to refuse a specific salary so that God alone would influence his endeavors toward uncompromising preaching. A box was placed to receive his support. He also disallowed the

renting of pews by the rich. The step of faith taken by George and his wife Mary to rely only upon the anonymous gifts from God through His people led to their total reliance and prayers to God Alone. Their needs were always met.

Now the Muellers embarked on ever expanding steps of faith in a gradually growing and changing ministry. Early lessons learned, God called them to another chapel in Bristol in May 1832. There he and Henry Craik allied in the pastorate of the two Chapels, where they brought in 109 new worshippers, of whom 65 were new converts. As they fed the homeless, George felt led of God to expand into a ministry that would NOT seek the patronage of the worldly. God alone would be his patron through prayer to Him alone.

By June of 1835, Mueller had established five-day schools for 439 children and had distributed 795 Bibles and 753 new testaments. Financial aid was sent to missionaries abroad. Now what Mueller saw at A.B. Franke's orphanage became a dream God blessed, to the care of thousands of orphans and the blessed example to other millions worldwide.

Keep looking up (Luke 21:28).

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Have Thine Own Way

By Nancy Long

Isaiah 45:9a – *“Woe unto him that striveth with His Maker! Shall the clay say to him that fashioned it, What maketh thou?.....”*

Isaiah 64:8 – *“But now, O Lord, Thou art our Father, we are the clay, and Thou our Potter; and we are the work of Thy hand.”*

Jeremiah 18:3,4, 6 - *“Then I went down to the potter’s house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels, And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it. Behold, as the clay is in the Potter’s hand, so are ye in my hand.”*

Romans 6:13b – *“Yield yourselves unto God and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.”*

Have Thine Own Way

*“Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Thou are the Potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me after Thy will,
While I am waiting, yielded and still.*

*Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Search me and try me, Master, today!
Whiter than snow, Lord, Wash me just now,
As in Thy presence humbly I bow.*

*Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Wounded and weary, help me, I pray!
Power, all power, surely is Thine!
Teach me and heal me, Savior Divine.*

*Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Hold o’er my being absolute sway!
Fill with Thy Spirit till all shall see
Christ only always, living in me.”*

Words – Adelaide A. Pollard

Music – George Coles Stebbins

The words of this familiar hymn were written by Adelaide Addison Pollard, who was born on Nov. 27, 1862, to Presbyterian parents, James and Rebecca Pollard. As Adelaide matured into young adulthood, her talent for writing expressed itself in both prose and poetry. She wrote many religious articles, as well as hymns. It’s been said that she has composed over one hundred hymns, however she rarely signed them, and even when she did; she used only the initials A.A.P., making it difficult to get an exact count.

Adelaide's main passion though, was evangelism. Even though she lived with poor health, having diabetes, she made it a point to travel throughout the United States, speaking to various groups about the teachings of the Bible. Adelaide had always had a burden for the continent of Africa, and the spiritually lost people there. Finally, still unwed at the age of forty, her dreams were about to come true. Convinced it was indeed God's will for her to go there, she made plans to travel to Africa as a missionary teacher. However, right before her ship was about to sail, it was learned the necessary funding had failed, and her trip had to be cancelled. Extreme disappointment loomed over her like a dark cloud. Her sadness was almost too much to bear. As was her custom though, she attended a prayer meeting. It was at that meeting where she overheard someone say, *"It's all right, Lord! It doesn't matter what you bring into our lives. Just have your own way with us."*

The thoughts of that one sentence, *"Just have your way with us."* gave birth to the well known hymn, ***Have Thine own Way***, the words being written, amazingly enough, before Adelaide fell asleep that very night. The tune came later, and was composed by George Coles Stebbins.

Adelaide Pollard had faithfully served the Lord her whole adult life, desiring to bring God's Word to others, so eyes and ears could be opened to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Her passion, yes, had been to take the Gospel to Africa. What could be wrong with that, she reflected? God though, had obviously shut this particular door, at this particular time. Eventually, however, in God's own time, He did allow her to go to Africa. She also spent several years in England during the First World War, later to return to her traveling ministry in the USA. This dedicated lady continued to speak publicly until the age of 72, while on her way to yet another meeting, she suffered a seizure, in a railway station in New York City, and died not long after.

Much of our days are spent focusing on the here and now. However there is a bigger picture! There is an eternal plan!! There is indeed a refining process going on within each one of God's children. Through it all, we are learning to **depend** upon His Word to **rest** in His promises to **wait** on Him to **trust** in HIM!! *"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them"* (Eph. 2:10). Who are we then, to contend with our Maker? There is no debate.

The apostle Paul reminds us that God desires to shape His children into *"vessels for honor, sanctified, and useful for the Master's use, and prepared unto every good work"* (2 Timothy 2:21).

We acknowledge our desire to be sculpted into the image of Jesus, knowing and believing He will use the events of each day (the good, the bad, and what we might even consider, the ugly) to do just that. We *"know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose"* (Rom. 8:28). We attach at the end of most prayers, *"If the Lord wills."* What though, does it all really mean? What though, do **we** really mean?

Obey, surrender, abandon self, yield, give in, let go, accept, become pliable, allowing God's hands to reshape our broken dreams *"Wait on the Lord and He shall strengthen thine heart"* (Psalm 27:14).

May we all come to the place of complete submission!

*"I AM WILLING
To receive what Thou givest,
To lack what Thou withholdest,
To relinquish what Thou takest,
To surrender what Thou claimest,
To suffer what Thou ordainest,
To do what Thou commandest,
To wait until Thou sayest 'Go' "*
--Unknown--

From the Mailbag



It is abundantly and undeniably obvious to a normal thinking person what a Holy Sovereign God and Creator intended when He created males and females. Each gender was created with certain body parts and functions pertaining to what they were intended to be by their Creator. For instance, a male cannot conceive and produce a baby, and further, nurture that baby as well as other functions meant for each gender exclusively. To deny these facts and try to prevent nature itself is not only unnatural and truly unscriptural, but I believe it's idiotic to pretend the obvious scientific facts can be truly successfully changed. Yet in recent years there have been those that have had this sex change surgery, but I truly believe they will see this perversion of nature was never meant to be, and one day will answer to a Holy God.

My beloved husband, now in Glory, used to say, "Sin is one thing and bad enough, but when one tries to reverse the order of a Holy God, that one just stepped over the line into an abomination." Call it what it is. An abomination, not their so called LBGTQ, The Word of God warns, "As it were in the days of Noah, so shall it be in that last day" (Matt. 24:37).

Beware, judgment is coming.

Pat Knight
Defender

(The above statements are my personal convictions based on God's Word and plain old common sense. My prayer is that those caught up in this lifestyle will come to the Lord by repentance and faith, believing before it's too late.)

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.

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airing Monday through Friday
on WCBM AM 680 in Baltimore.

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WRITE TO US!

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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
Summer Movie Night (June 4th)	8:30 PM