

Future NEWS

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A NOBLE SELF-RELIANCE

“If we mistake the wisdom of man for the wisdom of God we are led astray by the foolishness of man’s wisdom. Here is the great danger of many in [——]. They have not an experience for themselves. They have not been in the habit of prayerfully considering for themselves, with unprejudiced, unbiased judgment, questions and subjects that are new and that are ever liable to arise. They wait to see what others will think. If these dissent, that is all that is needed to convince them that the subject under consideration is of no account whatever. Although this class is large, it does not change the fact that they are inexperienced and weak-minded through long yielding to the enemy, and will always be as sickly as babes, walking by others’ light, living on others’ experience, feeling as others feel, and acting as others act. They act as though they had not an individuality. Their identity is submerged in others; they are merely shadows of those whom they think about right. Unless these become sensible of their wavering character and correct it, they will all fail of everlasting life; they will be unable to cope with the perils of the last days. They will possess no stamina to resist the devil, for they do not know that it is he. Someone must be at their side to inform them whether a foe or a friend is approaching. They are not spiritual, therefore spiritual things are not discerned. They are not wise in those things which relate to the kingdom of God. Neither young nor old are excusable in trusting to another to have an experience for them. Said the angel: ‘Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm.’ A noble self-reliance is needed in the Christian experience and warfare.

“Men, women, and youth, God requires you to possess moral courage, steadiness of purpose, fortitude and perseverance, minds that cannot take the assertions of another, but which will investigate for themselves before receiving or rejecting, that will study and weigh evidence, and take it to the Lord in prayer. ‘If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.’ Now the condition: ‘But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord.’ This petition for wisdom is not to be a meaningless prayer, out of mind as soon as finished. It is a prayer that expresses the strong, earnest desire of the heart, arising from a conscious lack of wisdom to determine the will of God.” *Testimonies*, volume 2, 129–130.

Future for America produces and mails out a monthly newsletter and audio presentation in English and Spanish. For information you may contact the following brethren who are affiliated with this work:

Future News

PO Box 7

Bonnerdale, AR 71933

Telephone: 888-278-7744

Circulation Manager—Kathy Pippenger

Editor & Speaker—Jeff Pippenger

JeffPippenger@msn.com

Contributing Editor—Pat Rampy

Patrick.Rampy@juno.com

Contributing Editor—Dean Ferrell

Seventhseal@firstVA.com

Spanish Department—Al & Lupe Perez

Futuro de America

PO Box 353

Glenwood, AR 71943

Telephone: 870-356-7049

aperez77@alltel.net

Future News—Canada

Phyllis Vallieres

RR 3, 2552 Cooper Road

Madoc, Ontario, K0K 2K0, Canada

Telephone: 613-473-5332

FAX 613-473-5630

phyllisv@primus.ca

Future for America—Great Britain

Russell & Charmaine Williams

29 Lascelles Close

Leytonstone, London

Telephone: 208-279-6903

judicium@aol.com

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MISSION STATEMENT

The ministry of *Future for America* is to proclaim the final warning message of Revelation 14 as identified within the prophecies of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. The end-time fulfillment of Bible prophecy is no longer future—for it is taking place before our eyes. The historic, prophetic understanding of Seventh-day Adventism is now present truth. We are the final generation. Our emphasis on the prophetic word includes all the counsel of God's Word. To know what lies ahead is useless if we do not possess the experience to stand during these solemn times. Through obedience to God's law, and faith in the promises of God's Word, we are to receive that experience.

Coupled with the prophetic message, *Future for America* emphasizes all aspects of the medical missionary work. The "entering wedge"—medical missionary work—must be practiced by those who are to finish God's work in these final hours.

During this time period, country living becomes more essential with each passing moment. *Future for America* upholds and promotes this end-time truth. God's people must prepare for the coming storm, and that preparation includes the experience of learning how to survive in a simple fashion, away from the great centers of population.

Future for America intends to print and distribute truth-filled literature, while helping to establish lay-printing operations in parts of the Lord's vineyard where faithful brethren do not have the means to raise up a printing operation with their own resources.

I leave in a couple days for Chile. I will speak from Thursday to Sunday in an attempt to undermine the false teachings of reapplying time prophecies that have already been fulfilled in a day for a day fashion at the end of the world. Sister White identifies this false teaching as fanaticism and from my experience dealing with those who have accepted these ideas—she was totally accurate. The following Friday night and Sabbath day we speak in Atlanta, Georgia to a large group of Romanian brethren. We thank you for the support, both prayer and financial, that allows us to serve in this type of ministry.

Our first prison effort and second evangelism series, (and the fourth evangelistic series we have been involved with this year in the Philippines)—begins next weekend. It lasts for two weeks and we solicit your prayers. When I arrived home from the Canada meetings, I had the following email waiting for me from the Conference President where we hold the Philippines series'. It suggested we cancel the meetings because of the SARS epidemic. I rejected that idea as soon as I read the email, but I had to at least share the letter with the brethren who are travelling to do the speaking. Praise the Lord, that they all had similar thoughts about the idea of cancelling the meetings because of disease. We all thought that it would be much too easy for Satan to shut down evangelism, if all he needed to do was bring about a few more outbreaks like SARS.

Dear Brother Jeff. Greetings! Few weeks from now will be the crusade in Pio V. Corpus, Masbate to be conducted by Dean and Blanca Ferrell. We have laymen doing the groundwork. However, I wonder if you are aware of the "SEVERE ACUTE RESPIRATORY SYNDROME" or (S.A.R.S) Pneumonia sickness which has no medical treatment yet. The news this morning through television that more than 2,000 persons are affected and about 80 people died of (S.A.R.S) some of these are Fillipinos. This sickness started in China.

We received fax messages in our Division headquarters that all Division sponsored programs/seminars are temporarily postponed until such time that S.A.R.S. would be cleared. We don't want our visiting evangelists to be victim of S.A.R.S. when you come. We want you to be safe as much as possible. Let's be on the preventive side. However, we need your decision whether we go on or temporarily postponed. If ever you come do not passing through Hong Kong.

You know, we are expecting 6 teams from U.S.A on April 18 - May 3 for the simultaneous Crusades but just this morning. Elder RF sent a message to our Union leaders asking whether it's safe for their evangelists to come because of S.A.R.S - neumonia problem. The War in Iraq tells us of the nearness of Christ coming. We have really to be true and faithful in our relationship with the Lord. Kindly extend my regards to the brethren in your church as well as *Project Resotre* in Virginia. May God bless you as you continue doing special ministry for God's kingdom. Waiting for your response. In His Service, Pastor AJC

SARS FORCES CATHOLICS TO HALT CONFESSIONS

The Roman Catholic church has suspended confessions in Singapore due to the spread of the deadly SARS virus and priests will instead forgive all churchgoers for their sins, the church said on Wednesday. "The Archbishop of Singapore has issued a directive to the priests that there will be no individual confessions and that they are to issue general forgiveness," said a spokeswoman for the Catholic News, which represents Singapore's Catholic church. Singapore Archbishop Nicholas Chia said a general absolution, or forgiveness, without one-on-one confessions only can be given in times of "grave necessity" according to the Bible.

"This year in view of the SARS epidemic, I have obtained permission from Rome for our priests to grant a general absolution instead of individual confessions and absolution," Chia said in a letter to Singapore's 152,000 Catholics. Catholics in multicultural Singapore are already banned from holding or shaking hands in church to prevent spread of SARS and holy communion wafers can only be issued on the palm of the hand. Usually, Catholics can choose to receive communion on the tongue.

Chia said churchgoers must be resolved to confess their sins in due time for the general absolution to work. A council overseeing Singapore's Islamic community has excused Muslims from Friday prayers if they show SARS symptoms. *Reuters*, April 9.

WATER OR COKE?

Water:

1. 75% of Americans are chronically dehydrated.
2. In 37% of Americans, the thirst mechanism is so weak that it is often mistaken for hunger.
3. Even MILD dehydration will slow down one's metabolism as much as 3%.
4. One glass of water will shut down midnight hunger pangs for almost 100% of the dieters studied in a *University of Washington* study.
5. Lack of water, is the number one trigger of daytime fatigue.
6. Preliminary research indicates that 8 to 10 glasses of water a day could significantly ease back and joint pain for up to 80% of sufferers.
7. A mere 2% drop in body water can trigger fuzzy short-term memory, trouble with basic math, and difficulty focusing on the computer screen or on a printed page.
8. Drinking 5 glasses of water daily decreases the risk of colon cancer by 45%, plus it can slash the risk of breast cancer by 79%, and one is 50% less likely to develop bladder cancer.

Coke:

1. In many states (in the USA) the highway patrol carries two gallons of coke in the truck to remove blood from the highway after a car accident.
2. You can put a T-bone steak in a bowl of coke and it will be gone in two days.

3. To clean a toilet: Pour a can of Coca-Cola into the toilet bowl and let the "real thing" sit for one hour, then flush clean. The citric acid in Coke removes stains from vitreous China.

4. To remove rust spots from chrome car bumpers: Rub the bumper with a rumpiled-up piece of Reynolds Wrap aluminum foil dipped in Coca-Cola.

5. To clean corrosion from car battery terminals: Pour a can of Coca-Cola over the terminals to bubble away the corrosion.

6. To loosen a rusted bolt: Applying a cloth soaked in Coca-Cola to the rusted bolt for several minutes.

7. To remove grease from clothes: Empty a can of coke into a load of greasy clothes, add detergent, and run through a regular cycle. The Coca-Cola will help loosen grease stains.

8. It will also clean road haze from your windshield.

For Your Information:

1. The active ingredient in Coke is phosphoric acid. Its pH is 2.8. It will dissolve a nail in about 4 days. Phosphoric acid also leaches calcium from bones and is a major contributor to the rising increase in osteoporosis.

2. To carry Coca-Cola syrup (the concentrate) the commercial truck must use the Hazardous material placards reserved for Highly corrosive materials.

3. The distributors of coke have been using it to clean the engines of their trucks for about 20 years!

Now the question is, would you like a coke or a glass of water?

Dear Mr. Pippenger,

Hope and pray this message finds you and your family happy and well. I'm in the process of looking into the subject of when probation closes. I know of at least two schools of thought. ONE: Probation closes when the death decree is enforced. TWO: Probation closes for Adventists at the Sunday law, while there is time for the unchurched to be saved.

Of course I'm not speaking of the time of death when that person's probation closes. I'm speaking of those who are alive when probation closes. Something like in the days of Noah. When the door of the Ark was shut, probation closes for those out side of the Ark. People were still living when their probation closed, but did not know it. I'm still doing research in the E. G. White database to find out what I can. I know how busy you are with your studies. When you get a moment please give me what you can, even if it's off the top of your head. Thank you for your time. God Bless. B—email.

Brother B.,

One: I do not know of a proof text that positively identifies the death decree with the time when Michael stands up and human probation closes, but the context of the information available certainly implies that to me.

Two: Probation closes progressively, beginning with the church and then proceeding unto those outside the church.

For the time *is come* that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if *it first begin* at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? 1 Peter 4:17-18.

It also closes progressively in a geographical sense, for it begins in the USA and then every country on the globe follows the example of the USA.

“As America, the land of religious liberty, shall unite with the Papacy in forcing the conscience and compelling men to honor the false sabbath, the people of every country on the globe will be led to follow her example.” *Testimonies*, volume 6, 18.

“Foreign nations will follow the example of the United States. Though she leads out, yet the same crisis will come upon our people in all parts of the world.” *Ibid.*, 395.

I would recommend our study titled, *The Judgment of the Living*. In that series we deal with these concepts.

My favorite quote dealing with this teaches that the world, (those outside Adventism) can only be warned by seeing people who are “sealed”. The sealing takes place prophetically at the Sunday law.

“The world can only be warned by seeing those who believe the truth sanctified through the truth, acting upon high and holy principles, showing in a high, elevated sense, the line of demarcation between those who keep the commandments of God and whose who trample them under their feet. The sanctification of the Spirit signalizes the difference between those who have the seal of God and those who keep a spurious rest day.

“When the test comes, it will be clearly shown what the mark of the beast is. It is the keeping of Sunday. Those who, after having heard the truth, continue to regard this day as holy bear the signature of the man of sin, who thought to change times and laws “ *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, volume 7, 980.

“Not one of us will ever receive the seal of God while our characters have one spot or stain upon them. It is left with us to remedy the defects in our characters, to cleanse the soul temple of every defilement. **Then** the latter rain will fall upon us. . . .

“When the decree goes forth and the stamp is impressed, their character will remain pure and spotless for eternity.” *Testimonies*, volume 5, 214-216.

SURE WORD OF PROPHECY

“In these last days, when iniquity shall abound, and the love of many shall wax cold, God will have a people to glorify his name, and stand as reprovers of unrighteousness. They are to be a ‘peculiar people,’ who will be true to the law of God, when the world shall seek to make void its precepts; and when the converting power of God works through his servants, the hosts of darkness will array themselves in bitter and determined opposition. Satan will work with ‘all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness.’ He will employ every device of deception to seduce the souls of men and if ‘it were possible,’ he ‘shall deceive the very elect.’

“We must put on the whole armor of God that we may be able to stand. There will be a constant conflict from the time of our determination to serve the God of heaven, until we are delivered out of this present evil world. There is no release from this war. The work of God for this time cannot be accomplished without arousing opposition, reproach, and calumny. Satan is at enmity with the truth, and he will instigate against its advocates every manner of warfare. His efforts to overthrow the word of God will not be wholly confined to the ranks of its avowed enemies; but among those who claim to believe and practice it, ‘some shall depart from the faith.’ The impression given by those who have turned away from the doctrines of the Bible, is that the work committed to men for this day will come to a speedy end, and thus they make it manifest that they have esteemed themselves as the very pillars of the truth. ‘Nevertheless, the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his;’ and the work goes on to accomplish the fulfillment of the sure word of prophecy. The infinite God is the originator and sustainer of his work and his people. The cause of Christ does not stand in the wisdom of man, and it cannot be overthrown by his power. ‘The Lord knoweth them that are his.’ He can discern the steadfast souls who stand by faith, who will not be moved from their allegiance to him and his law. He reads the hearts of his children, and knows those, also, that believe not.

“Our work is an aggressive one, and as faithful soldiers of Jesus, we must bear the blood-stained banner into the very strongholds of the enemy. ‘We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.’ If we will consent to lay down our arms, to lower the blood-stained banner, to become the captives and servants of Satan, we may be released from the conflict and the suffering. But this peace will be gained only at the loss of Christ and heaven. We cannot accept peace on such conditions. Let it be war, war, to the end of earth’s history, rather than peace through apostasy and sin.

“The work of apostasy begins in some secret rebellion of the heart against the requirements of God’s law. Unholy desires, unlawful ambitions, are cherished and indulged, and unbelief and darkness separate the soul from God. If we do not overcome these evils, they will overcome us. Men who have long been advancing in the path of truth, will be tested with trial and temptation. Those who listen to the suggestions of Satan, and swerve from their integrity, begin the downward path, and some masterful temptation hastens them on in the way of apostasy, till their descent is marked and rapid. Sins that were once most repugnant, become attractive, and are welcomed and practiced by those who have cast off the fear of God and their allegiance to his law. But the most pleasurable beginning in transgression, will end in misery, degradation, and ruin.

“We need to be constantly on our guard, to watch and pray lest we enter into temptation. The indulgence of spiritual pride, of unholy desires, of evil thoughts, of anything that separates us from an intimate and sacred association with Jesus, imperils our souls. We must have living faith in God. We must ‘fight the good fight of faith,’ if we would ‘lay hold on eternal life.’ We are ‘kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.’ If the thought of apostasy is grievous to you, and you do not desire to become the enemies of the truth, the accusers of the brethren, then ‘abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good;’ and believe in Him who is ‘able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy’”. *Review and Herald*, May 8, 1888.

Brother Jeff:

In an article in the *Present Truth* of November 1850 EGW stated, “The Lord showed me that the 1843 chart was directed by His hand, and that no part of it should be altered, that the figures were as He wanted them.” The kingdoms which destroyed Rome were uprooted by the Papacy, thus leaving seven. So, why does the feet of the metal and mud man of Daniel two have ten toes? Ten toes must represent Revelation 17:12–14, 16,17, not the seven remaining kingdoms of Europe. The chart shows the ankle of the Daniel 2 image as being 1798 (USA comes upon the scene). And, the Spirit of Prophecy says:

“We have come to a time when God’s sacred work is represented by the feet of the image in which the iron was mixed with the miry clay.” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, volume 4, 1168.

“The mingling of church craft and state craft is represented by the iron and the clay.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 1, 51.

As for the iron and the clay, *Project Restore* comments this way;

“Our position in the image of Nebuchadnezzar is represented by the toes, in a divided state among the nations of the earth, and of a crumbling material, that will not hold together.

“Besides referring to the divided state of the nations, in another sense, the mingling of church teaching and state power is represented by the iron and clay. This union of church and state whereby the teachings of the church are enforced by the power of the state is weakening the moral authority of the churches. Investing churches with the power of the state brings evil results.

“Now we come to the time when God’s sacred work is represented by the feet of the image in which the iron was mixed with miry clay. God has a people, a chosen people, whose discernment must be clear. If the governments of the world would honor God, they would stand in the strength of God. But vote-hungry statesmen will mingle their religious faith with the power of the state. In addition to representing the union of the nations of the earth, the mingling of churchcraft and statecraft is also represented by the iron and clay. This union is weakening all the power of the churches. Investing the church with the power of the state will bring evil results. Men have almost passed the point of God’s forbearance. They have invested their strength in politics. However, the time will come when God will punish them and their evil work will recoil upon themselves.”

Do we need a revised Chart for the generally accepted image of Daniel 2? I would greatly appreciate your inputs. DCG—CA

Brother DCG,

I think we should use charts to present prophecy. We should develop new charts incorporating any and all available new light .
Jeff

“Brother Simpson dwells especially on the significance of the prophecies in the books of Daniel and the Revelation. By means of ingeniously contrived charts and symbolic representations, he holds the attention of the people, while he endeavors to preach the word. Through this effort hundreds will be led to a better understanding of the Bible than they ever had before, and we trust that there will be many conversions. Those who attend his lectures and are not converted, must practically reject the Word of God.” *Review and Herald*, Novemder 29, 1906.

“Missionaries are wanted. We wish you all possessed a living, missionary spirit. You need not, in order to become missionaries, go to California or to Europe. You have work to do in your own families and in your neighborhoods. If your works have not been in accordance with your faith where you are best known, so that you are in good repute with those that are without, you are not the men upon whom God will place the burden of a work for more distant localities and foreign missions. Do you feel the importance and the burden, so that you will introduce the truth to your best friends and those with whom you associate from day to day? Are you missionaries in your neighborhoods, and in your own families? Are you seeking to have a deep work of reformation going forward where you are best known? Is your life such as to give you influence at home with your families and workmen? You can hang up the charts, and show them the truth, as it is there illustrated. You can teach them, if you have a mind thus to do, by explaining prophetic history, and tracing down prophecies, that the end of all things is at hand. You can impress them with the sacredness of the law of God, and show them its claims upon them.” *Review and Herald*, March 29, 1870.

“By the use of charts, symbols, and representations of various kinds, the minister can make the truth stand out clearly and distinctly. This is a help, and in harmony with the word of God.” *Gospel Workers*, 355–356.

Hi Jeff,

I would like to know what your thoughts are and how you would reply to someone who doesn't actually "reapply" time prophecies in the sense that he attaches any time elements to them.

He insists that all Bible history, which includes time prophecies, will be repeated literally as it happened in the past. In other words, he has divorced the time factor from the prophecies & just says that they will happen again.

This is a new twist for me and I'm not sure exactly how to respond to him. Perhaps you could just respond to me via email, or if you think it may be prudent, address it in a future newsletter as well.

Thanks in advance for your help and for upholding the pioneer position so faithfully. God bless. DK—email

Brother DK,

It is clear that both history and prophecy will be repeated:

“In history and prophecy the Word of God portrays the long continued conflict between truth and error. That conflict is yet in progress. Those things which have been, will be repeated.” *Selected Messages*, book 2, 109.

“These messages we are to give to the world in publications, in discourses, showing in the line of prophetic history the things that have been and the things that will be.” *Selected Messages*, book 2, 104–105.

That being stated, there is still at least a couple ways to twist the truth of history and prophecy repeating—into error. One as you mentioned is to reapply fulfilled time prophecies.

“Let all our brethren and sisters beware of anyone who would set a time for the Lord to fulfill His word in regard to His coming, or in regard to any other promise He has made of special significance.” *Testimonies to Ministers*, 55.

The other twist is to attempt to apply a literal fulfillment. A quote that seems important is as follows:

“Historical events, showing the direct fulfillment of prophecy, were set before the people, and the prophecy was seen to be a figurative delineation of events leading down to the close of this earth’s history.” *Selected Messages*, book 2, 101–102.

The passage teaches that prophecy is a “figurative delineation of events.” When prophecy is fulfilled it becomes history. That history is a figurative delineation. Figurative conveys the idea of symbolic. The history that fulfills prophecy is symbolic of future history. Sister White applies this understanding when dealing with history that fulfills prophecy, while also prefiguring the end of the world.

Two of the best known histories she identifies are the destruction of Jerusalem and the French Revolution. She points out that both historical events were fulfillment of prophecy, and both symbolized the end of the world. As she applies these histories to the end of the world, she identifies a symbolic fulfillment—not a literal. Both Jerusalem and France were symbolizing the end of the entire world, not the destruction of literal Jerusalem and another revolution in France. Jeff

US ALMOST “UNDER GOD”

Today, God’s name is invoked to justify war. “Just war,” it’s called. War is not just, it is evil. I don’t wish to publicly offer an opinion on the wisdom of war against Iraq. Whether a nation must pursue a policy of war on occasion, in spite of war being evil, is not a question for the church to answer. To invoke God’s name to sanctify war is to abuse His name. The Islamic “extremists,” as we think of them, see America as a Christian nation. They also see our culture as decadent, depraved, immoral and hostile to their own. For them, it is a religious clash, and their “godly” values are far superior to our “materialistic” ones. American foreign policy does not benefit from trumpeting that we are “one nation, under God,” and proclaiming ourselves as God’s chosen nation, doing His bidding. Actually, the more we proclaim our religiosity while failing to live up to it, the more we confirm to our enemies that they are right, while we are merely self-righteous. *Religious Liberty E.lert*, March 5, 2003.

THE NEW FIFTY-YEARS WAR

The other day, I interviewed a terrorism expert. How long, I asked, will we have to live with these terror alerts, and will the coming war on Iraq make us more or less secure from terrorism? His answer? In the short run, the war will make us less secure. In the long run, disarming Iraq will deny terrorists access to at least some weapons of mass destruction. But we must expect to live with terror alerts for the rest of our lives, he said, as the war will last as long as the Cold War itself.

It is remarkable how complacent Americans seem to be, as our freedoms are gradually restricted, and more and more power and wealth flow to Big Government to protect us from terrorists. *Conservative Chronicle*, February 26, 2003.

We now have the study guide for the book *Messages to Young People*. This very excellent guide is \$7.50 plus shipping and handling.

ANTI-WAR PROTESTS COME WITH A HEFTY PRICE TAG

Money is needed to rent or buy stages, sound systems, permits and portable toilets, and tabs often run as high as \$200,000 per demonstration—much more than the average grassroots peace group will ever have in its coffers. So who is picking up the tab?

“The major anti-U.S. government demonstrations are organized by people who have been around for a long time, particularly the *Workers World Party*, which has existed for more than 30 years now and has always supported the enemies of the US,” said Herbert Romerstein, a retired agent of the *US Information Agency*. The *Workers World Party* describes itself as Marxist in nature.

Officially, protest organizers are groups such as *Not in Our Name* and *International A.N.S.W.E.R.*, but the demonstration’s sponsors have long histories of backing anti-government causes.

Not in Our Name is financed by the *Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization*. I.F.C.O. is a million-dollar-a-year non-profit that supports Cuban dictator Fidel Castro and once sponsored a group headed by Sami Al-Arian—the University of South Florida professor being charged with fundraising for terrorist organizations Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

A.N.S.W.E.R. is an offshoot of the *International Action Center*, which intelligence officials say is a front for the *Worker’s World Party*. *A.N.S.W.E.R.* canceled a scheduled interview with *Fox News* but a worker in the Seattle field office acknowledged there are ties. “There are some *Workers World Party* members in *A.N.S.W.E.R.*,” said *A.N.S.W.E.R.* coordinator Jim McMahan.

The *International Action Center* was founded by former US Attorney General Ramsey Clark, who is a longtime public face of the anti-war movement.

The *Workers World Party* supports North Korea’s brutal regime and I.F.C.O. defied UN sanctions when it made a trip to Iraq in the mid-1990s. Now, both are sugar daddies to the anti-war movement.

“The American people have the right to know whether stooges of [North Korean leader] Kim Jong Il or Castro or Saddam Hussein are involved in these demonstrations,” Romerstein said.

The groups bankrolling these protests say they’re spending their money the way donors would want, and protest organizers say it doesn’t matter where the money comes from—the message is their own. Others wonder if knowing the fringe politics of the people paying the bills might keep some demonstrators off the streets. *Fox News*, March 18, 2003.

LITERAL EXTREMISTS

From the Jim Jones mass suicide in Guyana to the abortion-clinic bombings of the last few years, evangelicals are used to being slandered by the secular media whenever a religious zealot goes too far in the name of faith. No matter how outrageously a fringe group may misinterpret Scripture, everyone else who takes the Bible literally suddenly becomes an extremist as well. *WORLD*, March 22, 2003.

“Those who honor the Bible Sabbath will be denounced as enemies of law and order, as breaking down the moral restraints of society, causing anarchy and corruption, and calling down the judgments of God upon the earth. Their conscientious scruples will be pronounced obstinacy, stubbornness, and contempt of authority. They will be accused of disaffection toward the government. Ministers who deny the obligation of the divine law will present from the pulpit the duty of yielding obedience to the civil authorities as ordained of God. In legislative halls and courts of justice, commandment keepers will be misrepresented and condemned. A false coloring will be given to their words; the worst construction will be put upon their motives.

“As the Protestant churches reject the clear, Scriptural arguments in defense of God’s law, they will long to silence those whose faith they cannot overthrow by the Bible. Though they blind their own eyes to the fact, they are now adopting a course which will lead to the persecution of those who conscientiously refuse to do what the rest of the Christian world are doing, and acknowledge the claims of the papal sabbath.” *The Great Controversy*, 592.

“The moment the idea is admitted into society that property is not as sacred as the laws of God, and that there is not a force of law and public justice to protect it, anarchy and tyranny commence. If ‘Thou shalt not covet’ and ‘Thou shalt not steal’ were not commandments of Heaven, they must be made inviolable precepts in every society before it can be civilized or made free.”—John Adams

Franklin Delano Roosevelt did more damage to Federalism than any president in our nation’s history—funded unconstitutional government growth with unconstitutional taxation, justified by his accounting: “Here is my principle: Taxes shall be levied according to ability to pay. That is the only American principle.” Well, not quite “American.” Roosevelt’s “principle” was little more than a paraphrase of Karl Marx’s maxim, “From each according to his abilities, to each according to his needs.” And through invasive taxation and regulation, the central government has its nose in every aspect of our business. As Nikita Khrushchev observed, “We can’t expect the American People to jump from Capitalism to Communism, but we can assist their elected leaders in giving them small doses of Socialism, until they awaken one day to find that they have Communism.”

Whether a tax cut reduces a single mother’s payroll taxes by forty dollars a month, or allows a wealthy business owner to save millions in capital gains, the net effect is beneficial. Both either spend, save, or invest the extra dollars, which helps all of us infinitely more than if those dollars were sent to the black hole known as the federal Treasury. *The Federalist Brief*, April 14, 2003.

THE DANGER OF ENORMOUS POWER

The danger in having enormous power is that the ambition to use it for good can so often be subverted by the temptation to use it for dominance. The leader who occupies the high ground, or the bully wearing blinders: I am waiting to see to which nation I belong. *Newsweek*, March 10, 2003.

“A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the voters discover that they can vote themselves largesse from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates promising the most benefits from the public treasury with the result that a democracy always collapses over loose fiscal policy, followed always by a dictatorship. The average age of the world’s greatest civilizations has been 200 years.”—Alexander Fraser Tyler

THE SELLING OF AMERICA

There is nothing to bring the massive trade imbalance into balance except currency collapse. As fewer and fewer things are actually produced in the US, even dollar collapse cannot spur exports sufficiently to pay for our import dependence. The United States is being reduced to indebted Third-World status, a country that retails foreign made goods. *Conservative Chronicle*, February 19, 2003.

“It will be declared that men are offending God by the violation of the Sunday sabbath; that this sin has brought calamities which will not cease until Sunday observance shall be strictly enforced; and that those who present the claims of the fourth commandment, thus destroying reverence for Sunday, are troublers of the people, preventing their restoration to divine favor and temporal prosperity.” *The Great Controversy*, 590.

COST OF TERRORIST HITS

President Bush observed: “The price of doing nothing exceeds the price of taking action. Estimates for the cost of the impending war with Iraq come in around \$75 to \$80 billion.” The Brookings Institution reports that “10,000 people could die in a successful terrorist attack on a US chemical or nuclear power plant; a nuclear bomb detonated in a major US city could claim the lives of 100,000 people.” Chemical attacks in malls or movie theaters could cost the economy \$250 billion, while a biological attack in a single US city could cause \$750 billion in economic damage. The study notes that a successful attack on the shipping industry could cost the economy a \$1 trillion hit. *The Federalist Digest*, March 7, 2003.

WORKPLACE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ACT

Adventists in the US are having a harder and harder time getting their faith respected by employers. Men and women are unfairly losing their jobs and being humiliated in the workplace because of their fidelity to God. And the current law provides very little protection. The Workplace Religious Freedom Act is going to be introduced shortly, and it is up to each one of us to let our representatives know that we need this law because we need to ensure respect for people of faith in the workplace. This is something that can make a real difference to real people's ability to follow their faith without losing their jobs. www.ola.adventist.org *Religious Liberty Update*, March 3, 2003.

WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL PROMOTES FAITH-BASED PLAN AT MOON EVENT

The White House is wooing a new ally in the drive for its "faith-based" initiative: controversial Korean evangelist Sun Myung Moon.

James Towey, director of the White House Office on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, spoke at a December conference in the Washington, D.C., suburb of Arlington, VA, sponsored by the Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace, a Moon front group.

Moon has repeatedly used the "faith-based" initiative as a means to recruit support among local clergy, especially African-American ministers. Observers say Towey's appearance will greatly bolster that outreach.

A report on the conference appeared in the Moon-owned *Washington Times* newspaper. According to the account, Senator Richard G. Lugar and US Representative Danny K. Davis also spoke.

Moon's influence with the Bush administration may only continue to escalate. In December, Bush appointed a Moon operative, David Caprara, to head *AmeriCorps VISTA*, the national community service organization.

Caprara formerly ran the *Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development* and also worked at a Moon front group called the *American Family Coalition*. He frequently appears at Moon events, most recently speaking at an October 29 ministers' workshop in Ocean City, MD, that was sponsored by yet another Moon-related group, the *Family Federation for World Peace and Unification*. *Church & State*, February 2003.

US SHIFT IN CHURCH AND STATE VIEWS

We are going through a fundamental shift in our nation's views on the intermingling of church and state. We are seeing greater financial integration between government and church, and a serious push to make the churches involved in political campaigns. We can see the results of the union of religion and state throughout European history and throughout much of the Muslim world today, and it is a terrifying picture. www.ola.adventist.org *Religious Liberty Update*, March 6, 2003.

"Roman Catholic principles will be taken under the care and protection of the state. This national apostasy will speedily be followed by national ruin." *Review and Herald*, June 15, 1897.

COURT OKS BARRING OVERTLY RELIGIOUS FROM JURIES

Prosecutors in New Jersey can bar people who appear to be overtly religious from serving on a jury, a state appeals court has ruled. The court, ruling 2-1 on December 31, rejected a challenge brought by Lloyd Fuller, a 22-year-old Newark man sentenced to 10 years in prison after he robbed a Chinese restaurant. During Fuller's trial, prosecutors refused to consider two potential jurors—one man who said he had served as a missionary and another man who wore a long black robe and a skullcap. Neither man was asked about his religious beliefs, but the prosecutor later said that the man in the robe was "obviously a Muslim."

Appellate Judge Joseph F. Lisa said the prosecutor's actions were permissible . . . because the prosecutor believed the robed man was likely to be 'very devout in his faith.' The prosecutor further believed that people who tend to be demonstrative about their religions tend to be defense-oriented. Dissenting Judge Jose L. Fuentes argued that the prosecutor's action had violated the religious freedom rights of potential jurors, asserting that "crucifixes, yarmulkes and other forms of religious expression and symbols of affiliation would be transformed into per se indicia of juror disqualification."

The decision in *State of New Jersey v. Fuller* is expected to be appealed to the New Jersey Supreme Court. *Church & State*, February 2003.

CHANGING THE DEFINITION OF MARRIAGE

If the state has no right to deny a marriage license to would-be spouses of the same sex, on what reasonable grounds would it deny a marriage to would-be spouses from the same family? Or to would-be spouses who happen to number three or four instead of two?

Justice Martha Sosman of the Massachusetts Supreme Court pointed out the obvious. If the ban on same-sex marriage is an unconstitutional restriction, she asked, why not the ban on polygamy? The implication of her words was unmistakable: Should the day come when demands for legalized polygamy (or polyandry) are heard, they would have to be taken seriously.

Other supporters of same-sex marriage imply the same thing. "To the best of my knowledge," writes Andrew Sullivan, one of the movement's most articulate proponents, "there is no polygamist's rights organization poised to expropriate same-sex marriage to return the republic to polygamous abandon."

Behind the tone of ridicule is an evasion: We don't have to talk about legalizing multi-spouse marriages, Sullivan is saying, because no one is making an issue of it. But you don't have to look very far to find advocates who are poised to do just that. Type the word "polyamory" into a search engine and see where it leads you. Or look up the ACLU's position on "plural marriage." *Conservative Chronicle*, March 19, 2003.

. . . as it was in the days of Sodom.

THE UNION THAT KILLED PUBLIC EDUCATION

If you have a child in public school, you need to read *The Worm in the Apple: How the Teachers Unions Are Destroying American Education*, a new book by Peter Brimelow. [Among his illustrations of educational decline caused by the actions/policies of the *National Educational Administration*.] Brimelow introduces a teacher, Sara Boyd, a recipient of many awards and accolades during her teaching career, [who] experienced difficulty passing a mathematics competency test in California. She sued the state, claiming the test was racially discriminatory, but at her deposition she was unable to answer the question: "What percent of 80 is 8?"

Teachers can't teach because the union won't let them. Perhaps it is just as well. Here are some course listings in the education department at the *University of Massachusetts*: Embracing Diversity, Diversity and Change, Oppression and Education, Introduction to Multicultural Education, Black Identity, Classism, Racism, Sexism, Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Oppression, Jewish Oppression, Oppression of the Disabled, Erroneous Beliefs. Indoctrination and social reconstruction have replaced the traditional emphasis on reading, writing and arithmetic.

Teachers themselves are dropping out, demoralized by lack of professionalism, chaos, and crumbling educational standards. To take the jobs that American teachers are abandoning, teachers are being imported from India and other Third World countries under the H-1B visa program. *Conservative Chronicle*, February 26, 2003.

LATE-TERM ABORTION: A GROWTH INDUSTRY

Late-term abortion as a percentage of all abortion represents a growth industry. In 1990, late-term abortions accounted for 1% of the total abortions reported to the Centers for Disease Control. By 1999, that share grew 50%. 35 states regularly report the number of abortions performed by gestational age, the rest do not. California officials do not obey abortion-reporting laws, but according to CDC estimates, California doctors aborted more than 2.5 million children between 1990 and 1997. New York City did report abortions by age of gestation every year through that decade, amounting to at least eight abortions per day per abortionist. According to the August 1998 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, when abortion occurred at 21 weeks or more, 16.7 per 100,000 women died. That's two-and-a-half times the risk of maternal death from childbirth, which is 6.7 per 100,000 deliveries. *WORLD*, February 1, 2003.

. . . as it was in the days of Sodom..

“Christ is the ladder which Jacob saw whose base rested on the earth and whose topmost round reached the highest heavens. This shows the appointed method of salvation. We are to climb round after round of this ladder. If any one of us (shall finally be) saved, it will be by clinging to Jesus as to the rounds of a ladder. Christ is made unto the believer wisdom and righteousness, sanctification and redemption. . . .

“There will be some terrible falls by those who think they stand firm because they have the truth; but they have it not as it is in Jesus. A moment’s carelessness may plunge a soul into irretrievable ruin. One sin leads to the second, and the second prepares the way for a third and so on. We must as faithful messengers of God, plead with Him constantly to be kept by His power. If we swerve a single inch from duty we are in danger of following on in a course of sin that ends in perdition. There is hope for every one of us, but only in one way by fastening ourselves to Christ. And exerting every energy to attain to the perfection of His character. This goody goody religion that makes light of sin and that is forever dwelling upon the love of God to the sinner, encourages the sinner to believe that God will save him while he continues in sin and he knows it to be sin. This is the way that many are doing who profess to believe present truth. The truth is kept apart from their life, and that is the reason it has no more power to convict and convert the soul. There must be a straining of every nerve and spirit and muscle to leave the world, its customs, its practices, and its fashions. . . .

“Will those who claim to be children of the Most High elevate the standard, not for a day, not simply while assembled in your meeting, but as long as time shall last? Will they not be on the Lord’s side and serve him with full purpose of heart? . . . If you put away sin and exercise living faith, the riches of heaven’s blessing will be yours.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 6, 12.

U.N. AS GLOBAL SELF-CONGRATULATION SOCIETY

“War precipitates clarity as well as confusion, and the war against Iraq already has clarified this: The United Nations is not a good idea badly implemented, it is a bad idea. . . . Certain political phrases become, through mindless repetition, cant [incantation] that bewitches the intelligence. One such phrase is ‘the international community,’ which is oxymoronic because ‘community’ denotes unity based on shared political interests and cultural values. And beware of political entities absurdly named. Just as the Holy Roman Empire was neither holy nor Roman nor an empire, the UN is a disunited collection of regimes, many of which do not represent the nations they govern. The UN is premodern because it is unaccountable and irresponsible: It claims power not legitimized by the recurring consent of periodically consulted constituencies of the governed. Inebriated by self-approval, the UN is grounded in neither democratic consent nor territorial responsibilities, nor independent fiscal means, nor the material means of enforcing its judgments.” *The Federalist*, March 17, 2003.

Editor’s note: It is becoming easier to see why these increasingly confused and impotent “leaders,” will eventually be polarized by the one in their midst who has power, and therefore; “These . . . and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.” Revelation 17:13.

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT READYING FOR THE IRAQ WAR

With US forces on the brink of war in Iraq, a host of lawyers is waiting in the wings to file cases before the ICC. Even before the first shots have been fired, lawyers from more than a half-dozen countries are jostling for position in The Hague, hoping to file the first brief—not against Saddam Hussein, but against US officials. Military officers who command soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines shouldn’t have to hire lawyers before a gunfight.

When Thomas Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence, 10 of the 27 offenses in his bill of particulars against King George III dealt with interference in our judicial system. *Conservative Chronicle*, February 26, 2003.

VATICAN MAY SEEK FULL MEMBERSHIP IN UNITED NATIONS

The Roman Catholic Church may soon seek full membership in the United Nations, a top church official has indicated.

Currently, the Vatican has permanent observer status at the UN, a status it has held since 1964. In late November, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state, said the church is interested in seeking full UN membership, especially if the enhanced status would enable it to perform a peace-keeping role in the world.

The Vatican, Sodano told *Corriere della Sera*, is studying "possible forms of a greater presence in that assembly." He said that could include full UN membership "if it should be useful."

As a permanent observer, Vatican officials are allowed to take part in UN discussions and debate but do not vote at the general assembly. The Vatican is permitted to vote at UN-sponsored international conferences, where it often sides with hard-line Islamic states to block reproductive rights initiatives. Increasingly, the US has sided with the Vatican in these votes as well.

Other Vatican officials are apparently thinking along the same lines. Archbishop Renato R. Martino, who recently completed a 16-year term as the Vatican's UN representative, was asked by *Catholic News Service* if the Vatican should seek full membership in the international body. He replied, "I think it's time."

No other religious body has official representation at the United Nations. The Holy See, as the Vatican's operation is known, has diplomatic ties with 170 countries, including the US. *Church & State*, February 2003.

JESUIT JOURNAL CONDEMNS INTERCOMMUNION

The influential Jesuit magazine *Civiltà Cattolica* is issuing a clear condemnation of the practice of sharing the Eucharist with non-Catholics. In a long article that will appear in the March 15 issue of the periodical. Father Giuseppe de Rosa argues that "Eucharistic hospitality" cannot be justified on the basis of ecumenical progress. The author says that unauthorized intercommunion is an attempt to "force the issue," and concludes that the practice might actually set back efforts to establish authentic Christian unity.

Articles published by *Civiltà Cattolica* carry special weight in Rome, since the publication is screened in advance by the Vatican Secretariat of State. The prominence accorded to Father de Rosa's essay suggests that the issue is a matter of keen interest to Vatican officials.

The magazine's focus on the Eucharist comes at a time when the Pope and other leading Vatican officials have turned their focus to the same topic. Pope John Paul II will publish an encyclical on the Eucharist, which may be released on Holy Thursday in place of his regular annual letter to the world's priests. The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith is also preparing two "disciplinary decrees," one regarding the doctrinal aspects of the sacrament and the other regarding proper respect for liturgical guidelines.

After writing at length about the Catholic understanding of Christ's real presence in the Eucharist, the Jesuit author says: "The unity of Christ's Church—which today subsists in the Catholic Church—will be perfect when all the baptized participate in a single Eucharist." The impulse to seek that goal, he writes, should unite all Christians in the drive to promote "a single faith, a single baptism, a single Eucharist, and thus a single Body of Christ."

Because the Catholic Church is committed to that goal, the author continues, she cannot permit the exchange of "Eucharistic hospitality" with other Christians who are, in fact, not fully in communion with the Catholic Church. "This is not a matter of presumption on the part of Catholics, or a lack of respect for non-Catholic communities," Father de Rosa remarks. Rather, it is a matter of insistence on the true nature of the Eucharist.

Sharing in the Eucharist, the author continues, is a sign of unity in faith. He draws out the logic of that point by saying that "where there is not unity in faith, there cannot be unity through participation in the same Eucharist." Similarly, when other Christians do not share the same belief in the nature of the Eucharist, intercommunion is a false gesture, suggesting a unity that is not present.

"It is certainly sad—even scandalous—that those who believe in the unique Christ, and share in a single baptism, cannot participate in a single Eucharist," writes Father de Rosa. He argues that the recognition of this lack of union should cause real suffering in the hearts of Christians, impelling them to work and pray more fervently for the restoration of true unity among believers. March 13, *CWNews.com*

EXHORTATION ON EUROPE

An apostolic exhortation by Pope John Paul II, summarizing and concluding the work of the European Synod, will be made public in Rome at the end of June.

The new apostolic exhortation is certain to echo a theme that has become increasingly prominent among the statements issued from the Holy See: the Christian heritage of the European continent. As political leaders prepare a constitution for the European Union, Pope John Paul has frequently expressed his concern that the constitution must not ignore the important role of religious faith, and Christianity in particular.

The pope said that "Christianity is, for our continent, a primordial factor of unity among peoples and cultures, and integral promotion of man and his rights." He added that "there cannot be authentic and fruitful unity for Europe if it is not built on that spiritual foundation." March 13, *CWNews.com*

SILENCED IN SASKATCHEWAN

Roman Catholic, evangelical, and other groups across a broad front in Canada are urging the defeat of Bill C-250 in parliament. Pushed by pro-gay interests and almost certain to pass, it would add "sexual orientation" to the list of protected groups in the "hate propaganda" sections of the country's criminal code.

"This bill could silence reasonable public discussion about the immorality of certain sexual practices and even implicate the Bible," warned Bruce Clemenger of the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada. Indeed, that has already happened. A federal court in Saskatchewan ruled in December that the Bible amounted to hate literature. The decision received next to no notice in the nation's press. If Bill C-250 becomes part of Canada's criminal code, preachers had better consult their lawyers before going onto the pulpit to discuss homosexual behavior as sinful or read Bible verses dealing with homosexuality. *WORLD*, March 1, 2003.

INTERVIEW WITH AGATHA THRASH, M.D.

In this one hour video, Agatha Thrash, of Uchee Pines Institute, from Seal Alabama, answers some very interesting questions. Topics she talks about include: Diabetes, Infant Diet, Kidney Failure, Meat Diet, Hypertension, Cancer, and more. This is a video you will want to share with others. A neighbor of mine who watched this tape told me, "I am a vegetarian, and I don't drink coffee or tea, but this video reminded me that I need to get more exercise and eat less". Other Health oriented videos are available from *Future for America*, and this web site: www.healthvhs.com

LETHAL "GOSPEL"

"Killing the infidels", (that is, non-Muslims, specifically Jews and Christians) "is a good thing that will get you to heaven." That line from a tape from Osama bin Laden was the most telling, though it received little attention from the media, which insist on believing, against all evidence, that all religions are equally valid.

Western secularists have a hard time comprehending the mindset of radical Muslim terrorists, and so misunderstand and underestimate them. Political and economic explanations, rational analyses of psychology and culture, cannot account for what terrorists are capable of. With few exceptions, the rank-and-file terrorists, who join the martyr brigades and blow themselves up to take out some infidels, are trying to attain salvation.

Even mainline, non-terrorist Islam is a religion based on works-righteousness. As such, it is capable of inspiring the highest morality. Escaping hell and attaining paradise is a matter of doing enough good works. In judgment, according to one Islamic authority, one's deeds are weighed in a balance. Those who have done more good deeds than bad will go to paradise. Those whose bad deeds outweigh the good go to eternal punishment.

It is hard, though, to keep all of the laws of the Quran, which regulates nearly every sphere of personal and social behavior, and those failures can have eternal consequences. Allah, though, is merciful and can forgive. But forgiveness itself tends to be contingent upon what a person does.

There is, however, a major exception—a gospel, of a sort. Those who die as martyrs, those who die while waging jihad against the enemies of God, will enter paradise instantly, all their sins washed away by their own blood and the blood of the infidels they have shed.

Christians can relate too much of the Muslim zeal for moral perfection. But whereas Muslim law enforces an external legalism, enforced by rigid societal controls, Christianity changes the heart through faith in Jesus Christ so that the believer, growing in sanctification, no longer desires to do what is wrong. Christianity offers freedom from the bondage of sin.

This, in turn, has meant that Christianity, in its social influence, has brought political freedom. Whereas Islamic countries, preoccupied with controlling their populations lest they violate Islamic law, have tended to install totalitarian regimes.

Those who have grown up under the restrictions of a Muslim regime, then come to the morally decadent, post-Christian West, often fall into serious sin. Their sinful flesh, no longer under external restrictions, has free reign. Those who come from a society where women are covered from head to toe, in an attempt to make it impossible for men to lust after them, now, with few inner controls, find themselves ogling the flesh-baring fashions favored by many Western women and enjoying the sex-saturated entertainment industry. They sin, but they still believe, resulting in enormous guilt and fear.

Islam has no mediator, no intercessor. Muslims have no sacrifice to atone for what they have done. Certainly not God coming down from heaven to take their sins upon Himself. God would never become man. The Quran sternly anathematizes those who believe that God has a Son. And Muslim theologians specifically teach that there is no assurance of salvation, that one can never know until the last day whether he is worthy to enter paradise.

It is no wonder that so many Islamic terrorists have lived or still live in the West. The moral corruption that they fell into only inflames their hatred of the culture that they are addicted to.

Mohammed Atta, the leader of the 9/11 terrorists, when he came to study at Hamburg, Germany, reportedly developed a serious pornography addiction. This was when he started attending the radical mosque, where he heard the gospel of jihad. His terrorist colleagues, in the days before 9/11, frequented strip clubs, buying lap dances and drinking alcohol, any one of which would earn them eternal damnation. But, according to writings found after their attacks, they were confident in their salvation. By crashing the airplanes and murdering thousands, they were offering up human sacrifices and atoning for their own sins.

Our Muslim adversaries are true believers in their theology. They are confident in their religion, for which they are eager to die. This kind of zeal creates formidable opponents to the dithering relativism of the secularists and to lukewarm Christianity. Muslims consider Christianity a weak religion—witness the moral bankruptcy they see in the Western world. This is a painful indictment against the contemporary church and the failure of Christians today to influence their culture as they once did. And yet, since Muslim terrorists are sinners in the hands of an angry God, desperate for salvation, they should be prime candidates for the gospel of Jesus Christ. Gene Edward Veith

We now have the study guide for the book *Messages to Young People*. This very excellent guide is \$7.50 plus shipping and handling.

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AN INSULT TO JEHOVAH

“He who washed the feet of his disciples was the Majesty of heaven. He had the hoarded love of eternity in his heart, but he was in their midst as one who served; and in washing their feet, he gave them evidence that he would do any service, however humble, in order to make them heirs together with him of all the eternal wealth of heaven’s treasure.

When this simple ordinance is being performed, the followers of Christ should bear in mind that this is the time for all to search their hearts to see if they are willing to humble themselves in spirit, and follow the example of Christ. He gives them this ordinance as a test, a heart-searcher. The Holy Spirit will be present on every occasion to convince of sin, of any wrong action done to a brother. Let none grieve the Holy Spirit of God by disregarding the object of this ordinance, and the gracious opportunity it presents to confess every wrong, every act of injustice done to a brother. Had Judas accepted this last chance given him by Christ, the poor sinner would never have betrayed his Lord, and the words of Christ would never have been spoken, ‘Ye are not all clean.’ . . .

“In this ordinance, Christ discharged his disciples from the cares and burdens of the ancient Jewish obligations in rites and ceremonies. These no longer possessed any virtue; for type was meeting antitype in himself, the authority and foundation of all Jewish ordinances that pointed to him as the great and only efficacious offering for the sins of the world. He gave this simple ordinance that it might be a special season when he himself would always be present, to lead all participating in it to feel the pulse of their own conscience, to awaken them to an understanding of the lessons symbolized, to revive their memory, to convict of sin, and to receive their penitential repentance. He would teach them that brother is not to exalt himself above brother, that the dangers of disunion and strife shall be seen and appreciated; for the health and holy activity of the soul are involved.

“This ordinance does not speak so largely to man’s intellectual capacity as to his heart. His moral and spiritual nature needs it. If his disciples had not needed this, it would not have been left for them as Christ’s last established ordinance in connection with, and including, the last supper. It was Christ’s desire to leave to his disciples an ordinance that would do for them the very thing they needed,—that would serve to disentangle them from the rites and ceremonies which they had hitherto engaged in as essential, and which the reception of the gospel made no longer of any force. To continue these rites would be an insult to Jehovah. Eating of the body, and drinking of the blood, of Christ, not merely at the sacramental service, but daily partaking of the bread of life to satisfy the soul’s hunger, would be in receiving his word and doing his will.” *Review and Herald*, June 14, 1898.

THE TRUE SABBATH VERSUS THE FALSE SABBATH; AN APPEAL FOR TOTAL COMMITMENT

“‘Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap’ Galatians 6:7. I want to sow for time and eternity. My heart hungers and thirsts after righteousness. I want my life hid in Christ Jesus, that my sowing shall bring me the right kind of harvest. I feel deeply in regard to my own self, for every day, in words or in actions, I am sowing either tares or wheat. I want to sow for time and eternity. I have lived nearly the period of my allotted time, and what shall the harvest be?

“I want a quiet and unwavering trust in the Most High. I have experienced His protecting care in a remarkable manner when following in the path of duty. I want to go down in the grave as a shock of corn fully ripe. I want no complaining in my heart; only gratitude should abide there. God’s mercy and His lovingkindness are to be kept, not as a thing out of mind, but as something so precious as never to be forgotten. As eye-witnesses of His majesty we may exalt and praise His holy name. We are with Him in the holy mount.

“Every moment of time is precious and weighty with eternal consequences. We are in a world of appearances which mock and deceive like the apples of Sodom. Oh, how the Lord looks upon the double-dealing and the duplicity which is in our world. If we could not get a glimpse above and beyond the clouds to the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness, we might well be downcast. But Jesus lives; the bow of promise encircles the throne as a constant assurance that Jesus lives; and because He lives, we shall live also.

“Whatever may be the needed discipline of the church militant amid the dragon’s wrath against those who keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus, the benediction is pronounced upon all who love and obey God. The words are positive, but mark their significance. The Alpha and Omega does not utter words that will lead any soul to suppose that a profession of faith without willing, genuine love and obedience, will secure to him the entrance into the Holy City and a right to the tree of life. The Lord declares, ‘This people draweth nigh unto Me with their mouth, and honoreth Me with their lips; but their heart is far from Me’ Matthew 15:8. This is mockery to God, speaking with a mouth of guile.

“The discipline in the school of Christ will cause the church to lean upon the arm of her Beloved. The redeemed of the Lord shall at last come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads, in victorious triumph. All the angelic hosts will rejoice over them with singing. But what are the qualifications of our citizens? ‘Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city’ Revelation. 22:14.

“John in the Revelation writes of the unity of those living on the earth to make void the law of God. ‘These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.’ Revelation 17:13–14. ‘And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.’ Revelation 16:13.

“All who will exalt and worship the idol sabbath, a day that God has not blessed, help the devil and his angels with all the power of their God-given ability, which they have perverted to a wrong use. Inspired by another spirit which blinds their discernment, they cannot see that the exaltation of Sunday observance is entirely the institution of the Catholic church.

“A corrupt union has been formed to tear down God’s memorial of creation—the seventh day, which He hallowed and blessed and gave to man to be a sign between God and His people, to be observed throughout their generations forever. A period is coming when everyone will take sides between the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, which the Lord has sanctified and blessed, and the spurious sabbath instituted by the man of sin.

“An idol sabbath has been set up, as the golden image was set up in the plains of Dura. And as Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, issued a decree that all who would not bow down and worship this image should be killed, so a proclamation will be made that all who will not reverence the Sunday institution will be punished with imprisonment and death. Thus the Sabbath of the Lord is trampled underfoot. But the Lord has declared, ‘Woe unto them that decree unrighteous decrees, and write grievousness which they have prescribed’ Isaiah 10:1. ‘The great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the Lord: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers. And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the Lord: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung. Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord’s wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land. Gather yourselves together, yea, gather together, O nation not desired; Before the decree bring forth, before the day pass as the chaff, before the fierce anger of the Lord come upon you, before the day of the Lord’s anger come upon you. Seek ye the Lord, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the Lord’s anger. Zephaniah 1:14–18; 2:1–3.

“The Lord of heaven permits the world to choose whom they will have as ruler. Let all read carefully the thirteenth chapter of Revelation, for it concerns every human agent, great and small. Every human being must take sides, either for the true and living God, who has given to the world the memorial of creation in the seventh-day Sabbath, or for a false sabbath, instituted by men who have exalted themselves above all that is called God or that is worshiped, who have taken upon themselves the attributes of Satan in oppressing the loyal and true who keep the commandments of God. This persecuting power will compel the worship of the beast by insisting on the observance of the sabbath he has instituted. Thus he blasphemes God, ‘sitting in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God’ 2 Thessalonians 2:4.

“This worship of a false sabbath is a wedge that split the Protestant churches from God, and left them naked. They had not a text of Scripture to sustain their false god, but yet a deception, hoary with age but still a deception, was commended to reverence, and exalted, while the Sabbath of the fourth commandment was trampled upon and God dishonored. The Bible was before them with a plain ‘Thus saith the Lord’ and the penalty that is the part of the transgressor; but as Adam and Eve in Eden listened to the falsehoods of Satan, so the righteous world are following their example.

“Satan, who was expelled from heaven, is leading the world, blindfolded by his sophistry, in the same way that he led the angels who accepted his theology before a ‘Thus saith the Lord.’ Already the churches are naked and without a covering. Like the arch-deceiver they are without excuse, for they have the Word of God, plain and clear and pointed. While they would rein up the faithful and loyal subjects of the kingdom of God, depriving them of their liberty of conscience, bringing them before magistrates and judges, and pronouncing sentence against them, delivering them into prison, putting them into the chain gang and even condemning them to death, they themselves before the universe are showing determined and obstinate contempt of the laws of the eternal Jehovah. ‘And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father’s name written in their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. Revelation 14:1–4.

“One of the marked features in the representation of the 144,000 is that in their mouth was found no guile. The Lord has said, ‘Blessed is the man . . . in whose spirit there is no guile’ Psalm 32:2. They profess to be children of God, and are represented following the Lamb whithersoever He goeth. They are prefigured before us as standing on Mount Zion, girt for holy service, clothed in white linen, which is the righteousness of the saints. But all who follow the Lamb in heaven will first have followed Him on earth, in trustful, loving, willing obedience; followed Him not fretfully and capriciously, but confidently, truthfully, as the flock follows the shepherd.

“Are these the ones who are bruising and imprisoning their fellow men, humiliating them to the depraved association of those who compose the chain gang? Is this the sign of those who follow the Lamb? No, no. All who do this work evidence that they have chosen the side of one who was expelled from Eden, who was a falsifier of God, and who by oppression tries to compel God’s chosen ones to worship an idol sabbath which is without one text of Scripture for its authority.

“Did Christ give His followers any such lesson or example? No; He came, not to break down the moral power of men, but to restore it. He came to break the power of oppression. His work was to release those who were in bondage to Satan. Those who say, I am a child of God, and yet do work which will grieve and oppress, executing cruel actions against their fellow men, are not following the Lamb whithersoever He goeth, but are followers of another leader. They develop the attributes of Satan, and make it manifest that they are participators and co-workers with him to bind, imprison, and condemn, to cause all the suffering possible to body and mind, because they cannot compel men to be untrue to God and dishonor His work and transgress His holy law.

“These are the ones who have guile in their mouths. These are the ones that profess to be followers of Christ while they are following a leader who was expelled from the courts of heaven. These men, who are working unrighteousness with such zealous zeal, show before the whole world and universe that if Christ was upon the earth, as at His first advent, they would do as did the unbelieving Jews—follow Him as spies, seeking to get Him to say something which they could use against Him to condemn Him to death. If they had opportunity and power, they would do as did Nebuchadnezzar when he set up his golden image in the plains of Dura.

“It is the spirit that dwells in the children of disobedience that decides their future eternal destiny. Men who conceal their convictions of duty because they are afraid of suffering persecution are not following the true, but the false, shepherd. To maintain principle at all hazard is the highest path one can travel, because by doing this we follow Jesus. That which has a ‘Thus saith the Lord’ is right and expedient. God has said, ‘He that walketh uprightly walketh surely’ Proverbs 10:9. If you suffer for the truth’s sake, you are partakers with Christ in His suffering, and will be partakers with Him in His glory.

“God is weary of professional falseness and hollow hypocrisy. ‘And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.’ What grand words, how cheering and uplifting. ‘Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in His holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully,’ ‘he that walketh uprightly and worketh righteousness, and keepeth the truth in his heart,’ ‘he shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation’ Psalm 24:3–5; 15:2.

“The third angel’s message, following the first and second which have proclaimed the hour of God’s judgment and the fall of mystic Babylon, is proclaimed in louder and more explicit tones, giving a warning to all co-workers in the great anti-Christian apostasy: ‘And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.’ Revelation 18:1–5.

“The whole chapter is full of importance and is of consequence to every human agent. Consider this matter; it will bear close searching. The men who are denying the Sabbath instituted by God Himself, who are trampling upon the commandments of God, are the devil’s spies who seek to find accusation against those who will not reverence a man-made institution and worship an idol sabbath. The observance of the seventh day according to the commandment reveals to them a neglect of duties which they owe to God. If there was not a people voicing the third angel’s message, they would have no conscientious scruples for Sunday observance, but it is the truth that they do not wish to receive. The Jews did not want their customs and practices to be disturbed; neither do the professed Christian world of today wish to be disturbed. They reject the message of truth which God in mercy hath sent to them to arouse their moral sensibilities. The Jews treated Christ just as professed Christians of today would treat Him should He come as He did at His first advent.

“The world is in co-partnership with the professed Christian churches in making void the law of Jehovah. God’s law is set aside; it is trampled underfoot; and from all the loyal people of God the prayer will ascend to heaven, ‘It is time, O Lord, for Thee to work: for they have made void Thy law.’ Satan is making his last and most powerful effort for the mastery, his last conflict against the principles of God’s law. A defiant infidelity abounds.

“After John’s description in Revelation 16 of that miracle-working power which was to gather the world to the last great conflict, the symbols are dropped, and the trumpet voice once more gives a certain sound. ‘Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame’ Revelation 16:15. After the transgression of Adam and Eve, they were naked, for the garment of light and security had departed from them. The world will have forgotten the admonition and warnings of God, as did the inhabitants of the Noetic world; as did also the dwellers in Sodom. They awoke with all their plans and inventions of iniquity; but suddenly the shower of fire came from heaven and consumed the godless inhabitants. ‘Thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed’ Luke 17:30.

“The world full of rioting, full of godless pleasure, is asleep, asleep in carnal security, putting afar off the coming of the Lord, laughing at warnings, calling those who try to arouse their attention, almost fanatics, enthusiasts, not levelheaded. The lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God are taken unawares. This is the proud boast that is made, ‘All things remain as they were from the beginning. Tomorrow shall be as this day, only much more abundant.’ We will go deeper into pleasure loving. But, said Christ, ‘Behold I come as a thief.’ When the scorner, the rejecter of truth has become presumptuous, when the routine of work in the various money-making lines is being carried on without regard to principle, when the student is fully engaged in ambitious aims to obtain knowledge of everything but the Bible, Christ comes as a thief. The warning has been given, ‘Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up’ Matthew 24:42–43. Every hour that passes is one hour less for you to make preparation of character for this great event.” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 14, 91–97.

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