

Newsletter August 2019

In this Newsletter, we shall provide an updated analysis of current world conditions from a Christian Perspective. Our last worldview analysis was in November of 2016, wherein we discussed the growing conflict between Christianity and civil government. Much has occurred since that time. Great upheavals have taken place within the temporal church, society at large, and within national governments. Lamentably, those great upheavals have driven the world downward on a path leading toward the brink of self-destruction. Within this article, we shall trace three steps of mankind's current failures, each one progressively leading downward to the next, as the world in its prideful ignorance hurls itself toward the awaiting abyss of societal and political collapse.

While a declining remnant of the true Church on earth still stands in faithful opposition to a growing religious apostasy, most of today's faithful Christians find themselves encased within a deceitful system of churchianity in which the temporal church's ambitious social programs and secular agendas prevail, having taken priority over the teaching of Holy Scripture and the clear Gospel mandate. As men (and women) increasingly see Christian ministry as a lucrative profession, rather than a divine calling, comprehensive and forthright expositions of God's Word from the pulpit has all but disappeared. In its place, we increasingly hear ever-shorter philosophical dissertations designed to exhort tolerance for almost all forms of aberrant belief and behavior in a desperate effort to perpetuate the existence of a church that has become but a meaningless pseudo-religious organization.

Consequently, the living God no longer has a vital place within the daily lives of today's men and women. He has become a mere fetish – an amulet, that can be hidden away in their pocket should the need arise for supernatural intervention during dire emergencies. Sin is now routinely viewed as mere missteps that "God" can easily forgive out of an abundance of his grace, and any shame for sins committed are considered to be the result of a lack of faith in the autonomous nature of the human race. The biblical doctrine of eternal salvation has been replaced with a temporal post-modern social gospel of liberation theology – liberation from God and from all of his divine laws, which He has enacted for mankind's good and well-being.

No longer living in the Truth of God's Word, men's minds are left wide open to the delusive lies of the deceiver, even as the warning voice of the Holy Spirit is stifled. Liberty from sin and its consequences that is abundantly available in Christ, is being willingly exchanged for oppressive secular opinion offered under the guise of a nebulous freedom that has no guarantee or permanence. Extra-biblical rules imposed by many of today's churches have already supplanted the unassailable authority of God's Word regarding mankind's sin.

In some churches, petty-legalism has replaced God's divine Law with more easily attainable regulations of dress, diet, and outward conduct, through which an imagined state of pseudo-holiness is achieved to salve the inward knowledge of ever-present sin. This was the sad state of the religious rulers of Jesus' day of which He said, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead *men's* bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity" (Mt. 23:27,28). The truth is that every single sin man commits, whether exposed or hidden, is shameful and deadly serious; every one is unmitigated evil and greatly offends the holiness of a loving God. The sins of the whole world were placed upon Christ's shoulders so that He should bear shame and suffer death for each and every one of us. Hence, forgiveness of sin is not routine; nor is it received without tremendous cost to Jesus Christ, the sin bearer, who shed his own blood to make atonement for us.

Not surprisingly, true worship of God in many of our modern churches has deteriorated into meaningless lifeless formality. To relieve the boredom of repetitious supplications and rote prayers, all simulation of reverent worship has been replaced in some churches with a loud mind-numbing musical delusion of emotional arousal, through which a false sense of self-worth is derived and aggrandized over the sovereignty of God in Christ. Rather than most of today's church assemblies providing an opportunity for men and women to worship God, they have become but mere religious clubs and vast entertainment empires.

Because an apostate mankind has effectively rejected God, He has given them over to a reprobate mind that has pummeled and ultimately stifled their conscience (cf. Ro. 1:28). Without the restraint of an active collective social conscience, an awful moral corruption has quickly followed. This societal corruption is evident today in many different ways, as alcoholism and addiction to newer even more powerful mind-numbing drugs, has become

rampant among the world's populations. As a consequence of the mind's inability to reason from fact and truth, all natural inhibitions vanished, and an irreversible moral corruption of the individual's soul followed.

As the reprobate mind became increasingly more depraved, theft and gambling largely replaced the work ethic and dependence upon God's providence for life's basic needs. The unrestrained greed of the ungodly led them to violence leading to murder for personal gain. As the crime rate increased, law enforcement not only found it difficult to maintain control, but found themselves to be a target of the violent criminal element. An increasingly liberalized judicial system exacerbated the problem by releasing criminals back on the streets for various nebulous reasons having little to do with actual jurisprudence.

Fallen mankind today sees themselves as deserving a life of ease, entertainment, and pleasure. For that reason, spectator sports occupy nearly every spare moment of their thoughts, and sports gambling adds to that preoccupation. Pornography, which greatly degrades the true worth of women, is epidemic through abundant printed material, R and X rated movies, and the world-wide proliferation of sexually explicit images over the internet. The explosion of this form of voyeurism has greatly contributed to the devastation of natural family life through a notable decrease of monogamous marriages between devoted men and women.¹ This sinful preoccupation led to an increase of adultery and divorce, leading on to widespread polyamory, fornication, rape, and incest.

This same preoccupation also led to an increase of prostitution as more and more debased women sold their bodies as a way of earning a living. Prostitution is often referred to as the oldest profession in existence, inasmuch as Eve seduced Adam to partake of the forbidden fruit of good and evil. The consequences of the fall were immediate as, "Unto the woman [God] said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire *shall be* to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee" (Ge. 3:16).

This inherited seductive tendency in women to possess a man who in turn will rule over her is evidenced in many ways – beginning with an honorable courtship, wherein women seek to establish a life-long loving relationship with one special man through legal marriage. However, abusive use of this desire is exhibited within evil women who use their wiles to attract and entrap an affluent man into marriage for material wealth, position, and power, through which she seeks to rule over her husband.

The most sinful dimension of this role reversal in which women seek to rule over men is to be found within exotic dance barrooms, so-called "gentlemen's clubs," and within brothels. Not surprisingly, organized crime found this vice to be a suitable way to expand their criminal activities. While in the past prostitution was considered to be a criminal activity that preys on men, and was considered to be a shameful disgrace and curse upon a healthy society, the current sexual revolution is rapidly degrading that moral perspective. This has led to the legalization of prostitution in every imaginable form under the nebulous guise of "social justice."

All of those afore-mentioned deviant activities inevitably led to births of many unwanted, unloved and neglected children. As we read in the verse above, God had said to the woman that He would greatly multiply her sorrow and her conception, such that in sorrow she would bring forth children. In sinful response to God's verdict, women, seeking liberation from what they viewed as the "burden" of those unwanted children that came about as a byproduct of sexual activities, increasingly sought out a means of preventing pregnancy – effectively separating what they increasingly viewed as "recreational sex" from procreation. This search first led to various crude and ineffective means of contraception, which ultimately ended with the design of a more-effective oral contraception. Nevertheless, complexities associated with the precise use of "the pill" undermined its effectiveness.

Unintended pregnancies continued on with the result that in desperation women sought out a means of aborting the unborn child from their womb. The frightfully common means was to employ an abortionist to dismember and kill the baby in the womb and then forcefully extract its remains.² The multi-billion-dollar abortion industry that grew out of this sinful act continues to debase women and steal life from future generations, as many unwanted babies are sacrificed upon the altar of human convenience.

As this sinful flirtation with death expands, all human life becomes expendable to economic and societal expediency. This culture of death will not long pertain only to the unborn. Soon, babies that have survived the

1 Christian marriage was described in some detail in a Newsletter article of February 2014, which is currently available on www.CRChristianity.org

2 Today, a supposed less gruesome destruction of the unborn child is brought about through chemical abortion available as an over-the-counter "morning-after pill."

womb, will also face termination of their lives if some latent mental or physical “deficiency,” or some other unwanted trait, is discovered in them. In addition, voluntary euthanasia is already legally sanctioned for the terminally ill in many cases; and as this culture of death expands, euthanasia could eventually be mandated for all that are deemed to be mentally deficient or physically infirm. Ultimately, it could become mandatory for those who have merely reached a specified age.³

“Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves” (Ro.1:24): In an act of severe judgment for the killing of their unborn children, God surrendered men and women to the extreme depths of their fleshly lusts. He abandoned them to wallow in depths of their depraved nature through which they established various impure sexual liaisons that could not readily result in human conception. Over time, those unclean lusts led to a decadent sexual revolution that has gained false respectability through its infiltration of political, educational, and religious institutions at an appalling pace. As we write this, Europe is already totally lost to this so-called “new sexual morality,” and the United States is breathlessly rushing to keep up.

This radical self-proclaimed autonomous sexual movement is not based upon reality but solely upon subjective “feelings.” It is commonly represented by the letters LGBTQ, which stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (or Questionable) individuals.⁴ An ominous “+” sign is commonly added to the end of this string of letters to signal the strong probability of adding still more letters⁵ in the future, thus designating even more aberrant sinful behaviors as being “natural.”⁶

Homosexual marriage has long been advocated by many of the Lesbian community, but particularly so by those within the Gay community, as an attempt to “normalize” homosexual activity under a protective umbrella of civil law. In 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court granted that protection to all its citizens through a ruling that is commonly referred to as the Obergefell decision⁷, which legalized “same-sex marriage.” Nevertheless, a monogamous relationship is antithetical to the homosexual lifestyle that spawned it, such that most such unions are tenuous at best, and they are being summarily rejected by most of the homosexual community as being far too restrictive of their libertarian lifestyle.

It is quite apparent that there can be no authentic unity between individuals identifying themselves with any one of the radically different views of sexuality represented by the series of LGBTQ letters; for, no one view can be rationally reconciled with that of the others. This divergence where individual views intersect has resulted in considerable internal discord and conflict within the movement. Not surprisingly, those that become caught up in this fallacious confusion of sexual identity suffer extreme depression and often resort to suicide in a hopeless attempt to end their mental suffering. Particularly self-destructive of this movement is the fluid Transgender spectrum that contains within it a virtually infinite number of gender permutations; that impossible fluidity could ultimately lead to the movement’s total downfall.

Nevertheless, what all who are caught up in this mass delusion have in common is that their immoral activities are all in direct opposition to a sound biblical worldview; and for the moment at least, their opposition to reality,⁸ which brings forth God’s stinging rebuke, appears to be the very thing that holds that movement together.

3 This culture of death is already underway within today’s world through the massive proliferation of socialism; wherein, coercive government agencies decide who lives or dies under the guise of “government-funded healthcare.”

4 It must be noted that most of the activities represented by these letters effectively reduces or totally eliminates natural conception of human offspring.

5 The additional letters “IAPD” are already beginning to appear at the end of this open-ended list; thus adding Intersexual, Asexual, Pansexual, and Demisexual to this insane confusion of personal identity.

6 Although this LGBTQ movement currently has many political proponents and sympathizers, it is estimated that those who are actually involved in the practice of these activities is well under 5% of the U.S. population – perhaps as little as 3 to 4 percent. Nevertheless, it can be expected to grow larger as this phenomena continues to spread through political activism.

7 *Obergefell v. Hodges*, a U.S. Supreme Court decision that was based upon the Due Process Clause and the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

8 Scripture clearly states that God created mankind male and female (cf. Ge.1:27), and that that distinction is firmly established in their physical anatomy at birth. Gender is not a mere social concept. It is an ontological issue, a state of being, that makes any additional supposed gender classifications radical sinful distortions of one’s own creation. Moreover, it interferes with God’s divine mandate for humanity to multiply in order to continually replenish the earth’s human population as a sizeable portion of it continues to leave the earth to pass on into eternity (cf. Ge. 1:28).

As religious apostasy, lasciviousness, moral wickedness, and lawlessness continues to worsen at an accelerated rate, the world finds itself approaching a social and political collapse; total political anarchy must inevitably follow. The borders of western European nations within the European Economic Union have become porous and virtually nonexistent, as waves of undocumented refugees are flooding across them to the extent that their national identities are dissolving into a great polyglot of religious and societal disunity.

The United States of America is not much further behind Europe, inasmuch as it is increasingly unable, or unwilling, to control its national borders. The influx of undocumented individuals of unknown backgrounds and intent are having the same disastrous effect currently being experienced in Europe. This has led to an industry of human smuggling, even as south-American drug cartels continue to smuggle a huge volume of dangerous illegal drugs across the southern border into the nation.

The falling birthrate, largely caused by the sexual revolution and the increased availability of abortion, has resulted in an economic imbalance, inasmuch as a declining number of qualified younger workers are available to enter the workplace, while elderly workers are simultaneously retiring at an even greater rate. Experienced and qualified foreign workers are being solicited through increased immigration to fill that gap.

Meanwhile, the determined infiltration efforts of Islam into increasingly apostate Christian societies continues on at a steady pace. This incursion into the United States has seriously invaded the nation's sovereignty through legal immigration, such that many of these Muslims have filled many empty positions in industrial, business, and various medical professions. Many others hold high office in local, state, and national governments.⁹ Within the next two decades, Muslims could very well become a powerful voting block capable of determining the outcome of presidential as well as congressional elections.¹⁰

The English historian and Parliamentarian, Edward Gibbon (AD 1737-1794), among his many writings, wrote of the decline of the Roman Empire. He observed that its fall had come about in five significant stages as follows: 1) "The undermining of the dignity and sanctity of the home, which is the basis of human society; 2) Higher and higher taxes; the spending of public money for free bread and circuses for the populous; 3) The mad craze for pleasure, becoming every year more exciting, more brutal, more immoral; 4) The building up of great armaments, when the real enemy was within – the decay of individual responsibility 5) The decline of religion fading into mere form, losing touch with life, and losing power to guide the people." All of the great nations of the past have taken a similar path downward.

Not surprisingly, we find these very same stages of decline within all western nations today, including *The United States of America*, which had initially been founded by its forefathers upon sound biblical Christian principles. The decline parallels Gibbon's observations as follows: 1) The sanctity and home-life of the nuclear family¹¹ has all but vanished. 2) Increasingly higher taxes are being extracted from the productive to provide free services for a nonproductive populace, which is bankrupting the nation. 3) The search for immoral entertainment and pleasure is quite evident and progressively growing as we have previously noted. 4) All of the nation's great and powerful armaments cannot protect it from the real enemy of political anarchy that is rapidly expanding within. 5) An increasing number of churches have given up the high ground of moral integrity and biblical light to wallow in the darkness of their disavowed sin. Once this great decline finally reaches its final phase, the *United States*, like many nations before it, will be fully ripe for God's necessary judgment, and its devastating fall must inevitably follow. © Arthur J. Smith August 2019

9 It must be noted that a true Muslim must hold to Sharia Law as an integral part of Islam, and as a Muslim, they must seek to propagate it. Sharia Law and U.S. Constitutional law are antithetical one to the other, thus rendering any Muslim's oath of allegiance to U.S. Constitutional law when taking political office false and even surreptitious.

10 The answer to this Islamic incursion is Christian evangelization. Many Muslims became disillusioned with Islam as they fled the oppression of hard-line Islamic societies to live in predominantly Christian societies. Experiencing the freedoms such societies enjoy, many have also become open to hearing the good news of eternal peace with God in Christ. (cf. Booklet, *A Comparative Analysis of the Religion of Islam*, 2016, the full text of which is posted for reading on www.crchristianity.org. Printed copies are also available for a nominal charge).

11 A nuclear family has at its very center a devoted husband and wife bonded together in marriage. Coming together in love, they become a father and a mother to their children, whom they nurture and train to one day go out from that family, and each through their own sanctified marriage to their own spouse form the nucleus of additional family units. Together, those expanding family units form a morally responsible and thriving society. When that chain of nuclear expansion is disrupted, society begins to collapse into the immoral, irresponsible, self-destructive quagmire that we see growing all about us today.