

Newsletter January 2013

This January analysis of the present status of world spiritual and political conditions contains edited text taken from *Comprehensively Reformed Christianity*, Book III. In Chapter 19.4, we discussed the spiritual and political decline of the United States and the potential effects of that decline upon biblical Christianity worldwide. The decline began during and after the U.S. civil war (cf. Book III, Chapter 18.6), but early in the twentieth century atheists and political progressives began a strong concerted attack on the Christian faith to marginalize and eradicate it from public life (cf. Book III, Chapter 19.3). In this newsletter we shall consider recent developments that are part of a continued trend toward humanistic socialism in the United States. We shall also consider the implications of a broader movement leading toward a global socialist government, which, if continued unabated, could plunge the world into the apocalyptic events prophesied in the book of Revelation in a relatively short span of time (cf. Book III, Section 20).

On November 6, 2012 Barack Obama was reelected President of the United States by a decisive margin over his challenger Mitt Romney. Obama's religious and political background is an extremely radical mixture of Islam, Marxism, and black liberation theology hidden behind a façade of Christianity, as we briefly discussed in Book III, page 491. His disregard for American constitutional exceptionalism further exposes his strong anti-colonial roots. Romney is a radically firm capitalist whose religious faith is firmly anchored in cultic Mormonism. (Mormonism was discussed in Book III, page 375, and was further expanded upon in our March 2012 Newsletter). Considering the troubling backgrounds of both men, the choice was not an easy one for the electorate to make. Most, it would appear, discounted the importance of personal religious convictions for holding the top secular office. While some conservative evangelicals voiced concern over Romney's involvement in Mormonism, it would appear that most pragmatically voted for him as the only alternative to casting a vote for Obama and the continuation of his agenda to fundamentally transform America into a nation totally unrecognizable by our founding fathers.

The national election only confirmed an already evident shift by a majority of the electorate away from free capitalism, upon which this nation was built, into a downward path toward the humanistic socialism already adopted by many European nations. Humanism is the belief that men acting in concert can bring about a utopian society free of human want and suffering; it is man centered, not God centered, and atheism is at its core (cf. Book III, page 220). Unfortunately, many envision the current political movement toward larger government as an acceptable even desirable Christian concept to aid the poor and through that means eliminate poverty. However, Christian benevolence is voluntarily motivated, as true needs arise, by a love for Christ and his people (cf. June 2012 Newsletter). Humanism advocates forced taxation by government on the unwilling from which a portion is routinely distributed to the poor regardless of their ability or desire to provide for their own personal needs through fruitful labor (cf. 2Th.3:10). While one could expect to find an approval of forced governmental benevolence within many temporal churches that have strayed away from biblical faith, we also find acceptance creeping into conservative bible-believing churches through the lack of spiritual perception by individual members of their congregations.

In the face of an increasingly decadent world populace, existing democracies tend to degenerate into a rigid form of central government in order to survive politically as the godly influence of their Christian foundation is severely eroded away by the immorality, atheism, and paganism of their unregenerated masses. Only where the Spirit of the Lord exists can true liberty endure (cf. 2Co.3:17). Without the internal spiritual rule of individual citizens, democracy slides into anarchy followed by socialism. Socialism is by definition, "a system of social organization that advocates the ownership and control of industry, capital, land etc. by the community as a whole" (*The Randomhouse College Dictionary*). In the political sense, the "community as a whole" becomes centered in an established government firmly ruled by a social elite. Unlike free capitalism, socialism has no power to generate wealth, but only the ability to consume and redistribute it. Over time, serious inefficiencies caused by bureaucratic corruption and waste results in an impoverished society. The engine that powers socialism as it initially evolves from capitalism is the collecting of increasingly higher taxes from wealthy citizenry and private business to fund a rapidly expanding federal government.

Because of the progressive nature of federal income tax brackets, coupled with a large number of allowable deductions, nearly half of the United States citizenry today pay no federal income taxes. (cf. Book III, *The Sixteenth Amendment*, page 378). As the nineteenth century French thinker and historian Alexis de Tocqueville noted, “A democratic government is the only one in which those who vote for a tax can escape the obligation to pay it.” Many who vote for ultra-progressives today are directly benefiting from a redistribution of the nation’s wealth even as they become increasingly dependent upon government programs. Again quoting de Tocqueville, “The American Republic will endure until the day Congress discovers that it can bribe the public with the public's money.” That day has now come, and the Republic is most assuredly at great risk of crumbling under the weight of its own debt.

As the poor increasingly demand a greater share of the overall wealth of a nation as a personal right of existence, a revolutionary transition begins to take place within an initially sound democracy through a period of growing anarchy into socialism. This transition is characterized by class warfare, which political progressives encourage between the rich and the poor, thus providing them the fuel needed to attain their radical humanistic objective. As a part of their agenda, progressives strongly promote the establishment of labor unions that organize workers into large pools of labor led and controlled by labor bosses. Labor unions provide socialists with unwitting soldiers and pawns needed to do battle against large capitalist industries for which they supply labor. As free industry finally collapses under the relentless assault, labor unions are easily taken over and nationalized to form the core of a larger socialist workers movement, which is employed exclusively within government-controlled enterprise. We already find a harbinger of this concept within public sector unions in which a symbiotic relationship exists between union members and progressive politicians who determine their wages and benefit from their vote.

As socialism begins to invade every conceivable sphere of human life, individual citizens become increasingly dependent upon government benefits for everything from food, clothing, and medical care to transportation and housing. Individual initiative declines dramatically as men and women begin to look to government for the source of their continual well being as a basic human right of existence. Lacking incentive to obtain personal gain, national productivity severely declines, and the individual’s share of national economic wealth, which was initially obtained through governmental redistribution, decreases dramatically as the remains of the wealthy capitalist class are picked clean. Therefore, while the poorer classes of democratic societies hungrily advocate socialism, believing it would immediately offer them a better way of life through increased government provisions, all benefits would actually be received in exchange for their personal liberty to accumulate personal wealth through individual effort. The entrepreneurial spirit is crushed along with basic personal dignity through government enslavement.

Socialism is actually the political outgrowth of the philosophy of atheistic humanism. Although the existence of God is fully suppressed in humanism, the desire to worship someone or something greater than oneself remains deeply embedded in the heart of mankind and must therefore be somehow gratified and utilized to mollify and control the masses. Socialist governments commonly provide an alternative religion that is based upon humanism to satisfy that desire. Inasmuch as humanism exalts the absolute worth of man, the primary object of that worship is the collective of mankind imbedded within a socialist state; this is a religion commonly referred to as statism. As statism begins to supplant God’s providence in the minds of its citizens, any and all existing churches first become strictly regulated and then nationalized in order to “protect” society from any teachings that could seek to undermine the rigid socialist order. True Christianity is considered to be subversive and must be quashed. In the place of the worship of God, a clear exposition of mankind’s sin, and the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ based upon the authority of Scripture, temporal churches would only be allowed to preside over traditional Christian rituals, rendered void of their original meaning, while giving out the official humanistic line from their pulpits. Converts to the atheistic religion of statism would see it as the means to attain a temporal redemption from persecution and deprivation (eternal redemption being denied as nonexistent) and to view the human leaders of their state much as very strict messiah figures — from whom temporal deliverance and material blessings flow in exchange for their total submission and obedience.

In a socialist state, all individual freedoms become severely curtailed to conform the populace to its stringent philosophical tenets. A fully totalitarian state eventually comes into being as government elites battle each other to gain and retain absolute power. All popular opposition is held in check by a powerful nationalized police force, as the nation degenerates further into the extreme socialism of Marxist communism. Communism is a very strict form of socialism in which the “people” own all means of production collectively such that all private enterprise in any form is forcibly prohibited. That collectivism brings forth a theoretical classless society consisting of co-equal workers that support a ruling elite that maintains full authority and control over them. Much as bees in a hive, the workers of the collective are viewed as existing only to support the hive and its “queen bee” (i.e. its governing leadership). All individual merit must be sacrificed to the needs of the greater collective. Those who refuse to work to that end or are seen as being incapable of producing anything above that which they consume become a drag on the collective. The lazy, the infirm, the elderly, or those who politically oppose the collective in any way must be eliminated so that the collective can “flourish.” This radical thinking is based upon the survival of the fittest teaching that was set forth as a core element of Darwinian evolutionism (cf. Book III, page 511). It has already led to mass genocide in the past by radical socialists such as Hitler in Germany, Stalin in Russia, and Mao Tsetung in China. One can only imagine what the disastrous effects of unified global socialism would bring about as it degenerates first into communism and then into totalitarianism.

As the United States finally loses her economic dominance to foreign nations, who will have drained her of her material wealth, the nation will cease to be a world power. A badly weakened United States would most likely pave the way for the formation of a greater worldwide socialist government as her once strong Christian witness and influence in the world ends. That global government in turn could rapidly trigger the beginning of prophetic end-time events climaxing in the rise to power of the political antichrist as a world dictator, who will ultimately bring about the destruction of world civilization (cf. Book III, page 602). A world government ruled over by one man is difficult to imagine in today’s world considering the large physical territory involved and the vast religious and political diversity of the world’s population. Nevertheless, Scripture informs us that such a worldwide government will one day be established by the antichrist — most likely upon the ruins of a highly impoverished socialist world system.

Although the recent national election was greatly disappointing to many American Christians who understand what is at stake, informed believers who have studied the path of human history leading into the end times set forth in the book of Revelation should not be dismayed. The outcome of the election was always within God’s sovereign will to control world events “to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men” (Da. 4:17). Just as God abundantly blesses a nation that consistently honors Him, he must first chasten and then ultimately judge those that oppose his will. Speaking to a backslidden Israel, God said, “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land” (2Ch. 7:14). While God’s people remain in sufficient numbers within the nation, this Old Testament biblical principle continues to give the people hope for grass-roots revivals, which could delay the fulfillment of apocalyptic prophecy for a time. Nevertheless, as the influence of Christian principles continues to decline in the years ahead, religious and political corruption will continue to sear the nation’s conscience in its wake until it is beyond redemption. The withdrawal of all of God’s blessings must necessarily follow, thus precipitating his harsh judgment upon a nation that has fully rejected Him. As in the prophet Jeremiah’s day, many Christians today will refuse to accept that inevitability choosing instead to hear the false prophets of humanism. Nevertheless, God’s prophetic agenda must ultimately prevail over sinful human desires for personal comfort, safety, and peace. Before the Day of God’s wrath falls upon the earth (Book III, Chapter 20.6), we must do all that we can to get his Word out to a lost and dying world that many would be saved in that interim, even as we look forward to the future trumpet call of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to meet with Him in the air (1Th.4:16-18). *Arthur J. Smith, January 2013*