

Newsletter July 2020

In our newsletter article of August 2019, we warned of the great worldwide religious, moral, and political decline of human civilization that was already well underway. The United States as well as most of the world at large had prospered economically even as the aforementioned religious, moral, and political declines had continued on totally out of control. As the year 2020 began, the United States as well as most of the western world had greatly prospered economically – even as the aforementioned religious, political, and moral declines had continued on unimpeded. It appeared that human depravity was winning out and that it was even being rewarded. Many devout Christians had questioned how long this moral iniquity would be allowed to grow and spread before God found it necessary to intervene in order to save the human race from self-destruction.

It was not long before God's response was forthcoming in the form of the current Chronavirus pandemic. As we asserted in our April 2020 Newsletter, this pandemic, regardless of its human agency or origin, was most certainly a judgment sent from God through a tiny microbe to serve as a timely warning of even greater judgments to come. Through this present warning, God is pleading with men to repent from their iniquitous activities and to embrace Christ for their Salvation.

The Lock-down Order

The deadly virus, which had mysteriously originated in Wuhan, China, soon began rapidly spreading throughout all of the nations of the world. Its deadly qualities were quickly realized, along with the fact that there was no way to prevent infection, or even to treat the infection that proved in many cases to be fatal. It was thus determined by an overwhelming consensus of the world's political and medical authorities that the only hope of fighting the pandemic was to physically isolate individual citizens sufficiently to slow the spread of the virus until medical science could hopefully produce a reliable treatment and vaccine. Thus it was that men and women living in the "land of the free and the home of the brave" cowed in their homes in fear of the invisible COVID-19 virus. That physical separation required shutting down all but what was determined to be very essential industries and businesses. The economies and financial markets of the world all but tanked overnight.

At the time when the world's churches should have stood up as one to witness of the great salvation freely offered by God through his Son, most churches had already lost their way and had bought into the iniquity of the insidious sexual revolution. They along with many faithful churches were shut down as the mitigation effort began. God's judgment had already begun to winnow out the counterfeit from the true Church. The walls that had once hidden the message and activities of local churches from secular society were suddenly breached, as many local churches decided to move their church services "online" – thus allowing their iniquity as well as the Gospel message of conservative evangelical churches to be heard across the land over the internet. Even as the Gospel was finally being heard, even as men and women suffered within the COVID-19 pandemic, there was yet little evidence of a great turning away from sin and toward Christ. Rather, most men and women chose to double-down on their sinful activities; and in their angry state of depravity, they chose to defy Christ and his offer of salvation all the more.

Attempt at Economic Recovery

In desperation, economic restoration efforts were soon underway in the United States and in other nations – even as the pandemic continued on unabated – when it was discovered that economic shutdowns were causing far greater hardship, suffering, and death than the pandemic itself. A great effort got underway in May of 2020 to get the economy of the United States up and going again – while it was still possible to do so – even as the Coronavirus remained undefeated. This recovery effort was directed state-by-state by individual governors, as each state met what they considered to be an acceptable criteria to enter into the first of three phases of recovery established by the federal government. Those three phases had no timetable attached to them, but were totally dependent upon the continued mitigation of the virus within each state – even as industry resumed manufacturing and businesses and services slowly opened their doors to the public. Many state governors completely ignored or interpreted those guidelines to suit themselves. While most Republican-led states diligently worked to restore their devastated economies, most Democrat-led states chose instead to continue their lock-down of the economy and sought to use that lock-down to further curtail the liberty of their citizens to associate and assemble

The George Floyd Incident

The lock-down had only made worse the repressed iniquity that soon erupted into widespread lawlessness, which in turn greatly exacerbated efforts to restore the crippled economy. The May 25 death of George Floyd, a black man who died after a Minneapolis Minnesota police officer, Derek Chauvin, was seen kneeling on his neck in a cell-phone video, provided the catalyst for this mass uprising of iniquity that hid behind the Constitutional first-amendment right of peaceful assembly. What appeared at first to be a peaceful protestation of one man's death soon turned into an angry mob bent upon committing violence, looting, and indiscriminate destruction of property. This movement then rapidly spread from Minnesota into a great number of the larger cities throughout the United States – including the U.S. capitol in Washington D.C.

Black Lives Matter

A radical group, known as “Black Lives Matter,” allied with various other radical groups, had infiltrated that earlier demonstration of protest as well as additional protest demonstrations that had rapidly spread to a great number of major cities throughout the United States – including massive demonstrations within the United States capitol of Washington D.C. As Christians, we clearly understand that every life matters to God, who has created us all in his image within the first man, Adam. Therefore, we are all of one race regardless of variations in the color of our skins that had developed over time. For that reason, the dignity and worth of all men and women must matter to us as well.

However, “Black Lives Matter” (BLM) is not a mere statement of that obvious fact, but is actually the name of a wide-spread decentralized movement originally founded in 2013 following the fatal shooting of Trayvon Martin by George Zimmerman in Sanford, Florida on February 26, 2012. Zimmerman was later acquitted of any wrong doing on the basis of self-defense, but the black population saw this as a gross miscarriage of justice based upon Martin's race.

Black Lives Matter is a loosely formed movement and network that was initially founded in the United States by three women, Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi, two of whom are self-claimed Marxists. We find stated on the BLM website that they “are guided by the fact that all Black lives matter, regardless of actual or perceived sexual identity, gender identity, gender expression, economic status, ability, disability, religious beliefs or disbeliefs, immigration status, or location.” This diversity of thought unifying “sexual identity, gender identity, gender expression, and economic status,” is commonly referred to as “intersectionality.” This is viewed as a way to unify all black people regardless of how they differ in their moral and religious beliefs including atheism. BLM goes on to state that their intent is to “disrupt the Western-prescribed nuclear family structure requirement by supporting each other as extended families and ‘villages’ that collectively care for one another, especially our children, to the degree that mothers, parents, and children are comfortable” and “foster a queer-affirming network.” This disruption of the nuclear family separates them from any biblical understanding of God's purpose in establishing marriage as the union between one man and one woman. It must be noted that Garza and Cullors both identify themselves as being queer. Thus the BLM website states, “When we gather, we do so with the intention of freeing ourselves from the tight grip of heteronormative thinking, or rather, the belief that all in the world are heterosexual (unless s/he or they disclose otherwise).” It goes on to say that “we make space for transgender brothers and sisters to participate and lead. We are self-reflexive and do the work required to dismantle cisgender privilege and uplift Black trans folk, especially Black trans women who continue to be disproportionately impacted by trans-antagonistic violence.” Regarding this last statement, it must be noted that one of the network's early global organizers, Elle Hearn, identified herself as a transgender woman. Therefore, it appears that the only thing that BLM considers essential to their commonality, apart from the impenetrable darkness of their minds, is their radical diversity in which the light of God and any sense of moral responsibility has been excluded.

Antifa

BLM was joined in the current chaos by *Antifa*, a radical anti-fascism movement, which had arisen within Germany in 1932-1933 in an effort to oppose the racist nationalism of Adolf Hitler. The word, *Antifa*, is derived from the German word *antifaschistisch* (anti-fascists). Antifa holds anti-authoritarian as well as anti-

capitalist views. Their present goal has been expanded to include the dismantling of all established capitalist societies (which they consider a form of fascism) in order to replace them with communism that is imbued with the most extreme Marxist ideologies. Their efforts are often exemplified in the destruction of property as well as physical violence against any they may consider as holding far-right views – specifically those they consider to be advocating a supremacy of the white race, thus aligning them with the BLM movement.

Revolutionary Efforts of Antifa to Erase History

In order for this revolutionary transition to take place, it first becomes necessary to erase or at least place in serious doubt all knowledge of the past. Without a sound knowledge of the past from which to learn of prior successes and mistakes, we lack all sound guidance for the future. This effort to erase the past had been taking place through the revisionist history being taught by liberal professors in our many colleges and universities for many decades. *Antifa* seeks to destroy all statuary and monuments that could in anyway remind or attest to that history. We see this taking place today in the indiscriminate defacing and destruction of the nation's many monuments and statues. Of course, nothing symbolizes the true founding of the nation as does its many church buildings that even still dot her vast landscape. This has already resulted in *Antifa's* defacing and attempted destruction of the historic *St. John's Episcopal Church* located within Lafayette square near the White House in Washington DC. All church buildings remain potential targets of the angry mob that threatens political stability. Socialism, Marxism, and communism cannot abide even a symbolic existence of Christianity that vies for control of the hearts and minds of men above their insistence upon secular statism.

As we have repeatedly asserted in our newsletter articles, many of our church buildings remain as but dead symbols of a once vibrant faith. Even should all such buildings be destroyed, the Christian faith lives on unimpeded within the hearts and minds of the faithful. In *Comprehensively Reformed Christianity*, Book III, beginning on page 544, we discussed a growing “house church” movement that was already well underway in various nations of the world in which Christian persecution was extremely intense. The current pandemic that had closed down so many institutionalized churches has served to greatly increase that movement away from large centralized church meetings toward a far greater number of small home groups. This movement has become particularly evident in highly-populated India where the pandemic has required the shuttering of all church doors. It has been estimated that seven thousand such groups have already formed in that country alone. Within the United States various home study groups had already been formed under the auspices of various institutionalized churches. While those groups had begun to undertake the role of a “home church,” the effort to partially re-open institutionalized churches has slowed this decentralization movement for a time. Inasmuch as the persecution of Christians will inevitably increase as the end of the age nears, home groups will likely become the main-stay of the true Church throughout the United States and indeed the entire world.

The Subversion of American Politics

BLM, *Antifa*, and other anarchists movements have over time infiltrated and subverted the political parties of the United States. The Democratic party of old no longer exists today – except in name. It has fully bought into the immoral sexual revolution in hopes of gaining additional political points in the upcoming 2020 Presidential election in an effort to oust President Donald J. Trump, who is viewed as the epitome of authoritarian capitalism. In open defiance of God, nearly all Democrats openly embrace or concede to the entire LGBTQ agenda as well as insisting upon the willful destruction of children in the womb right up to moment of birth as a woman's right. The Neo-socialism that has now become so deeply embedded within the Democratic political party of the United States only serves to bolster the cause of those anarchists who intend to throw off the authority of any and all legitimate government. Therefore, today's Democratic party has become complicit in their effort – even as it has become ever more radical as a consequence of those anarchists who have infiltrated them. While the Republican party has dug in its political heels in an attempt to hold the moral high-ground to conserve what remains of what was once one nation under God, the insidious infection of iniquity is also making headway behind the scenes in that party to undermine their conservation efforts. Certain men and women holding radical views are even now occupying political offices that may yet bring the “Grand Old Party” down.

Systemic Anarchy

The escalating mayhem, violence, and destruction of property perpetuated and incited by those underlying radical elements soon prompted the activation of state-controlled national guard units to bolster out-numbered local police units in an effort to suppress the wanton violence and destruction through strictly enforced night-time curfews. Additional racial strife fostered as a consequence of those stringent enforcement efforts only bolstered the protesters' demands for radical revolutionary change – including the dismantling of local law-enforcement agencies. Abolishing the enforcement arm of civil and criminal law would ultimately lead to the elimination of the entire judicial and penitential system, which has served to protect a lawful peaceful society against the madness of self-destructive acts of anarchy. The apparent goal of all those radical groups is to dismantle the entire government and society of the United States and replace it with their own radical socialist agendas.

The Uncertain Aftermath

As this is being written, both the progression and the aftermath of this current societal upheaval is uncertain. How soon the dismantling of our constitutional government by radical anarchists could occur is somewhat dependent upon the outcome of the 2020 presidential election in November. We could hope that wiser minds would prevail and restore the peace and prosperity that had so suddenly vanished in a moment by COVID-19. Nevertheless, should iniquity continue unabated, this will likely be but the first of even greater calamities to come, as the world rapidly approaches the end of this current age. Once that great moral and political decline finally reaches its final phase, the *United States of America*, like many nations before it, will be fully ripe for God's necessary judgment, and its devastating collapse must inevitably follow.

There is only one firm hope that we can cling to in times like these as we see the very pillars of our civilization begin to crumble. As God earlier said to a prideful, stubborn, sin-filled Israel, which at that time was similarly overcome with gross iniquity that had threatened to destroy their land.

“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).

Those whom God addressed in this verse were Jews living within Israel; therefore, it can only be directly applied to them at that particular time. Yet, there is a divine principle found here that is also applicable to our present age. The people who are presently called by God's name within our land are Christians, who claim the Name of God's divine Son. We cannot expect the reprobate to hear the Gospel and repent if we do not first turn from the wickedness that is in our own hearts. If we repent from our own wicked ways, humble ourselves before God, and seek his face in Christ while pleading for his forgiveness, He will surely hear from Heaven and forgive us our sins. When He does so, our land will likewise be healed of the iniquity that is currently ravaging it.

America at a Crossroad

At this very moment, we find that America has been forced into a crossroad that requires a decision as to the direction to be taken. Will liberty protected by law continue to prevail, or will justice under the law be thwarted by a mindless mob intent upon the nation's destruction? True Justice can never be fairly meted out by an angry mob, as the black population of the United States should well understand and remember. Indeed, the wheels of human justice often move slowly and often fail to achieve their goal; but should all human justice fail, all evil and iniquity will be judged in the end by a much higher court that cannot be swayed by clever arguments of debased men and women. As Joshua said to Israel as she stood at a similar crossroad,

“And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD” (Jos. 24:15).

America's choice regarding its future path will either determine its continuing sovereignty as a free nation under God as He intended, or its further decline into a godless nation held within the bondage of its own iniquity. Should its iniquity become full, God will severely judge it leading to the nation's final collapse into the trash-heap of history, as He has judged many other nations in the past. © Arthur J. Smith, July 2020