

REDEEMING THE TIME

“Redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (Ephesians 5:16).

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When We All Get to HEAVEN

OUR FINAL GLORIFICATION

BY HAL RICKER

This message was delivered on June 28, 2023, at the 21st World Congress of the International Council of Christian Churches, in Collingswood, NJ.

1 JOHN 3:2-3:

“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him [in His glorious body after His resurrection]; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.” God will glorify and raise up our bodies and souls to glorify God.

ROMANS 8:30:

“Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called; and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.”

The title assigned to me is: When we all get to heaven — Our final glorification. What a wonderful day that will be!

The verses above, and many others, will help us all to proclaim salvation on our way to heaven. Those who precede us to heaven will have to wait for the final glorification of body and soul.

Together these verses will help us to purify our lives also, which Jesus wants His people to do at all times. These verses are talking about the sons of God, God’s redeemed people, who have the new spiritual birth and wait upon our Savior to appear in the clouds. We will then see Him as He is!

Jesus came the first time to the earth over 2,000 years ago. He came to die for sinners on Calvary’s tree. The second time, the angel tells us that Jesus is coming back in the clouds to receive His people that are alive and those that have died. He will change them to have glorified bodies and souls.

This first resurrection is connected with the Second Coming of Jesus in the clouds. The people who are living at that time and know God as their Savior and Lord will be transformed and will finally receive a glorified body and soul. This is

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WOKE WICKEDNESS

The “Dismantling” of the Biblical Family

BY BRAD K. GSELL

The *Journal of Marriage and Family* is published by the National Council on Family Relations. A recent “invited article” by Bethany L. Letiecq bore the headline: **“Theorizing White heteropatriarchal supremacy, marriage fundamentalism, and the mechanisms that maintain family inequality.”**

The article proceeds to attack Biblical marriage head on, and assigns evil motives to all who live their lives according to the Biblical model. Miss Letiecq pulls no punches in declaring that “marriage fundamentalism” is often “fomented by White Christian Fundamentalism.”

The National Council on Family Relations (NCFR)



The NCFR presents itself as a “multidisciplinary learned society,” which includes top experts in “family science.” Its *Journal of Marriage and Family* is described as a “peer reviewed academic journal,” and is published by Wiley-Blackwell, “an international scientific, technical, medical, and scholarly publishing business.” Who among us could argue with such credentials?

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St. Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh, Scotland

The Second Scottish Reformation

PART 5

BY MARK W. EVANS

The National Covenant

On July 23, 1637, the Dean of Edinburgh, wearing his Episcopal vestments, attempted to read King Charles I's *Service Book* to Scottish Presbyterians gathered at St. Giles Church in Edinburgh. By the King's order, these Protestants were told they must accept a Romish-styled Liturgy, Prayer Book, and Book of Canons. Shouts of protest, combined with Jenny Geddes' stool passing by the head of the clergyman, caused him to shed his vestments, vacate the pulpit, and flee for safety.

His superior, the Bishop of Edinburgh, mounted the pulpit, only to receive a greeting of thrown objects punctuated with shouts of derision: "a pope! — a pope! — antichrist! — pull him down! — stone him!"¹ With the aid of magistrates, the bishop managed to reach the safety of his coach and escape.

William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, gladly authored these unscriptural documents at the request of King Charles. Together, the King and the Archbishop persecuted both the English Puritans and Scottish Presbyterians. The heirs of the Reformation determined to obey God rather than men. Edinburgh's uprising, although small, created a nationwide response.

Church historian Thomas M'Crie wrote: "This tumult, however, simple as it was in its commencement, proved

the death blow of Laud's liturgy. Though at first confined to the humbler orders, and the result, as we have seen, not of any premeditated scheme, but of an impulse given to long-suppressed feel-

"Protestants were severely handled in the Star Chamber and High Commission Court. Papists were treated with the utmost tenderness. While the former were being fined and imprisoned, favors and caresses were showered on the latter. It was forbidden to write against popery. The Protestant press was gagged. Fox's Book of Martyrs could not appear..."⁸

W.A. Wylie

ings, the quarrel was soon taken up by the higher classes. The infatuated conduct of the prelates (the younger part of them especially) to enforce the obnoxious mandate of the court, roused the whole country to follow the example set by Edinburgh. Petitions and remonstrances poured into the privy-council. New riots, in which the gentry began to participate, took place, and it

was found absolutely necessary to suspend the use of the liturgy."²

King Charles I, remained adamant in his resolve to force his will upon the Presbyterian Church. He was affected by his wife, a French Roman Catholic, who provided an open door to advice and exhortation from the papacy.

Charles' father, King James I, may have had the deepest impact through a book he wrote to his son. The writing addressed two particular subjects: "The Divine right of kings" and "the anarchical and destructive nature of Presbyterianism."³ Charles received this teaching wholeheartedly.

His father wrote: "Monarchy is the true pattern of the Divinity; kings sit upon God's throne on the earth; their subjects are not permitted to make any resistance but by flight, as we may see by the example of brute beasts and unreasonable creatures."⁴ A king's subjects are the deplorables and their only acceptable response is passive submission.

King James also wrote about Presbyterians: "I protest before the great God, and since I am here as upon my testament it is no place for me to lie in, that ye shall never find with any Highland or Border thieves greater ingratitude, and more lies and vile perjuries, than with these fanatic spirits; and suffer not the principals of them to brook your land, if ye like to sit at rest, except you would keep them for trying your patience, as Socrates did an evil wife."⁵ The ungrateful King James was referring to men of God who were willing to forfeit their lives to protect their king.

The monarch had other obstacles. His request to Parliament for financial aid was met with the requirement of first answering a list of grievances. He refused to answer and dissolved the Parliament. After two more dissolutions of Parliament, the Stuart King put into practice his doctrine of the "Divine Right of Kings." Church historian J.A. Wylie wrote: "Tyranny loves simplicity in the instrumentalities with which it works; such are swift and sure. Taking

leave of his Parliaments, Charles governed by the prerogative alone. He could now tax his subjects whenever, and to whatever extent, it suited him.”⁶

“God was not merely a witness, as in other oaths. He was a party. On the one side was the Scottish nation; on the other was the Sovereign of heaven and earth: the mortal entered into a covenant with the Eternal: the finite allied itself with the Infinite. So did the Scots regard it. They stood on the steps of the Divine throne as they lifted up their hands to swear to ‘the Lord, the everlasting God.’”¹⁰

J.A. Wylie

As a means of enforcement, Charles created the Star Chamber and High Commission Court. Wylie explained: “These courts were a sort of Inquisition, into which the most loyal of the nation were dragged to be fleeced and tortured.”⁷

Wylie also wrote: “Protestants were severely handled in the Star Chamber and High Commission Court. Papists were treated with the utmost tenderness. While the former were being fined and imprisoned, favors and caresses were showered on the latter. It was for-

The Good News...

“For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.”

ROMANS 5:10

bidden to write against popery. The Protestant press was gagged. *Fox’s Book of Martyrs* could not appear...”⁸

At this time, the Scottish Presbyterian Church arose in contempt for the liturgy of Archbishop Laud. Edinburgh’s uprising brought numerous petitions and protests before the King. Crowds poured into Edinburgh to await an answer. The Privy Council of Scotland sent a representative to receive the King’s response and learned that the Liturgy must be used and that those who refused would be guilty of treason.

The country organized four committees, called “Tables,” to consider their response to the monarch. A unanimous decision was made to enter into a second National Covenant, grounded upon the First National Covenant, approved by James I (for political reasons) and upheld by numerous rulings of Parliament. This Second National Covenant was presented at Greyfriars Church, Edinburgh, March 1, 1638, and signed by vast numbers. It was then copied, and sent throughout the land for even more signatures, some signing with their blood. All recognized the seriousness of their covenant with God.

Thomas M’Crie wrote: “It was the ‘oath of God,’ sworn in His name, in agreement with His Word, and in defence of His cause; and the effects bear a striking resemblance to those recorded in holy writ, as the native fruits of similar exercise in ancient Israel. The minds of the people were at once solemnized by the service, and cemented in defence of their religious privileges. They felt themselves bound to God, and to one another, not only by the common obligations of the divine law, which lie upon all men, independent of their own consent, but by the super-added obligation of a voluntary oath — an oath sworn by the nation, and registered in heaven. They looked on themselves as embarked in a holy cause, in which it was an honor to suffer, and martyrdom to die. The prelates were thunderstruck at the event; and Spotswoode, the archbishop of St. Andrews,

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who had sagacity enough to foresee in it the doom of the whole prelatial fabric, exclaimed, in despair, ‘Now, all that we have been doing these thirty years bypast is at once thrown down!’”⁹

J.A. Wylie expressed the essence of the Covenant: “God was not merely a witness, as in other oaths. He was a party. On the one side was the Scottish nation; on the other was the Sovereign of heaven and earth: the mortal entered into a covenant with the Eternal: the finite allied itself with the Infinite. So did the Scots regard it. They stood on the steps of the Divine throne as they lifted up their hands to swear to ‘the Lord, the everlasting God.’”¹⁰

¹Thomas M’Crie, *The Story of the Scottish Church* (Glasgow: Bell and Bain Ltd, n.d.), p. 141.

²*Ibid.*, p. 142.

³J.A. Wylie, *The History of Protestantism* (London: Cassell and Company, n.d. [originally published, 1878]), Vol. III, p. 536.

⁴*Ibid.*, p. 536.

⁵*Ibid.*

⁶*Ibid.*, p. 537.

⁷*Ibid.*, p. 538.

⁸*Ibid.*, p. 539.

⁹M’Crie, pp. 146,147.

¹⁰Wylie, p. 543.



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WHEN WE ALL GET TO HEAVEN ...

Continued from page 1

called the final glorification. This glorified body and soul will be made perfect, as the body of Jesus after His resurrection was raised in incorruption.

“The Souls of the Righteous ...”

When all true believers die in the faith and their souls go to heaven to see Jesus after death, what goes up to see Jesus? Not the body, but the living soul or spirit.

The Westminster Confession of Faith XXXII:1 says: “The souls of the righteous, being then made perfect in holiness, are received into the highest heavens, where they behold the face of God in light and glory, waiting for the full redemption of their bodies.”

The souls of the Redeemed go to heaven and see Jesus. God is not finished with them, for they will take part in the first resurrection when Jesus comes back in the clouds.

1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 tells us: “For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

A glorified body like Christ

They will get a new glorified body like the body of Jesus when He arose from the dead. This is the final glorified body that we will receive and will forever be with the Lord.

Now, those that are alive when Jesus comes back in the clouds will join those who have part in the first resurrection

of 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17. Those that are alive will also be changed instantly and receive a perfected body like unto Jesus also. The soul that is in the body of those that are alive will be changed at the first resurrection and have the final glorification of their body and soul. They will also forever be with Jesus. So all believers will be with Jesus. When we all get to heaven as true believers we will forever rejoice in our wonderful Savior Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and enjoy all that He has prepared for us.

Return to corruption

It must be understood that the bodies of all men, saved and unsaved, return to corruption after death. However, their souls do not die, for they

“Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.”

Philippians 3:21a

have a spiritual and immortal substance and are immediately returned to God who gave them.

Chapter XXXII:1 of the Westminster Confession of Faith says further: “... the souls of the wicked are cast into hell, where they remain in torments and utter darkness, reserved to the judgment of the great day. [At the Great White Throne judgment, God will condemn the wicked to everlasting punishment.] Besides these two places for souls separated from their bodies, the Scripture acknowledgeth none other.” Purgatory has no place in the Bible, and does not exist. It is a false man-made doctrine.

In God's Image

Take note of this living soul that God gave to Adam and Eve. God created

the soul to be in His image and likeness. He gave men dominion over the fish, fowl of the air and every creeping thing. Genesis 1:26 says: “And God said, let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.”

Man had to think and reason like God. Man had to meditate and decide. Man had to have emotions of joy and sadness. He had the ability to speak and know God as Lord and Savior, and be able to worship God his Creator.

At death, the real person is the soul. The real person goes to heaven. It is not the body that goes to heaven. The body goes into the grave.

In the Old Testament, the people of the Lord were gathered to their fathers, that is the people who knew the Lord. In the New Testament it is much clearer: “to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord” (2 Corinthians 5:8). The spirit of one of the two thieves went to paradise with Jesus, the spirit of the other did not.

God made man in His own image

We must give emphasis that God created man in His own image and what that means. Genesis 1:27: “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.” Both men and women have souls that were made similar to the image of God. Genesis 2:7: “And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.” Living souls never die. God put into Adam the breath of life similar to the spiritual image of God and man became a living soul.

The soul is the same in men and women

In Genesis 2:18, we read: “And the LORD God said, It is not good that the

man should be alone....” It continues: “I will make him an help meet for him.”

Women, as well, have souls made in the spiritual image of God. Genesis 2:21-24 states: “And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept; and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”

We know that the physical body of the woman is different biologically than the body of the man, but the soul is the same for both.

The souls of our children

Eve tells us in Genesis 3:3: “But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.”

When a believer dies, the real you, which is the soul, continues and goes to the God-man Jesus. The body goes to the grave, to await the first resurrection, when body and soul are reunited for their final glorification.

Genesis 4:1 gives the account of the birth of Cain, the first child: “And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.” Eve, the mother of all living, recognized that she had received a man from the Lord; she had received a body and soul from the Lord; and that the baby that came had a body and soul. Cain also had the qualifications of the image of the Lord and a conscience to discern good and evil, because he was a sinner.

The regeneration of the soul

The Rev. Jack Sin, in a fine message about “Understanding the New Birth,”

Westminster Confession of Faith

Chapter XXXII

1. The bodies of men, after death, return to dust, and see corruption; but their souls (which neither die nor sleep), having an immortal subsistence, immediately return to God who gave them. The souls of the righteous, being then made perfect in holiness, are received into the highest heavens, where they behold the face of God in light and glory, waiting for the full redemption of their bodies; and the souls of the wicked are cast into hell, where they remain in torments and utter darkness, reserved to the judgment of the great day. Besides these two places for souls separated from their bodies, the Scripture acknowledgeth none.
2. At the return of the Lord Jesus Christ such living persons as are found in Him shall not die but be changed, and all the dead in Christ shall be raised up with the self-same bodies, and none other, although with different qualities, which shall be united again to their souls forever.
3. The bodies of the unjust shall, after Christ has reigned on earth a thousand years, be raised by the power of God to dishonor.

From the Constitution of the Bible Presbyterian Church

said there are two natures of the person: body and soul.... The change made to the soul in the new birth is a fundamental change, the result is a regenerated soul.

“We shall be changed”

God made man a little lower than the angels. Angels have part of the image of God also. Look at the angels in Scripture and you can see a little part of man. Man is a wonderful creation of God, physically and spiritually. 1 Corinthians 15:51-52: “Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep [die], but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.” At the coming of the Lord, the trumpet shall sound and the dead in Christ shall be raised incorruptible and we that are alive will be changed at the first resurrection.

What will be the change?

Those that are living and those that are raised from the dead shall receive a new body similar to the body of the

Lord Jesus Christ when he was raised from the dead. He could enter into rooms that had windows and doors closed. He could eat fish with His disciples. We don’t understand this fully, but we shall know in the future.

The resurrection of Christ

Jesus had the first fruit of the resurrection and had the reunion of His body and soul in one person. We also will have the reunion of our body and soul in one person and be with Jesus fully as a person of body and soul. This is our final glorification for immortality. 1 Corinthians 15:53 states, “For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.” Earlier, in verse 45, we are told: “And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.”

The first and last Adam

The first Adam was made a living soul. That was the real person of Adam. The last Adam, Jesus Christ, was made

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WHEN WE ALL GET TO HEAVEN ...

Continued from page 5

a quickening spirit to bring about all that we are talking about in this sermon.

The teaching of Job

Another point is the teaching of Job 19:25: “For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth.”

Job knew his Redeemer would live again and actually stand at the latter day upon the earth. He knew that his own body would be fashioned like the glorious body of Jesus. He says in Job 19:26: “And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.” He knew that his Redeemer would be resurrected, and that he himself would be resurrected. He does

“Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep [die], but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”

1 Corinthians 15:51-52

not mention the resurrection, but he presumes and said “Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me” (verse 27).

Job lived in the Old Testament, before Moses, and yet God revealed to him the resurrection of the Redeemer. He revealed that He would give Job a resurrected body in order to walk on the earth again as a complete person, and that his soul and body would be alive again after the resurrection to serve Jesus.

“... when he shall appear, we shall be like him.”

1 John 3:2

Job is a good example with his teachings of what God will do in the first resurrection and at the coming of Jesus in the clouds. Job knew that his complete body and soul would receive its final glorification.

How are the dead raised up and in what body?

“But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?” (1 Corinthians 15:35).

The dead are raised up by the same power that raised up Jesus from the dead. Our God is powerful and will fulfill His plans and purposes.

When a believer dies, one who has been saved by the grace of God and by faith in Him and His sacrifice, his soul goes directly to heaven, because at death there is a complete sanctification. The body goes directly to the grave.

The “blessed hope”

There are many faithful believers of the ICCC who have preceded us to heaven. Each one of these souls is rejoicing in heaven. They are waiting for the first resurrection mentioned in 1 Thessalonians 4.

What are they waiting for? They are waiting for their bodies to be united with their souls to be full persons. While their souls wait in heaven for the resurrection, they fellowship with their Savior. They praise Him, with singing and adoration.

The ICCC believers that are in heaven are there because Jesus redeemed them from their sins. But, they are waiting for a final glorification of body and soul at the first resurrection. Now when Jesus comes back, the believers will be fully glorified persons.

We of the ICCC that are here today are awaiting the return of our Savior,

having the “blessed hope.” Paul told Titus: “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13).

Paul writes in Philippians 3:20: “For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Conclusion

When Jesus comes back, we will be able to serve Him with full body and soul, with the final glorified bodies in the thousand year Millennium of peace and prosperity, with the animal world also changed. Some of you may disagree with me on this point, but the Lord loves you and knows and loves us all.

In Philippians 3:21, Paul asks the question: “Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.”

God calls the body “the vile body,” a corrupt body, that will be changed and be fashioned like unto Jesus’ glorious body, according to the working of God.

1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 is very clear and helps us understand our final glorification at the first resurrection and coming of Jesus in the clouds.

Only the souls of all true born again believers go to heaven at death. But, at the final glorification, when we get a glorified body like Jesus Christ, we will be united to serve Christ together, as Christ appoints, with our reunited soul and body, to serve Him in the Millennium of peace and prosperity, and for all eternity. Amen! •



The Rev. Hal Ricker is a minister in Faith Presbytery, Bible Presbyterian Church. He has been a missionary with The Independent Board for Presbyterian Foreign Missions since 1953, serving first in Brazil.

He continues in active ministry, at age 100, in Guatemala, where he, his wife, and family have served for over six decades. He is also Second Vice President of the International Council of Christian Churches.

Preaching the Gospel in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan



BY BRAD K. GSELL

In November 2023, I was invited to minister in Pakistan. With the tumult, hostilities and terrorism in the Middle East, the advisability of the trip was a matter of great prayer. After all, Pakistan is flanked on its western border by Iran and Afghanistan, places that see massive crowds chanting “Death to America.” Its eastern border is shared with India, a country with which it has often been in conflict, and it borders China to the north. I also would be not far away from Abbottabad, where Osama Bin Laden’s compound had been stormed by our Navy SEALs. I sought, of course, to always be aware of my surroundings, yet I found the people with whom I came in contact on the streets, in the market, and at the airport to be extremely friendly and kind, and they welcomed this American with open arms.

Upon arrival at the airport in Islamabad, I was greeted by my host, the Rev. Arslan Ul Haq, Moderator of the Reformed Church of Pakistan (RCP). We have become friends over the past couple of years, and I appreciate his steadfast love for the Lord and the Reformed faith.

I had been invited to preach to the Synod of the RCP, as well as in a num-

ber of their churches near Bahawalpur. The dear people we met in the various churches were willing servants of Jesus Christ and displayed the joy of the Lord on their faces and in their demeanor. They enthusiastically sang the psalms to eastern melodies, accompanied by the harmonium and tabla. Nearly everyone carried their Bible with them, and as the pastor announced a text in the sermon, someone in the congregation would arise from their seated position on the floor to read it. What a blessing!

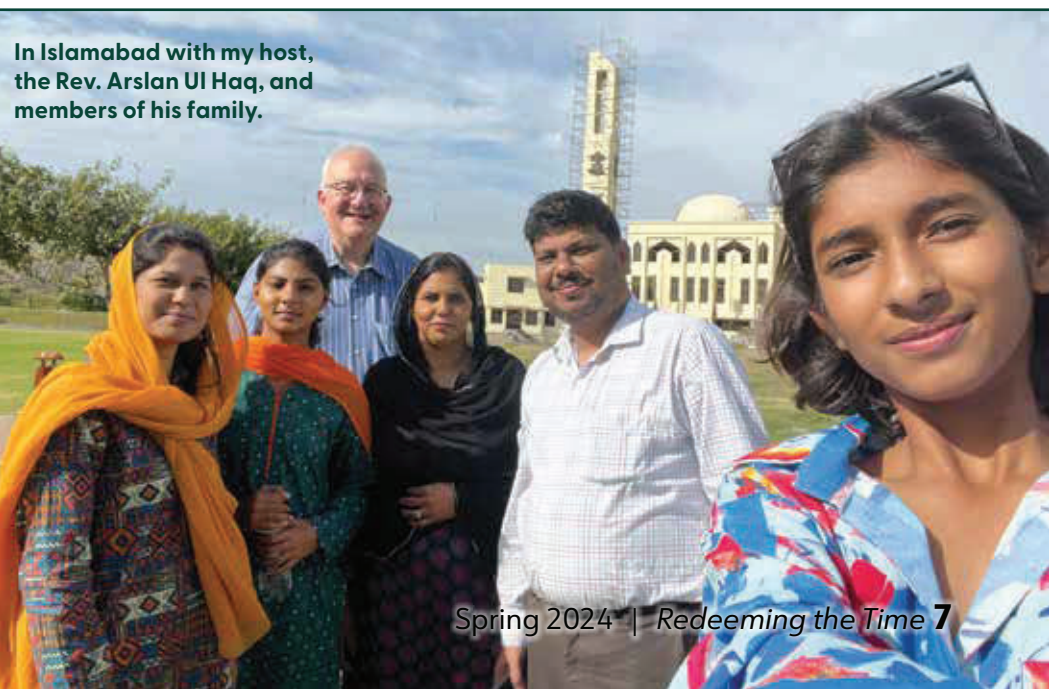
I also preached at their annual Reformation Convention, which included

attendees from various other churches, and even some from other religions. It was a wonderful opportunity to preach the blessed gospel of Christ to a large audience. I am so very thankful for my many new friends there, who are serving Christ at great personal sacrifice.

Brother Arslan organized the schedule, and treated us to loving hospitality during the entire trip. His brother, Adnan, was our driver over hundreds of miles, and helped us in many ways. We spent most of our nights at the homes of Pakistani Christians who gave us much of the little that they had. What precious friends these were. In visiting a number of families, it was amazing how well adjusted and friendly the children were. They loved to talk with the adults, and were always so courteous and willing to meet your every need. They all loved going to church and singing praises to God.

We were even invited by a Muslim medical doctor to spend a night in one of his nice apartment buildings. He then treated us to a home cooked breakfast and lunch at his beautiful home, with a relaxing time of conversation on his rooftop patio. Some other doctors, staff, and pharmaceutical representatives joined us. It was amazing the misconceptions some had about the United States, obviously from watching CNN International, etc. And, frankly, I was happy to have some of my misconcep-

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In Islamabad with my host, the Rev. Arslan Ul Haq, and members of his family.

PREACHING THE GOSPEL IN PAKISTAN

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tions corrected as well. Please pray that the Lord will use the gospel message in the hearts of many in this overwhelming Muslim country.

Another privilege I had was to give the graduation address at the Sutlej Reformed Seminary, where I also handed out the diplomas. Other events included participation in the ordination to the gospel ministry of four young men, and preaching at an evangelism seminar.

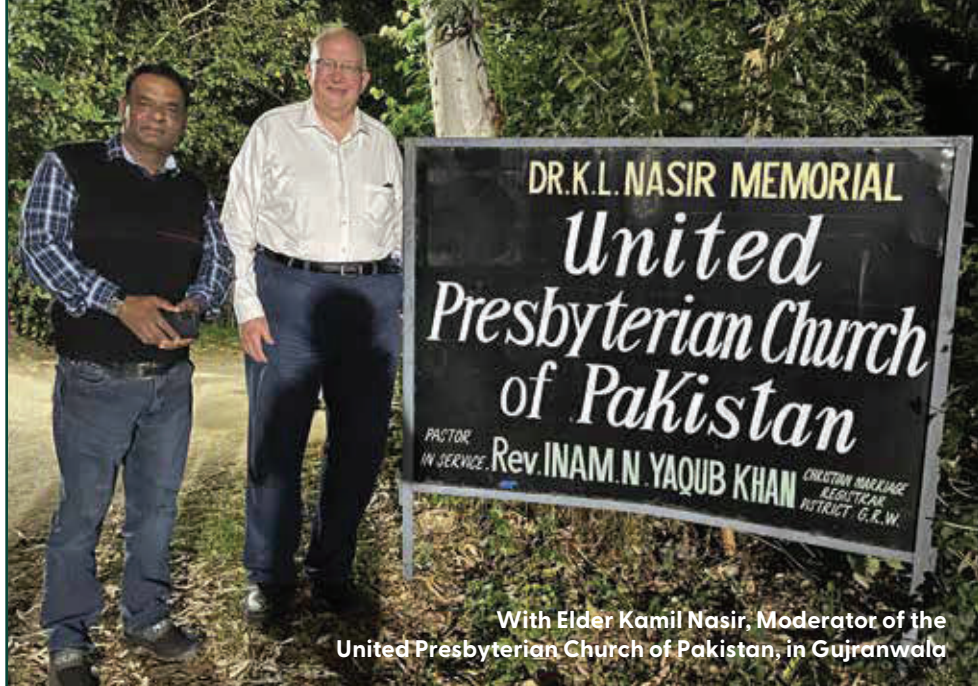
On the way south from Islamabad, I was asked to preach at a church in Narowal, on the Indian border. The service was held on the flat roof of a

two-story building, with loudspeakers sending the message to the surrounding area. This would not have been possible in many areas of Pakistan.

A wonderful surprise was that Elder Kamil Nasir, Moderator of the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church of Pakistan, heard that I was coming, and invited us to their headquarters in Gujranwala. Kamil's grandfather, the late Rev. Dr. K.L. Nasir, was

a leader in the International Council of Christian Churches. He had led his denomination out of the apostasy in the 1960s, and broke all connections with the liberal United Presbyterian Church in the United States (now the Presbyterian Church [USA]). As a teenager in Cape May, NJ, I often drove him to his speaking engagements, and got to know him very well when he visited there.





With Elder Kamil Nasir, Moderator of the United Presbyterian Church of Pakistan, in Gujranwala



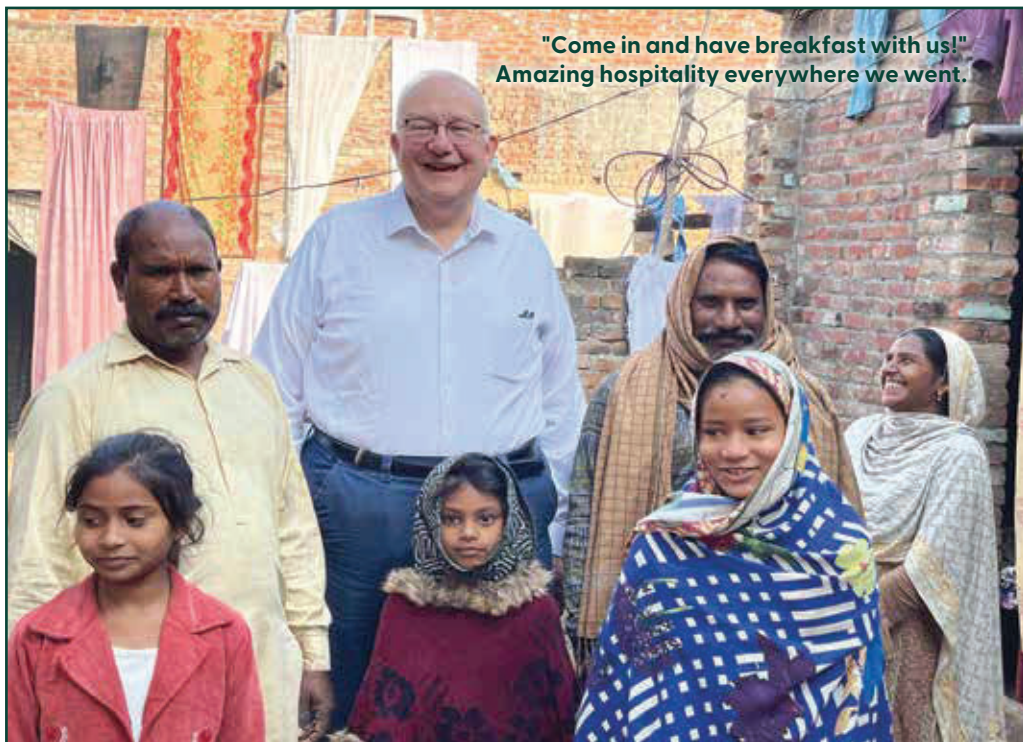
The late Dr. K.L. Nasir was a leader of the International Council of Christian

Dr. Nasir and his son spent their lives in service to Christ, until the Lord took them home. Now, Dr. Nasir's grandson, and great-grandson continue on this same course of godly Christian service. I was so happy to rekindle this friendship.

One highlight of the trip was getting to go to Taxila to the wonderful museum of ancient artifacts, and then to the Sirkap archaeological ruins. Tradition has it that Thomas, the disciple of Christ, lived and preached here for some years, in the court of King Gondophares, as he brought the gospel to India. There is ancient non-canonical textual evidence that would seem to give some credence to this claim. This was a major east-west crossroads, with history that goes back hundreds of years before the time of Christ. Another archaeological wonder we saw was the amazing Derawar Fortress further south in the country.

Please pray for the dear Christians of Pakistan. They are a tiny minority, in this Islamic Republic, and often suffer persecution.

No matter where I travel in the world, the Bible-believing Christians I encounter always give me much cause for encouragement and rejoicing. The Lord uses them mightily in my life to convict, teach, and strengthen, with a renewed determination to serve the King of Kings!





Brazilian Government Bans Chick Tracts

The website of Chick Publications has announced: “Unfortunately, the Brazilian government recently decided to ban the import of our products into your country. All shipments have been returned to us, so at this time we are unable to ship to Brazil.”

Over 250 different tracts, produced in a distinctive small booklet format, are the work of Christian cartoonist Jack T. Chick. They have become widely popular around the world. To date, Chick tracts have been produced in nearly 100 languages, and the combined publication numbers are reported to be heading toward one billion.

Although Brazil’s Constitution guarantees freedom of religion, many actions of current leftist President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva have alarmed Christians and conservatives in Brazil.

Chick has come under increasing attack because of its consistent Scriptural view that Biblical Christianity is the only true religion. He has dedicated some booklets to warning of the errors of various false religions.

The Wikipedia entry on Chick states that “Although many of Chick’s tracts express views that are generally accepted within mainstream Protestant theology, several tracts have expressed controversial viewpoints. Most notably, Chick tracts express strong anti-Catholic views, as well as criticisms of other faiths, including Judaism, Islam, and Mormonism.”

This has led the infamous Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) to place

Chick Publications on its official list of “hate groups.” Other organizations, such as the Hindu American Foundation, and those from other religions, have done likewise. In Bristol, England, the police investigated the distribution of Chick tracts to see if they constituted “hate speech.” Because of the tracts’ wide distribution, and the fact that



many people are drawn into the format, and are thus inclined to read them, has raised the ire and alarm of many enemies of the Gospel.

The SPLC, and other such groups, believe themselves to be virtuous in their slander of various Christian and conservative groups. Yet, at the same time, they do everything to squelch the freedom of speech and religion of those who disagree and warn against unbiblical religions and philosophies.

We as Christians believe in freedom of speech — even speech with which we disagree. Let truth win out in the free marketplace of ideas.

As Christians, our speech must be TRUE and ACCURATE, and be done in all godliness. But, warning of error and false teaching is found throughout the Bible.

In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus Christ taught the disciples, and apparently the multitude which had gathered to Him. One thing He told them was to “Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves” (Matthew 7:15).

In Acts 20:29-31, the Apostle Paul warned the Ephesian elders: “For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.”

Jude warns his readers: “For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ” (Jude 4).

Earlier, in the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:11-12), Christ taught: “Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”

No matter the attacks of men, the Gospel of Christ will continue to go forth. Christ Jesus said that He will build His church — “and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

Thanks to the Rev. Ken Olson, editor of O Fundamentalista, a Portuguese-language Christian newspaper, distributed in Brazil, for informing us of this.

THE “DISMANTLING” OF THE BIBLICAL FAMILY

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Bethany L. Letiecq

Bethany Letiecq is an associate professor in the College of Education and Human Development at George Mason University, in Fairfax, Virginia. She is totally indoctrinated with the principles of “critical theory,” which dishonestly twist plain facts and reason to the end of implementing Marxist ideology.

What is so-called “Marriage Fundamentalism”?

The things that Letiecq so dislikes are found in her definition of “marriage fundamentalism”: “... the belief that a family composed of a cisgender [one of many terms used to advocate that there are many genders] heterosexual married couple (*i.e.* a man and a woman as husband and wife) is the ideal family form for rearing children, is the foundation of civilization, and is necessary for ensuring White, heteropatriarchal supremacy in America.” I presume then that most of our readers fall into the dreaded category of being “marriage fundamentalists”!

In Critical Theory essays, racism is nearly always brought in. Since when has Biblical marriage been peculiar to the White race? As I travel to many countries around the world, the large percentage of people of ALL races practice “traditional” marriage!

If you believe and practice this, you are said to be promoting a “structural mechanism” of “White heteropatriarchal family supremacy that is essential to the reproduction and maintenance of family inequality in the United States.”

Miss Letiecq almost gives as qualifying credentials her various relationship experiences, such as: “... divorce, cohabitation, motherhood, single-parenting, and step-mothering.” She says she is presently “living with my partner and co-raising our children.” One must

ask if the display of sin and brokenness represented here is really to be preferred to those who joyfully live within God’s plan for marriage.

Critical Theory

Today we often hear about how taxpayer-funded schools are teaching “Critical Race Theory.” But, Critical Theory is a much broader philosophy, which its adherents apply to every area of supposed oppression in our society.

This Movement is traced back to the the Institute for Social Research in Frankfurt in 1930s Germany. It is commonly referred to as the “Frankfort School.” In a 2023 entry in *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, published by Stanford University, Robin Celikates and Jeffrey Flynn tell us that Critical Theory represents the “work of several generations of philosophers and social theorists in the Western European Marxist tradition.”

Indeed many of these principles are copied from Hegelian philosophy and the writings of Karl Marx. The *Journal* further states that Critical Theory involves: “interdisciplinary research that combines philosophy and social science with the practical aim of furthering emancipation.”

Many Christians today watching the news cannot understand what is going on in our country. Many things happening seem unbelievable, and devoid of any sound reason. There have always been differences of opinion, but those continually propagating factually untrue things, and advocating actions based on these falsehoods, are solidly in control in government, the media, academia, and so forth. This dangerous mix of faulty Marxist philosophy, blended at its core with an activist agenda of supposed emancipation, leaves little room for basic truth. Isaiah 59:14 tells us: “And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter.”

In the history of our country, the Christian worldview, as imperfect as it

may have been practiced, dictated that truth was truth. There were strict laws against perjury, slander, and libel. But, Critical Theory advocates abandon facts if necessary to reach a desired goal.

To put it simply, if $2 + 2 = 4$ gets in the way of the presuppositions of this flawed philosophy, it can be denied, obfuscated, or otherwise tampered with. “Furthering emancipation,” and “dismantling” that which has been determined to be “unjust,” is now entrenched in most of the institutions of our society — even if facts and reason need to be compromised. Even the church is not immune.

Miss Letiecq’s article is full of notations and references, yet most are simply by those with views similar to hers. Many of her assumptions and accusations simply are stated as fact, yet are nowhere proved in the article.

This philosophy is being taught to our children in schools, on social media, in books, and in so many other ways. Then, our institutions of higher learning are saturated with it. Miss Letiecq is just one of many who are poisoning the minds of America’s brightest young people.

Race, family and gender are not “naturally occurring”

The author tells us that race, family and gender are not “naturally occurring.” Thus, it is obvious that Critical Theory is not based on rational analysis. Our own experience tells us that we were born with our particular color of skin and distinct features. Each of us was born as either male or female, based on objective scientific facts and observation, and the nuclear family has been practiced by disparate populations since the Creation.

Apparently, many Hamas sympathizers on our campuses in 2024 are now referring to Jews as being “White” — so it is legitimate to hold them in contempt. Yet other Middle Easterners, with some common genetic compo-

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nents, are considered to be among the racially oppressed. It is simply dishonest to call one “White,” and the other a racial minority. It becomes ever more clear that race is being used as a substitute for what one believes and does, rather than with one’s color or ethnicity. This is often weaponized into a POLITICAL designation in order to advance one’s agenda.

This philosophy also teaches that an African American woman is automatically oppressed. With the concept of “intersectionality,” she is doubly oppressed, since she is both black AND a woman. Her unique personal circumstances mean little.

There is no legitimate or rational basis for many of these broad categorizations and assertions, yet Critical Theory advocates are jealous to present themselves as scholarly and just. In reality, they are often very active in promoting outcomes which are based on lies. Their emotional feelings, not supported by objective facts, are many times the impetus for dangerous and unjust actions, which propagate the very “oppression” they say they oppose.

Oppressors and the Oppressed

As has been discussed in these columns before, Critical Theory has as a given that all people are either oppressors or the oppressed. Rather than looking at the beliefs and practices of individual men and women, people are often lumped into groups. White men are said to be the ultimate oppressors. If you are a Caucasian male, of northern European descent, you are automatically an oppressor. Since this is a given, there is no need to investigate further.

The Christian Worldview

The Christian recognizes that “there is none that doeth good, no, not

Present With the Lord

THE REV. JOHN MILLS, 95, went home to the loving arms of his Savior, Jesus Christ, on Sunday, April 23, 2023, in Allen Park, Michigan. Pastor Mills was born and raised in Wyandotte, Michigan. After serving in the Merchant Marines in 1944, and the U.S. Army from 1945-1947, he started a successful business, Mills Music Studio.

As an accomplished accordionist, his love of music ranged from big band to gospel. One of the highlights of his military career was when he led the band down the streets of Sasebo, in Occupied Japan, following World War II.

In 1958, he and Miss Mary M. Docherty were united in marriage. They had 64 wonderful years together, and she played a big role in the success of his ministry. They had six children, 17 grandchildren, and 24 great-grandchildren.

His life took a dramatic turn when the Lord called him to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, and his love and study of the Holy Scriptures intensi-

fied. He was ordained by the Bible Presbyterian Church, and started Faith Bible Presbyterian Church of Trenton, Michigan, in his home. He ministered to this vibrant congregation for over

40 years. At the time of his death, he was a member of Faith Presbytery, Bible Presbyterian Church.

The reach of his ministry went well beyond the church walls, as Faith Bible Hour was broadcast on radio stations in Michigan, California, and Pennsylvania. Pastor Mills was also a popular speaker at both the Cape May, New Jersey, and Cape Canaveral, Florida, Bible conferences each year.

So the Lord may be exalted and lives changed, his wife Mary and daughter Cathy Smith have undertaken a project to digitize his hundreds of sermons which were recorded on various media. They are being added on a regular basis to faithbiblehour.com, where you are invited to listen.

“... he being dead yet speaketh.”

Hebrews 11:4



one” (Romans 3:12), and that “... all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (verse 23).

The true Christian stands against all injustice. Galatians 3:28 tells us that in Christ “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.” However, Bible believers recognize that we are not all created exactly the same. We do not all have the same abilities, talents, or interests. Not everyone works as diligently as others, and the political situation of one’s country can have much to do with one’s opportunities and success.

But the Bible tells us that in “whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31). That is why freedom is so important. Each person is responsible directly to God for what he does, and in developing the gifts God has entrusted to him. In humility, we should be content “in whatsoever state I am” (Philippians 4:11). We certainly stand against true oppression and dishonesty, yet it is a sin to hate someone whom God has allowed to become more prosperous than we may be, if their affluence was gained honestly.

We must make sure that what we label as “oppression,” is not a simple

Listen to the Biblical Messages of Pastor John Mills

FAITHBIBLEHOUR.COM

SERMONS & LESSONS

Pastor John C. Mills served as Senior Pastor of Faith Bible Presbyterian Church for over forty years. Through his years of ministry, Pastor Mills preached hundreds of sermons. It is our desire to share those sermons in order that the Lord may be exalted, and lives changed.

Justification
Justification is an act of God whereby He imputes His righteousness to our account. We are declared righteous because "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." II Corinthians 5:21

Salvation
Salvation is a free gift. We are saved, not through anything that we have done, but what Christ did. We must first hear the gospel of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:13). Then, we must believe, putting our trust fully in Him who paid the price (Romans 1:16). This involves seeking repentance from sin and calling on the name of the Lord, who alone has the power to save. (Romans 10:9-10,13).

End Times
For the believer, the phrase 'end times' refers to the time immediately preceding the end of life upon the earth, and the second coming of Christ. Sermons on the end times often include subjects referencing death, the bodily resurrection, judgment, the Second Coming of Christ, and more.

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easy
scan and
listen

Hundreds of recorded messages have been placed on this website for your edification. Pastor Mills was the beloved voice of the Faith Bible Hour, and pastored the Bible Presbyterian Church of Trenton, Michigan, for many years before his homegoing.



violation of the Tenth Commandment — “Thou shalt not covet....”

I personally have worked for several honest employers who had far more wealth than any of their employees. They started their businesses in their garage, or spare bedroom. With unrelenting hard work and major risks, they built their companies into greater successes than they could have imagined when they started out. It is a sin for anyone to envy such men. They used what God gave them, and deserve the fruit of their labor.

The great cost of sin

Miss Letiecq strongly condemns the fact that many have viewed marriage-free “family” arrangements as “threats to the social order.” She ignores the spiritual, physical, emotional and financial damages many of these situations produce.

She criticizes the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) pro-

gram, part of the 1996 U.S. government welfare reform initiative, for “center[ing] on the primacy of traditional heterosexual nuclear marriage and parental responsibility as fundamental to poverty reduction, including the promotion of marriage, abstinence until marriage, and responsible fatherhood.” She further denounced the program for supposedly spending too much money “on marriage promotion programming ... than providing direct cash assistance to families.” Apparently taxpayer dollars should be handed out freely without addressing the root causes.

Simple common sense will show that abstinence until marriage, a strong marriage, and responsible fatherhood have enormous benefits to both parents and children. God designed the family for a loving and godly father and mother to nurture children into a fruitful adulthood. If an absent father has to maintain a separate residence, of course the cost of living will be much higher. Much of the failure of families we see

today is certainly a result of sin and selfishness, and a colossal abandonment of responsibility. The taxpayers should not have to pay for these wrong choices.

Despite denying that traditional marriages are “elixirs to government spending on social welfare and anti-poverty programs,” Letiecq bemoans the fact that the “structural privileging of one family form [Biblical marriage] makes it difficult in a country that does not offer universal child care.”

Of course, there are all kinds of situations which are not the fault of one party or even both. For all who are struggling to do right, we should have the greatest love and compassion. How many Christians have volunteered at crisis pregnancy centers, and helped young mothers, and needy families in a multitude of ways. We praise the Lord for this.

However, the normalization of sin and irresponsibility as a right, at tax-

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payers’ expense, should never be sanctioned.

“Religious Fundamentalism”

The real underlying culprit is pointed out not far into Miss Letiecq’s essay — “White Christian fundamentalism.” She writes: “The ‘complementarian doctrine’ of the New Christian Right imagines gender as binary, where men and women are endowed with ‘different natures’ and thus are relegated to perform different roles in their families, at church, and in society.”

She continues: “While this doctrine has a long history in many Protestant denominations, it was formally codified under evangelical leadership in the 1980s.” She obviously is relying on leftist second-hand sources for her “research,” and knows little about church history. This teaching was “codified” from the Creation, and is found from the beginning to end of the Scriptures.

At other places in this article, she states that “‘White Christianity’ controls the sexuality of White women and imagines ‘the pristine nuclear family’ as alone worthy of ‘the American Dream.’”

Further, “a majority White Christian, pro-life movement” is responsible for “disproportionate negative health outcomes for Black, Indigenous, and transgender people.”

The fundamental transformation of society

Most of us remember when a few days before the 2008 Presidential Election, Barack Obama said: “We are five days away from fundamentally transforming the United States of America.”

A few months before that, Michelle Obama stated: “We are going to have to change our conversation; we’re going to have to change our traditions,

our history; we’re going to have to move into a different place as a nation.”

We cannot pretend to know everything President Obama meant by that, other than the great changes that took place during his two terms in office. It should be noted that his phrase is one often used by the advocates of Marxist Critical Theory.

The *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* states that: “Frankfurt School critical theory inherits its emancipa-

Marriages built on godly character and sacrifice will be a blessing to any nation. “... as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD” (Joshua 24:15).

tory orientation from Marx, in the sense that it aims not only to understand, but also to contribute to a **radical transformation of the social world** that is already under way, and the commitment to real emancipation as **requiring a radical, irreducibly social and political transformation** that overcomes the fundamental contradictions of modern society instead of partial or local reforms aimed at surface-level symptoms. Emancipation is thus understood as liberation, including self-liberation, from domination by social, political, and economic powers, both personal and structural.”

Make no mistake about it, our present Administration in Washington continues to put this Marxist philosophy into practice.

Did America have a flawed view of marriage from its inception?

Just as the *New York Times’* infamous 1619 Project, conceived by Nikole Hannah-Jones, seeks to rewrite American history, presenting all of our Founders as wicked men, so Miss Letiecq does on the subject of marriage. She laments that this “marriage fundamentalism” goes back to the founding of the United States. She attacks the

“white bourgeois colonizers,” who supposedly forced Biblical marriage on the people for the purpose of maintaining power. Here she presents the original Marxist claim of the “dictatorship of the bourgeoisie over the proletariat.” It should be remembered that Marx and Engels both called for the abolition of the “traditional” family. One needs only to read the *Communist Manifesto* to see Marx’s anti-family views.

No room to differ

It is interesting that those who so insist that they are the champions of “diversity, equity and inclusion,” are so ready to deny the choices of others who do not agree with them. In the marriage context, they demean and insult women who have freely CHOSEN to enter into a Biblical marriage and family structure.

Such women must have only selfish motives, according to Letiecq: “White women who commit to be in relationship with White men in traditional heterosexual nuclear marriage implicitly (or explicitly) endorse their subjugation likely because of the individual, family, social, cultural, legal, and economic benefits and protections they gain from the relationship, and the advantages they can pass on to their children.”

Could it be that these are not at all the “likely” REASONS most women enter into such relationships, but are instead some of the real benefits that flow from following God’s ordained plan? This free and happy choice of women to marry is usually taken quite apart from any concern about this White heteropatriarchal specter of Miss Letiecq’s own imagination. These women are fulfilling the desire of THEIR hearts, and THIS is what makes them happy and fulfilled?

Further, the Biblical family places much responsibility, sacrifice and godly practice on the part of the man. Any partner in a marriage who does not love and sacrifice for his or her spouse, is disobedient to the commands of God.

An aggressive activist agenda based on an unscientific and irrational foundation

Ending a long string of contradictions, Miss Letiecq urges her elite fellow Critical theorists to “talk about family diversity, inclusion, and equity” — of course according to her sensibilities. Yet, she immediately offers a rigid, authoritarian directive to “walk toward the dismantlement of marriage fundamentalism and interlinked forms of structural oppression to advance justice for all people under the law.”

She, like many of her sympathizers, tells us that this is a very academic, scholarly philosophy, yet it often is simply a blind ideology which is separated from plain honesty and objective truth.

The Christian response

Psalm 2:1 asks: “Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?” Those in high places take pleasure in attacking God and His Word. We can expect these things, and we should stand against these attempts to destroy the family — and our country.

However, we must do everything to promote Biblical marriage in our families, and in our churches. We should have a renewed desire and commitment to live our lives according to Biblical teaching, for happy flourishing marriages and families that will be an example to many.

Let all of us obey the command and example of Joshua to the Children of Israel: “Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth ... and serve ye the LORD.... Choose you this day whom ye will serve; ... **but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.**” Joshua told them that they would have to turn from their strange gods and obey God.” We are given their response: “And the people said unto Joshua, The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey.”

Marriages built on godly character and sacrifice will be a blessing to the family and the whole society. •



WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THE FAMILY?

Marriage and family are not a social construct that developed over time. These are Creation ordinances, instituted by God from the beginning.

CREATION ORDINANCES

Genesis 2, adds detail to the Creation account given in Genesis 1. Genesis 2:18 tells us: “And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.”

Verses 21-23 tell us how God did this: “And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.”

In verse 24, God declares His plan and purpose for all mankind: “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”

NEW TESTAMENT CORROBORATION BY CHRIST

Jesus Christ Himself reinforces this in Matthew 19:4-6: “Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.”

The Apostle Paul further gives us the delightful picture of how husband and wife complement each other, and the duties that each of them has. He also

compares it to the relationship of Christ as the Head of the church, and we as “the bride of Christ.” This imagery appears all through the Scriptures, culminating in the great “marriage supper of the Lamb” in Revelation 19:9.

Further, the Word of God always presents the normal family as husband and wife, with all children which come from that union.

In the beginning, God declared His plan for marriage and the family: “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”

GENESIS 2:24

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WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THE FAMILY?

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MARRIAGE FOR A LIFETIME

Marriage is the union between one man and one woman — “as long as you both shall live.” This is so important in God’s plan that the the Seventh Commandment declares definitively:

“Thou shalt not commit adultery.”

Exodus 20:14

Ephesians 5:21-33 (see at right) gives us the wonderful comparison of marriage to that of Christ and His church. Marriage and family are woven inextricably throughout the fabric of the entire Bible.

THE BLESSING OF CHILDREN

The Bible presents children as being a blessing. At the time Mary heard that she would bear the Son of God, her response was: “And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour” (Luke 1:47).

The Psalmist tells us:

“Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them....”

Psalms 127:3-5

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS

“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

Proverbs 22:6

“And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.”

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CHILDREN

Another of the Ten Commandments deals with children in the family. The Apostle Paul repeats it in the New Testament:

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.”

Ephesians 6:1-3

Their training is received from BOTH parents:

“My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother....”

Proverbs 1:8-9

THE BLESSINGS OF THE FAMILY ARE MULTIGENERATIONAL

“Children’s children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers.”

Proverbs 17:6

Ephesians 5:21-33

Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

- ◆ Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.
- ◆ For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.
- ◆ Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.
- ◆ Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;
- ◆ That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,
- ◆ That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.
- ◆ So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.
- ◆ For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:
- ◆ For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.
- ◆ For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.
- ◆ This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.
- ◆ Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.