



RISE AND FALL OF GREAT CIVILIZATIONS

April 2016

(From Apathy to Dependence to Slavery) In 1776, Representatives from the thirteen colonies assembled and wrote the Declaration of Independence. With this document, our founding fathers proclaimed to the world that America was a democratic republic: “We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, and that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are, Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness,” Ironically, that same year Alexander Fraser Tytler, a European historian published the Decline and Fall of the Athenian Republic. In his publication he wrote the following: “A Democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the voters discover they can vote themselves largesse from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates promising them the most benefits from the public treasury, with the result that a democracy always collapses over a loss of fiscal responsibility, always followed by a dictatorship. The average of the world’s great civilizations before they decline has been 200 years...If Tytler’s conclusion is correct, this year (2009) America exceeded the average length for a democratic government by 33 years.

Henry Wallace, Roosevelt’s VP from 1941 to 1945, also wrote that he had observed the beginning of a slide into Despotism and Socialism with the attitudes of Washington’s elite. According to Wallace, well-intended leaders with personal agendas would precipitate the loss of individual freedoms. So enlisted, men may rightly feel that they are serving a function as high as that of any minister of the Gospel. They will not be Socialists, Communists, or Facists, but plain men trying to gain by democratic methods the professed objectives of the Communists, Socialists, and Facists.” Likewise, in 1944 Norman Mattoon Thomas espoused Wallace’s theory with his prophesy of the fall of American democracy—and the mechanism that would be used: “The American people will never knowingly adopt socialism. But under the name of ‘liberalism’ they will adopt every fragment of the socialist program, until one day America will be a socialist nation, without knowing how it happened. I need no longer run as a Presidential Candidate for the Socialist Party. The Democratic Party has already adopted our platform.”

Thomas Jefferson said, “A government big enough to give you everything you want, is strong enough to take everything you have.”

Ed. I have not written this in relation to the current election process. but because the information is pertinent to the dangers that have been going on for some time now. It is interesting that a professed ‘Democratic socialist’ is one of the candidates. America is in grave danger along many lines; just think of the gross immorality! It is high time for true believers in Christ to be about our Father’s business. I Corinthians 11:34.

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THOSE DANGEROUS FUNDAMENTALISTS.

Several years ago the following appeared in the *Evangelical Methodist*: "Clergy and world-renowned authors, theologians, scientists, artists and spiritual leaders" met at an international theological conference "to dismantle what they define as religious weapons of mass destruction," The group places "any individual or belief system that proclaims an exclusive path to God" as a weapon of mass destruction. They claim that fundamental Christians are "spiritually violent oppressors who stand in the way of world peace and religious unity if we believe there is but one Savior and one way to Heaven." -Copied

YOUTH CORNER

WHERE IS HAPPINESS? Happiness is not in----

UNBELIEF – Voltaire was an infidel with few his equal. He wrote: "I wish I had never been born."

PLEASURE – Lord Byron lived a life of pleasure, if anyone ever did. He wrote: "The worm, the canker, and the grief are mine alone."

MONEY – Jay Gould, an American millionaire many years ago, who when he was dying said, "I suppose I am the most miserable man on earth."

FAME – Lord Beaconsfield enjoyed more than his share. He wrote: Youth is a mistake, manhood is a struggle, and old age a regret."

POWER & GLORY – Alexander conquered the known world when about thirty years of age. He was found weeping in his tent because, he said, "There are no more worlds to conquer."

WHERE IS HAPPINESS? In knowing God and His Word! "Blessed (Happy) is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord and in His law doth he meditate day and night." ~*Psalms 1:1,2*.

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT.

A little thing is a little thing, but faithfulness in little things is a very great thing.

A true friend is someone who knows all about you and still loves you.

The longer I live, the more convincing proofs of this truth I see – God governs in the affairs of men. -Ben Franklin

We can give without loving, but we cannot love without giving.

Honesty is not only the best policy, it is the only policy God recognizes.

Some people have all the answers, but they do not understand the questions.

WHAT DO YOU SEE? Two men stood on the shore watching the sun come up. One was a London merchant, the other, the poet William Blake. As the bright yellow sun rose into view gilding the water and painting the sky with a thousand colors, the poet turned to the merchant and said, "What do you see?" "Ah, I see gold. The sun looks like a great gold piece. What do you see?" Blake answered, I see the glory of God and I hear a multitude of heavenly hosts crying, "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty! The whole earth is full of His glory."

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NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

39% OF EVANGELICALS IDENTIFY THEMSELVES AS EVANGELICALS. Nearly four in 10 Republican voters who identify themselves as “born again” or “evangelical” don’t believe the Bible is the literal Word of God. [Pew Research published an analysis](#) last week on the evangelical vote in the 2016 election season, using data accrued from the 2014 [Religious Landscape Study](#). According to the 2014 data, 39 percent of self-identified evangelical voters in the Republican Party do not believe the Bible is literal Word of God. The analysis was based off of the question many political observers had regarding the strong support Republican frontrunner Donald Trump purportedly has among people who identify as evangelical Christians. “[S]ome religious leaders, political analysts and researchers have questioned whether many of these self-described evangelicals actually are evangelical Christians,” [noted Pew](#). -NewsMax (3/25/16). Ed. The figure doesn’t surprise me. In knocking on doors and other contacts with Evangelicals few seem to know little about the Faith put forth in the Bible.

OWNERS OF CHRISTIAN BED AND BREAKFAST GIVEN ONEROUS PUNISHMENT FOR REFUSAL TO HOST HOMOSEXUAL CIVIL UNION. The following is excerpted from “Illinois Bed and Breakfast,” [ChristianNews.net](#), Mar. 30, 2016: “The owners of a bed and breakfast in Illinois have been ordered to pay \$80,000 after they declined to host a civil union ceremony for two homosexual men on the premises, and have been mandated to facilitate a celebration for the men at their facility within one year. ... In 2011, Todd Wathen contacted TimberCreek via email to inquire if the bed and breakfast would be hosting civil union ceremonies after Illinois approved the unions that year via the ‘Religious Freedom Protection and Civil Union Act.’ Jim Walder replied that the facility had no such plans, and advised Wathen that ‘homosexuality is immoral and unnatural,’ and that ‘it’s not too late to change your behavior.’ Three days later, Wathen filed a discrimination complaint with the Illinois Human Rights Commission. The American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois (ACLU) also soon became involved and sought emotional damages for Wathen and his partner, Mark. Now, Michael Robinson, an administrative law judge appointed by the Commission, has ordered Walder to pay \$30,000 in damages to the men (\$15,000 each), as well as \$50,000 in attorney’s fees and more than \$1,200 in costs. Robinson also mandated that Walder follow the Illinois Human Rights Act by not declining further events, and

that he additionally host Wathen’s celebration at the bed and breakfast within one year. The two men held a ceremony in their yard in 2011 after being declined; they did not seek other facilities as alternatives. ... in a statement issued to the *Ford County Record*, Walder has stated that he cannot comply with the order. ‘To be absolutely clear, we cannot host a same-sex wedding even though fines and penalties have been imposed by the Illinois Human Rights Commission,’ he said. ‘Our policy will not be changing.’“ [FBIS](#) (4/8/16)

CHINESE GOVERNMENT ATTACKING CHURCHES. Groups of hundreds of Chinese officers sent by the Communist Party demolished over a dozen church crosses in China’s coastal Zhejiang province this past week, leading to confrontations with protesters, some of whom were beaten and bloodied. [China Aid](#), which tracks Christian persecution in China, said demolitions are part of an ongoing campaign since 2014 to take down church crosses over alleged building code violations, though the group has said the targeting is specifically aimed at halting the rise of Christianity in the country. Although Christian protesters have been gathering outside churches to protect the crosses, police forces in response have also been growing, sometimes grouping by the hundreds, and using force to disband the Christians. [Christian Post](#) (3/31/16)

BIBLE RANKS NO. 6 ON LIST OF CHALLENGED BOOKS. The American Library Association has revealed that the Bible is among the books most often challenged and called to be banned in libraries. “There are people who feel that if a school library buys a Bible it’s a violation of Church and state,” said James LaRue who directs the office of Intellectual Freedom for the American Library Association. “And sometimes there is a retaliatory action where a religious group has objected a book and a parent might respond by objecting to the Bible.” --- While the Bible ranked sixth, most of the other books were rejected because of sexually explicit content, or having a LGBT theme... [S]urveys indicate that 85 percent of the book challenges receive no media attention and remain unreported... Some evangelical voices such as Creation Museum CEO and President Ken Ham, have suggested that due to the rising tide of secularism across the Western world, it may not be long before the Bible is publicly banned. [Christian Post](#) (4/12/16). Ed. Just the few articles in this issues of the Challenge tell you how bad things really are – and getting worse every day. All we can say is, **“Even so come Lord Jesus.” ~Rev.22:20**

WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?

One of the great puzzles and enigmas to unbelieving scientists is Francis Bacon, who was one of the greatest scientists, and a true believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. In his essays on Different Characters of the Christian he wrote: "A Christian is one that believes things his reason cannot comprehend, and hopes for things which neither he nor any other man ever saw. He believes Three to be One and One to be Three; a Father not to be older than His Son, and the Son to be equal to the Father. He believes himself to be precious in God's sight and yet loathes himself in his own (sight). He dares not to justify himself even in those things wherein he can find no fault with himself, and yet believes that God accepts him in those services wherein he is able to find many faults. He feels so ashamed that he dares not open his mouth before the Lord, yet with boldness comes to God, and asks Him for anything he needs. He hath within him both flesh and spirit, and yet he is not a double minded man; he is often led captive by the law of sin, yet it never gets dominion over him. He cannot sin, yet he can do nothing without sin. He is so humble as to acknowledge himself to deserve nothing but evil, and yet he believes that God means him all good." Where can you find all of this but in the Bible, the Word of God. To the unbeliever, this is but a jumble of words and illogical thoughts. But, we are reminded: "**But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.**" ~*I Corinthians 2:14.*

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A TIMELY EXHORTATION

Tozer died in 1963, over fifty years ago. Things are much worse today, in the world and in the Church. If you are saved, I hope you will take to heart what he said: "**The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.**" The absence of spiritual devotion today is an omen... The modern church is all but contemptuous of the sober virtues - meekness, modesty, humility, quietness, obedience, self effacement, patience. It behooves us to take this seriously. Time is running out for all of us...We have no right to lie idly by and let things take their course. A farmer who neglects his farm will soon lose it; a shepherd who fails to look after the sheep will find the wolves looking after them. A misbegotten charity that allows wolves to destroy the flock is not charity but indifference and should be dealt with swiftly. It is time for Bible-believing Christians to begin to cultivate the sober graces and *to live among men like sons of God and heirs of the ages.* This will take a lot of doing for the whole world and a large part of the church is set to prevent it." How can God's people really affect anything for Him when they are carnal, worldly, immodest, self-willed, etc. It has been well said: "What you do speaks so loudly, I can't hear what you're saying!" One great problem is Pastors who cater to anything to get people in and keep them coming. The truth is, most have lost their first love - if they ever had it! Now, you may get angry with me. It would be better if you truly repented! God is waiting!