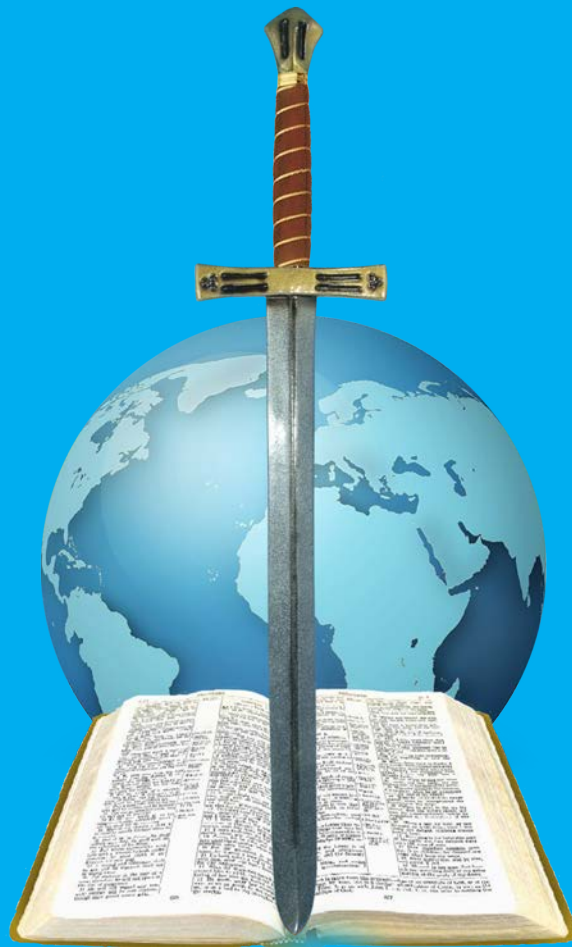


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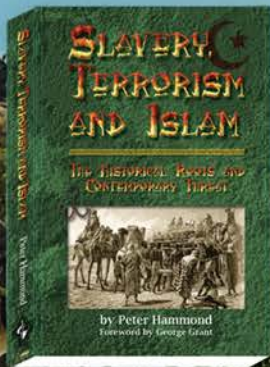


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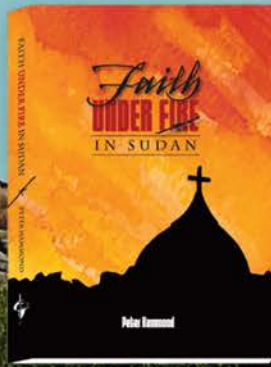


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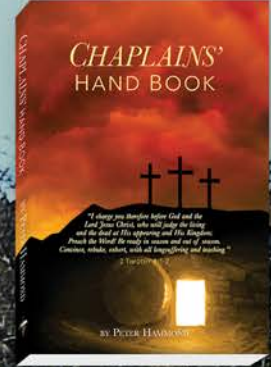
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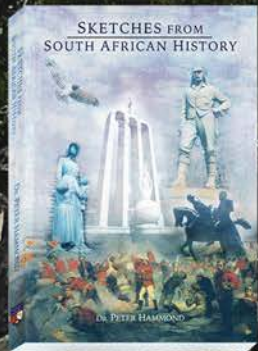


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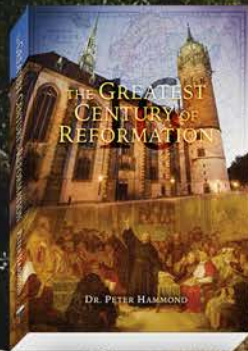


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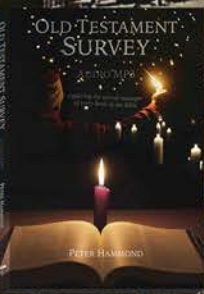


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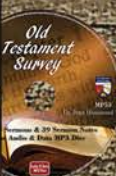
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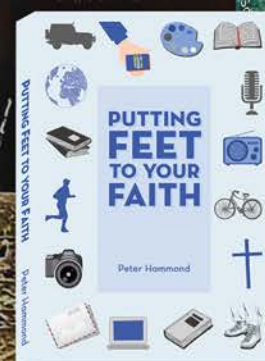
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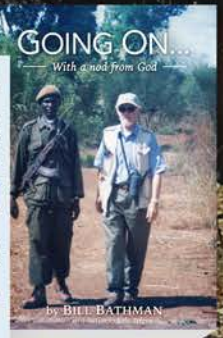
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Biblical Worldview Manual

“The Lordship of Christ in all areas of life”

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Biblical Worldview Manual

The Biblical Worldview Seminar is a Christian leadership training course designed to equip believers to apply Biblical principles to every area of life.

“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind . . .” Romans 12:2

Most Christians tend to see the world in *“bits and pieces”* instead of the whole picture. Too many churchgoers feel like Christians but think like humanists. All too many seem to have Christian hearts but humanist minds.

“See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.” Colossians 2:8

Without realising it, many sincere Christians have accepted unbiblical concepts and a humanist worldview. If we read the newspaper more than the Bible, if we read secular books and magazines more than Christian publications, if we watch TV more than we worship Christ, then it is inevitable that our minds will be shaped and filled by the world.

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: all who follow His precepts have good understanding.” Psalm 111:10

The **Biblical Worldview Seminar** challenges Christians to develop a consistent Biblical worldview and to get involved in positive action to change our world for the better.

In this world of constant crisis and change, Christians must be able to explain how God's Word speaks to the issues of today. We must know **what** we believe and **why** we believe.

And we must be able to explain these Biblical principles and clearly communicate them to others.

“...Contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints.” Jude 3

Participants of previous **Biblical Worldview Seminars** have written the following responses: *“Refreshing”*: “A necessity for every Christian”: *“All the lectures made me rethink everything”*: *“Fantastic and professional”*: *“Excellent”*: *“Very professionally presented with very accurate application of Scripture”*: *“Well organised, the lectures were well prepared, competent and Christ-centred”*: *“Very uplifting and rewarding”*: *“I found every lecture most interesting and helpful”*: *“Excellent source of vital information, balanced approach”*: *“This course is the most informative that I have ever been on”*: *“It was life-changing”*: *“The depth of teaching and the emphasis on action impressed me”*: *“The best course I have ever attended”*.

Since 1991, Frontline Fellowship has conducted over 120 **Biblical Worldview Seminars, God and Government Seminars, Reformation Seminars** and **Summits** in the Congo, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Romania, Sudan, South Africa, the United States of America, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The enthusiastic responses of those who have participated in these life-changing courses encouraged us to produce this Biblical Worldview Manual. Audio MP3s are available for the lectures. I also completed **South Africa - Renaissance or Reformation?** and **Biblical Principles for Africa** which includes even more BWS material. **Biblical Principles for Africa** is also available in Afrikaans and French.

The Biblical Worldview Manual seeks to present **God's vision**: for our **personal lives**; our **churches**; for our **nation**; and our **world**. The BWS seeks to face **the great moral challenges** of our day:

- the **symptoms** such as: pornography, homosexuality, AIDS, deception in the news media, degenerate entertainment, dishonesty in business, decadence in government, crime and abortion;
- and the underlying **root causes**: lack of love for God, neglect of the Bible, ineffective churches, insipid preaching, irresponsible leaders, rejection of God's Law as the foundation for our families, churches and nation, prayerlessness, selfishness, confusion, compromise and cowardice.

The BWS is designed to promote: **renewed vision, revitalised leadership** and a **restored nation**; through: **returning** to God in **repentance**, **rediscovering** the Biblical agenda, **rebuilding** the Biblical walls of our society, **resisting** the demands for national suicide, and **resolutely** working for **reformation** and praying for **revival**.

Yours for Reformation and Revival

Dr Peter Hammond, Director

WORLDVIEWS IN CONFLICT

“Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the Law of the Lord, and on His Law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.”

Psalm 1

“He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters.” Matthew 12:30

“But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” Joshua 24:15

“Elijah went before the people and said, 'How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him, but if Baal is God, follow him.’” 1 Kings 18:21

“Therefore I urge you brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind; Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - His good, pleasing and perfect will.” Romans 12:1-2

“You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred towards God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.” James 4:4

“See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of the world rather than on Christ.” Colossians 2:8

Everyone (consciously or subconsciously) **is influenced** (consistently or inconsistently) by a worldview - a set of presuppositions/assumptions (which may be true, or partially true, or false).

Our worldview:

- determines our values,
- influences how we think, and therefore
- guides how we live.

Our worldview consists of those sets of beliefs and presuppositions which we hold about basic realities of our world.

Our worldview needs to answer the basic questions of life:

1. What is **reality**?
2. What is our basis of **knowledge**?
3. How can we know what is **right or wrong**?
4. What is **man**?
5. What happens to a person after **death**?
6. What is the meaning of **history**?
7. Why is there **suffering** and evil?
8. What is the **purpose** for our existence?
9. How should we **live**?

The Bible makes clear that:

1. **God** is ultimate reality (Psalm 90:2; Genesis 1:1).

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God.” John 1:1

2. Our basis for knowledge is God 's **revelation** (2 Peter 1:19-21).
“In the past God spoke . . . through the prophets . . . but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son...” Hebrews 1:1-2
3. We can know what is right and what is wrong from **the Word of God** (Romans 12:1-2).
“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.” 2 Timothy 3: 16
4. Man is **created** by God but human nature is sinful (**totally depraved**) (Gen 1:27, 28; 3:6-12; Romans 3:10; 5: 12; Ephesians 2: 1-3). Because we are created by God there is some good even in the worst of us. Because we are fallen there is bad even in the best of us.
“For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works . . .” Ephesians 2: 10
5. After death each one of us shall face eternal **judgement** and shall either enjoy God's gracious rewards in heaven or endure just punishment in hell (John 5:28-29; Daniel 12:2; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9).
“Man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgement.” Hebrews 9:27
6. History is **His - story**. God is sovereign over history (see Lev 26, Deuteronomy 28 and 32; Jeremiah 18:7-10; 2 Chronicles 7: 14).
“The most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone He wishes.”
Daniel 4:25
7. Suffering and evil are **the result of man's rebellion** against God since the Fall (Romans 1:18-32).
“Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.” Galatians 6: 7
8. The purpose of our existence is **to glorify God** and to worship Him forever (John 4:24). *“ . . . Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”* 1 Corinthians 10:31
9. We should therefore **live in obedience to the Bible** (1 Samuel 15:22; Matthew 7:21).
“The Lord your God commands you this day to follow these decrees and laws, carefully observe them with all your heart and with all your soul.” Deuteronomy 26:16



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WHY WE THINK AS WE DO

HEREDITY	-	the genetic makeup received from our parents.
CULTURE	-	the system of moral and aesthetic values in the society in which we live.
FAMILY	-	upbringing, events and relationships.
NATIONAL	-	political developments and crisis situations that affect each one of us.
EDUCATION	-	at school and at home.
ENTERTAINMENT	-	music listened to, the films we watch, the books we read, the things we do.
RELATIONSHIPS	-	friendships, people we work with, neighbours and marriage partner.
PERSONAL CHOICES	-	or the lack of them.
REVELATION	-	God's acts of Grace in communicating to us through His Word and in His works.

Evaluating Anyone's Worldview

General questions to ask about an author, lecturer, speaker, journalist or anyone else:

1. What is he using to interpret the facts?
2. What are his fundamental beliefs about life?
3. How consistent is his worldview?
4. What are the practical implications of his worldview?
5. What will it mean for me personally?
6. What will it mean for the world in general?

Specific questions:

1. INTELLECTUALLY -What does he believe is true about himself and his place in history?
2. PHYSICALLY - How does he treat, or mistreat, his body by eating, sleeping and exercising?
3. SOCIALLY - How does he interact with friends and enemies, the rich and the poor, the strong and the weak?
4. ECONOMICALLY - What is his motivation in work and how does he spend his wages?
5. ETHICALLY -What moral guidelines and obligations direct his thinking about justice and righteousness?

Some Humanist Worldviews

RATIONALISM	-	seeks to discover the structure of reality guided by human reason alone.
EMPIRICISM	-	declares that reason alone is not sufficient. All our knowledge must be based upon information provided by our senses.
MATERIALISM	-	maintains that there is no reality beyond the physical.
EXISTENTIALISM	-	evaluates everything from subjective personal experience.
AGNOSTICISM	-	maintains that it is impossible to settle the primary questions of life because of the limitations of human knowledge.



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UNDERSTANDING HUMANISM

The Secular Humanist Worldview

Humanism is a religion which deifies man - and dethrones God. Francis Schaeffer defined humanism as:

“the placing of man at the centre of all things and making him the measure of all things.”

Alexander Solzhenitzyn describes it as:

“the proclaimed and practised autonomy of man from any higher force above him.”

The Basis for Secular Humanism

THEOLOGY	-	Atheism. The belief that there is no God.
BIOLOGY	-	Evolution. Man is a product of evolutionary chance.
ETHICS	-	Amorality or Relativism. There are no moral absolutes.
PSYCHOLOGY	-	Self Actualisation or Existentialism. Everything resolves around “self”.
SOCIOLOGY	-	A Classless World Society. The abolition of the traditional family.
ECONOMICS	-	Socialism. The redistribution of wealth through government interference in the economy.
POLITICS	-	Globalism. A one world government.

The Humanist Agenda

- Man is a product of evolutionary chance and this theory must be taught as a fact of science in schools and in the media.
- **Education** should be controlled by the state.
- Education should be **secular** - free of moral absolutes and non-Christian.
- **Sex Education** in the state controlled schools should be compulsory.
- **Pornography** should be allowed as “*free speech*”.
- **Abortion** is a “*woman 's right*”.
- **Homosexuality** is an acceptable “*alternative lifestyle*”.
- **Criminals** are “*victims of society*” requiring treatment and rehabilitation.
- Rather than punish criminals, it is **society** as a whole that should be punished.
- The right of citizens to obtain, own and use firearms for **self defence** must be limited and eventually eliminated.
- All power and authority must be gradually and progressively **centralised in big government**.

Some of the Results of Humanism

The results of Humanism are written all over the pages of history:

- The revolutions, massacres and totalitarianism of the Communist East.
- The permissiveness and decadence of the democratic West.
- The pornography plague.
- The drug epidemic.
- The crime explosion.
- Escalating inflation.
- The abortion holocaust.
- The AIDS and STD's pandemics.

The Humanist Agenda

“Why do the nations rage and the people plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against His Anointed One: 'Let us break Their chains,' they say, 'and throw off Their fetters.' The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them. Then He rebukes them in His anger and terrifies them in His wrath saying, 'I have installed My King on Zion, My holy hill'... Therefore you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear...' Psalm 2:1-11

IDEAS AND IDEOLOGIES

“*ism*” (*ismos* Greek: *doctrine of, or belief in*)
changes an idea into an **ideology**

- ATHEISM - A naturalistic view of reality; a belief that no God or gods exist
a (no) *theos* (God) “*there is no God*”
- DE-CONSTRUCTIONISM - Belief that the source of a literary discipline must be dismantled; an author's point of view is only as valid as the reader may determine (classical literature; law and the Constitution becomes what the reader or judge says, not what its authors meant).
- EGALITARIANISM - Belief that total equality must exist for everyone in every area of life: political, social, cultural, economic; all opinions, talents and wealth must become equal; its fallacies are addressed in *Federalist Paper #10* “**where elites rule in a land of equals.**”
As George Orwell, in *Animal Farm* put it “*All animals are equal, but some are more equal than others.*”
- EMPIRICISM - Basing all knowledge on sense experience alone; nothing can be true unless it can be tested “*the scientific method.*”
- EXISTENTIALISM - An introspective humanism; an attempt to create a personal identity from a meaningless universe based on the subjective feelings of the individual
“*live for the moment!*”; “*my personal experience - NOW!*”
- HEDONISM - Doctrine that elevates pleasure as the sole end and good in life; moral duty is fulfilled in the gratification of pleasure; “*decrease the pain, increase the pleasure*” Root word from the French: “*world-weary*” (always looking to *le neuvo* “*the new*”).
- HUMANISM - Ascribes to the individual the highest value and considers him to be the ultimate source of value apart from the supernatural.
“*man is the measure of all things.*”
(Serpent to Eve in the Garden: “*You shall be as gods.*”)
- MATERIALISM - Belief that nothing exists other than matter; everything that exists is material and natural and is only the result of the product of time and chance + matter. **Evolution/Darwinism**
- MODERNISM - Basis found within Enlightenment thought (expressed through the Renaissance) centred on humanity as the ultimate source of authority; emphasis on human autonomy “*modernity*”.
pertaining to this present age “*zeitgeist*”.
- MULTICULTURALISM - An attempt to reverse God's judgement at Babel.
The Frankfurt School of Cultural Marxism's attempt to break down all ties of blood, soil, nation, faith and family to create a new world order.
- NIHILISM - (Latin: *nihil* “*nothing*”). Theory which ascribes the universe as meaningless and without purpose; “*nothing-ness*”; “*nothing-ism*”; nothing is worth living for. **Nietzsche: *das nichtig*** (“*the nothing*”).
- PANTHEISM - Belief that God is identical with the universe; God and nature are synonymous: *pan* (all) *theos* (God) “*God is all*”
(the “*Force*”) (radical environmentalism).

POSITIVISM

- Belief that the only legitimate basis of knowledge is found in the positive data of experience; the senses are the source of meaning: the foundation of modern sociology “*the religion of humanity*”.

POST-MODERNISM

- There is not truth, there is no right or wrong; rejects all other philosophies and is characterized by nihilism and radical subjectivity “*hyper-modernism*” (Relativism-truth is what each individual decides: Post-modernism -there is no truth). **Everything is personal - nothing is true; there is no such thing as a lie because there is no truth.** The word *truth* now appears in quotations (“*truth*”) in current journals and textbooks. “*the age of the protean self*” (protean: ever-changing)

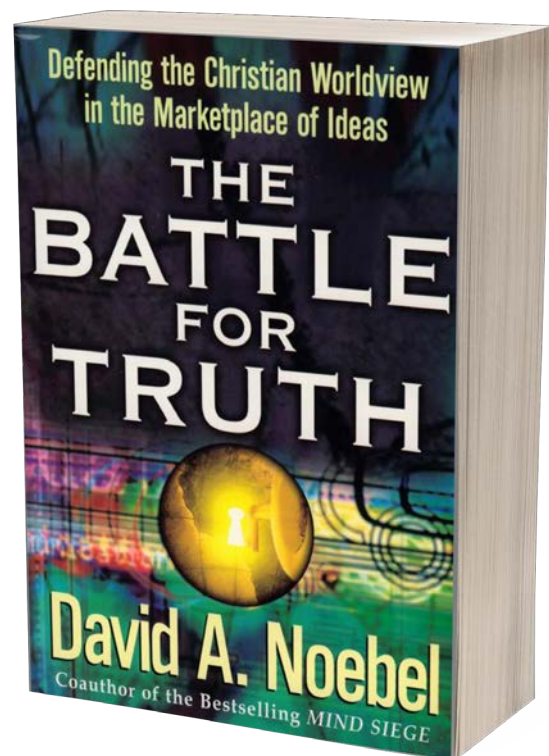
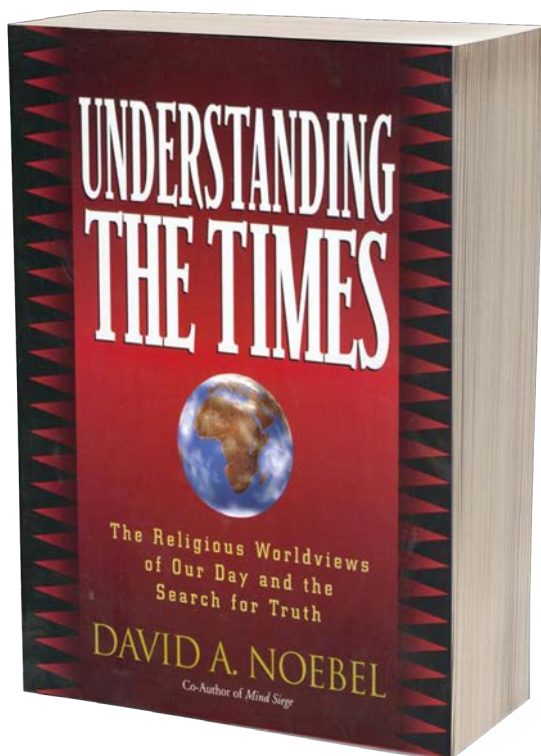
RELATIVISM

- Theory that truth is only whatever a particular individual or society decides that it is; no objective standards of right or wrong; no universal truth, no absolute code of conduct: truth is relative.

values clarification situational ethics

UTILITARIANISM

- Radical individualism; autonomy unguided by virtue; personal happiness and success are achieved and justified by whatever means is necessary to obtain them -the use (“*utility*”) of people and/or circumstances is justified; the goal is paramount to whatever means may be needed to reach it. “**THE END JUSTIFIES THE MEANS**” (Machiavelli)



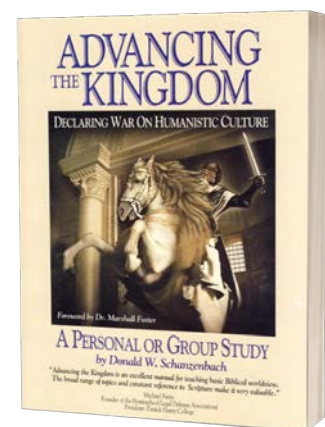
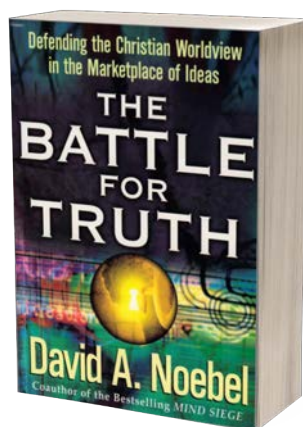
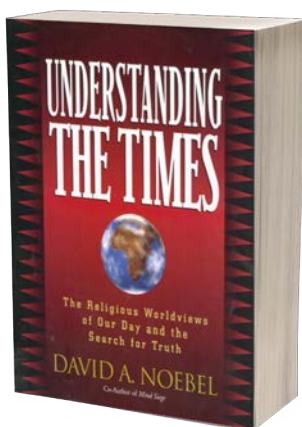
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UNDERSTANDING THE TERMS

- absolutes** - the unchangeable standard of truth by which one can measure his life; complete, perfect, supreme, immutable.
- amoral** - one who commits wrongdoing, but fails to recognize a standard is violated; absence of conscience.
- amuse** - **a** = “no” **muse** = “think “ (to not think)
- anarchy** - the absence of law and order.
- autonomy** - a law unto one's self; no higher law than self.
- bourgeoisie** - (French) “*middle class*” (used during the French and Russian Revolutions).
- canon** - church law.
- case law** - law that is based on previous court rulings or precedents; changeable.
- common law** - law common to all men at all times; derived from Biblical Law.
- constitutional law** - the basis of civil government; written and fixed; protects God-given rights of citizens.
- constitutionalism** - principle which is based upon agreement by the people as to the body of law under which they shall be governed; involved the principle of representation.
- cultural mandate** - applying the principles of Christianity to every area of life (Genesis 1:28; Matthew 28: 18-19)
- The Decalogue** - the Ten Commandments.
- democracy** - rule by the people; “*the people rule*”; mob-ocracy; the tyranny of the majority.
- demagogue** - one who appeals to emotion or prejudice to gain power and advance political goals.
- egalitarianism** - a belief that human equality is achievable in every social, political, and economic sphere; everyone must be equal in all areas.
- The Enlightenment** - a movement of thought and belief which interrelated the concepts of God, reason, nature, and man; rooted in Greek philosophy.
- ethics** - the application of morals (in conduct).
- existentialism** - a philosophy centred upon the analysis of existence; stresses extreme liberty and the isolation of the individual (the 1960's mindset) “*live for the moment*”; “*me, myself and I, my experience - now!*”
- fundamental law** - establishes the foundation for culture and society; natural law.
- glossary** - “*the glosses*” - Bible translations used by Celtic pastors in AD 150 Britain (the term “*glossary*” rooted in this Celtic term for definition of language).
- government** - from the Latin; “*to steer a ship*”; its precise meaning embodies the concept of limitation.
- Huguenots** - French Calvinists (German for “*confederates* “).
- humanism** - belief that man is the measure of all things; man is his own god.
- immoral** - wrongdoing committed by one who recognizes a standard is violated; a presence of conscience.
- law** - the collective organization of the protection of God-given rights.
- legislator** - from the Latin; means “*one who moves the law*” not one who “*makes*” the law - the law is already established.
- Liber Ex Lege Moisi** - (*Book of the Law of Moses*) written by Patrick of Ireland and stressed the rule of law and the principle of self-government.
- modern pluralism** - exists when all ideas, beliefs, and opinions are voiced autonomously; no absolute standards are recognised; relativistic.

- monarchy** - a government in which the power is vested in a hereditary sovereign.
- moral relativism** - the denial of ultimate moral truth and the absence of absolute standards; the rejection of the existence of a transcendent, universal moral order.
- morals** - what people ought to be doing; standards; established principles of right and wrong.
- mores** - what people are currently doing; subjective and changing.
- nihilism** - all is nothing; total meaninglessness; nothing is worth living for.
- oligarchy** - a government in which power is in the hands of a few; rule by the elite.
- Parliament** - a representative body; from the French parler “to speak.”
- philosophy** - (from the Greek) means “lover of wisdom.”
- “the political illusion”** - the idea that government and politics provide the answer to society's problems.
- post-modernism** - there is no truth; everything is personal (“the protean self”).
- The Renaissance** - expression of enlightenment thought through arts and literature; elevating man as the epitome of mind and reason.
- Republic** - rule by law; representation.
- self-evident truths** - universal truths discovered by reason; truths which stand the test of time.
- self-government** - governing one's self according to a higher law (God).
- statute** - a written law; *The Magna Carta of 1215* is considered the first statute.
- traditional pluralism** - exists when all ideas, beliefs, and opinions are weighed against a transcendent standard of absolute truth.
- “two pillars” of limited government** - moral consensus and self-governing people.
- tyranny** - a government in which absolute power is vested in a single ruler; despotic (from the Latin “terrible”).
- unalienable rights** - rights that cannot transferred or surrendered; given by God, not man or the state.
- Uniform Code of Law** - King Alfred's code of law based on the Ten Commandments and Jesus' Golden Rule.
- utopia** - derived from the Latin for “no where “ (a satire on its supposed meaning).
- worldview** - a set of interrelated basic beliefs; a philosophy of life.
- “zeitgeist”** - the spirit of the age.



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MIND SIEGE

Lies of our age:

- *Man is good by nature but corrupted by society*
- *Every man possesses an innate moral goodness*
- *Happiness is the measure and goal of our lives*
- *Only fools restrain their desires*
- *Everything is relative*
- *All you need is love*
- *Only material and economic changes can produce social change*

Secular Humanism says:

“There is no God to save us; we must save ourselves!”

Postmodernism says:

“There is no absolute truth; we must create our own!”

New Age thought says:

“There is no God; I am my own god.”

“At first the temptation is to see *mankind* as God. Then it becomes us as God. And finally it's *me* as God. So the progression moves from the worship of man, to the worship of us, to the worship of me. In the end all anthropolaters become I-dolaters. ‘I am God’. Like little antichrists, they exalt and magnify themselves up in the temple of their minds.” David Noebel

General Choices

Each generation has to decide:

- Is Christ superior to Nietzsche?
- Is God smarter than Karl Marx?
- Is freedom better than totalitarianism?
- Is private ownership of property better than socialism?
- Is Creation better than evolution?
- Is purpose and design superior to random chance?
- Is truth better than falsehood?
- Is love better than hatred?
- Is good better than evil?
- Is right better than wrong?
- Are moral absolutes better than moral relativism?
- Is adoption better than abortion?
- Is marital love better than pornography?
- Is self control better than loose living?
- Is personal responsibility better than victimization?

“Do not conform any longer to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” Romans 12:2



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ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

Evil is Destructive

- EVOLUTION** - An attempt to retroactively abort God. Evolution destroys all meaning, purpose, direction, justice and hope in life. *“You came from nothing, you are going nowhere, life is meaningless.”*
“The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God’. They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no-one who does good.” Psalms 14:1
- EDUCATION** - Secular Humanism attempts to kill God by eradicating Him from the classroom and from the minds of the next generation. By eliminating the Bible as the basis for all knowledge humanists remove the very foundation of truth; they prohibit the only objective standard by which reality can be evaluated.
“See to it that no-one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depend - on human tradition and the basic principles of this -world rather than on Christ.” Colossians 2:8
- ETHICS** - Humanism has rejected the Law of God and instead is vigorously promoting situation ethics, amorality, existentialism, hedonism, pornography, homosexuality, sex education and abortion.
“No immoral, impure or greedy person -such a person is an idolater - has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.” Ephesians 5:5
- ENTERTAINMENT** - Superficial, sensational and immoral material predominates in the modern entertainment industry and is producing an increasingly superficial, selfish, mindless and immoral society.
“Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things.” Philippians 4:8
- ECONOMICS** - The unworkable wastage of welfare and socialism destroys incentive, initiative, income and industry.
“You shall not steal . . . You shall not covet . . .” Exodus 20:15-17
- ENVIRONMENT** - The selfishness and short-sightedness of modern society is clearly seen in litter ridden communities and pollution-afflicted areas.
“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it . . .” Psalm 24: 1
- ESCHATOLOGY** - The prevalent eschatology of retreat and defeat has produced a pessimistic, defeatist, self-centred and escapist generation.
“Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”
Matthew 6: 10
- EXHAUSTION** - Bombarded by brainwashing and overstimulated by images, most in our society are mentally, spiritually and emotionally exhausted.
“but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength . . .” Isaiah 40:31
- ENRAGED** - The abortion holocaust needs to reawaken a holy anger in us. We need to re discover a righteous indignation against the lies of evolution, the plague of pornography and the other effects of humanism.
“Indignation grips me because of the wicked, who have forsaken Your Law.” Psalm 119:53
- ENLIGHTENED** - God has spoken - in the Bible - on all areas of life.
“The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.”
Psalm 19:8

ENTHUSED

- The Bible is most relevant and provides the practical solutions to contemporary problems.

“The Law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul.” Psalm 19: 7

ENERGISED

- Instead of being paralysed by pessimism, we need to be energised by the Biblical eschatology of victory.

“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.” Habakkuk 2:14

ENDURANCE

- The trials, trauma and tribulations of this present time need to be understood as training and tests to strengthen us for the Lord's service.

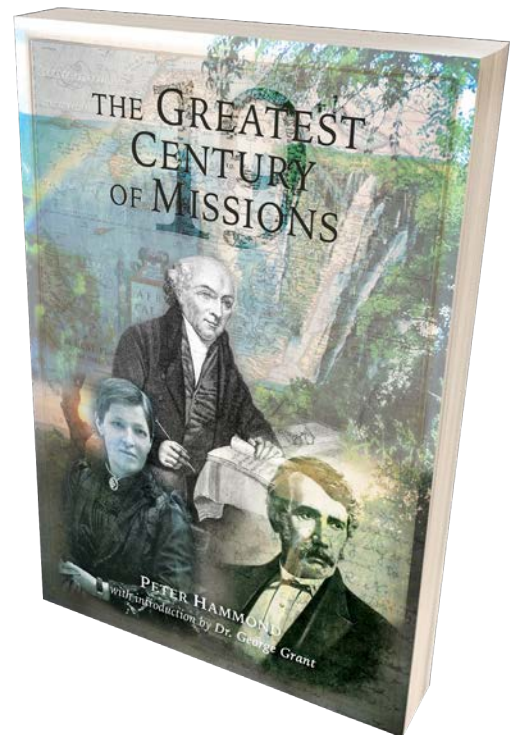
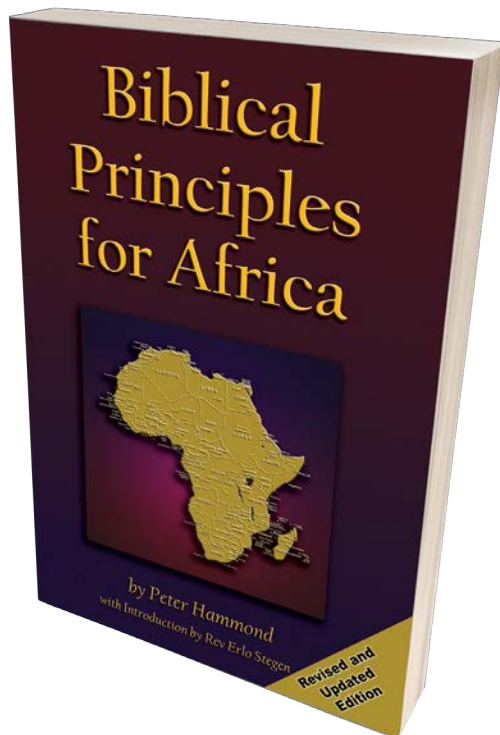
“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith . . . may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.” 1 Peter 1:6-7

ERADICATION

We are Christians who can “*fight the good fight of faith*” in the confidence that evil will ultimately be eradicated.

“. . . The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil 's work.”
1 John 3:8

“Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the Law of the Lord, and on His Law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the Judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.” Psalm 1:1-6



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UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

In contrast to the Humanist Worldview, the Biblical Worldview includes the following:

The Basis for Biblical Christianity

THEOLOGY:	Theism	<i>“For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the Head over every power and authority.”</i> Colossians 2:9-10
BIOLOGY:	Special Creation	<i>“For You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb.”</i> Psalm 139:13
ETHICS:	Ethical Absolutes	<i>“Hate evil, and love good; maintain justice in the courts.”</i> Amos 5:15
PSYCHOLOGY:	Dualism	<i>“The Lord God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.”</i> Genesis 2: 7
SOCIOLOGY:	Home, Church and State	<i>“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”</i> Ephesians 5:31
ECONOMICS:	Stewardship	<i>“You shall not steal . . . You shall not covet.”</i> Exodus 20: 15,17
POLITICS:	Decentralised Constitutional Republics	<i>“Every authority instituted among men . . . who are sent by Him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.”</i> 1 Peter 2:13-14

Results of a Biblical Worldview

- Man is not a product of probability but of God's ability. Creation must be taught as a divine act of God. Education and sex education should be the responsibility of the parents assisted by the church.
- The exploitative pornography industry will not be tolerated in a Christian community.
- Children are a gift from the Lord, and abortion is the murder of an innocent child.
- Homosexuality is a perversion.
- To protect the innocent, capital punishment is enforced on all murderers, rapists and kidnappers. Restitution, to be paid to the victims, is required from all thieves and vandals.
- Protection of the family is primarily the responsibility of the father. No restrictions should be placed on legitimate self defence.
- All levels of civil government are under the authority of God and should protect and serve the righteous and punish the lawless.

“But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the river or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” Joshua 24: 15



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THE NEW TEN COMMANDMENTS

Humanists have not actually abolished the Ten Commandments. They've just replaced God's Law with their own rules:

1. You shall not be intolerant of other religions, beliefs or views - except for Christianity of course.
2. You shall not read the Bible or pray in government schools. (However sex education, even in primary schools, must become mandatory.)
3. You may never take the names of Darwin, Marx, Mao or Mandela in vain. (However cursing and ridiculing the names of Jesus Christ and His followers is an essential aspect of free speech.)
4. Remember to keep holy Human Rights Day, Freedom Day, Workers' Day, Women's Day and Youth Day. (However, do be sure to go shopping on the Lord's Day and plan other activities for Good Friday, Easter, Ascension Day and . . . Xmas!).
5. Honour your Mother Earth and Father State.
6. You shall not defend yourself against assailants and rapists nor may you allow convicted murderers to be executed. (However, you may kill helpless infants through abortion and the incurable and very old people through euthanasia. In fact don't stop with them - once you realise what a burden you have become to Mother Earth you may want to request a physician assisted suicide.)
7. You shall not call it adultery, fornication, homosexuality, pornography or perversion. Don't be so bigoted and judgemental! If it feels good, do it. Don't consider the consequences for yourself or your spouse or children or society in general. Give free expression to every lust and craving and call it an "*alternative lifestyle*."
8. Do not steal because the government hates competition. Pay all the taxes it demands from you - even if you don't receive any services back from the government. If you must steal, take from the hard working middle class bourgeois - just leave enough for the government to get its taxes out of them too.
9. You may not tell the truth or preach the Gospel to your neighbours for that may offend them. You shall not offend your neighbour or suggest that he is wrong (Unless he is a Christian - then he deserves any abuse).
10. You shall not think differently from what the state TV tells you to think, for deviation from the politically correct position is intolerable.



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THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Exodus 20:1-17 and Deuteronomy 5:6-21

- 1. I am the Lord your God ... You shall have no other gods before Me.**
Forbids: Polytheism, pantheism and atheism.
Right implied: Freedom of worship.
- 2. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything . . . you shall not bow down to them or worship them.**
Forbids: Idolatry of statues, icons, pictures, people or false religions.
Right implied: The right to know God's will to do it.
- 3. You shall not misuse the Name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold any one guiltless who misuses His Name.**
Forbids: Profanity, false prophecies and blasphemy.
Right implied: Freedom of speech.
- 4. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work.**
Forbids: Desecration of the Lord's Day.
Right implied: The right to work and to rest.
- 5. Honour your father and your mother.**
Forbids: Disrespect, dishonour and disobedience towards our parents and any one in authority over us.
Right implied: Respect for authority.
- 6. You shall not murder.**
Forbids: Murder, suicide, abortion and euthanasia.
Right implied: The right to life.
- 7. You shall not commit adultery.**
Forbids: Fornication, adultery, pornography, perversion and homosexuality.
Right implied: The sanctity of marriage.
- 8. You shall not steal.**
Forbids: Theft, fraud, socialism, laziness and vandalism.
Right implied: Private ownership of property.
- 9. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour.**
Forbids: Perjury, gossip and slander.
Right implied: The right to have one's name protected from slander.
- 10. You shall not covet . . . anything that belongs to your neighbour.**
Forbids: Coveting, envy, greed, selfishness and socialism.
Right implied: Freedom of conscience.

OUR CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

When it comes to Christian faithfulness in witnessing and work it is often a case of - if you're not being criticised then you're not doing your job! Those who steadfastly seek to promote Biblical principles will inevitably find themselves accused of being “*intolerant*”, “*bigoted*”, “*narrow-minded*”, “*hypocritical*”, and of “*seeking to force your own views upon others*”!

Are we being “*intolerant*”? No, it is the secular humanists who are intolerant of Christians. The real bigots are those atheists who are seeking to infringe on the religious liberties of Christians. We are not “*narrow-minded*”, we stand for freedom of religion. It is the proponents of the Secular State who are restricting all public views - including the schools -to the narrow humanistic view. We believe in God's creation encompassing far more than we can ever see, understand and touch. It is the atheist who refuses to believe in anything other than what their narrow materialistic perspective can see, handle and understand.

Christians are not being “*hypocritical*” when we stand up for our sincerely held beliefs and seek to be consistent with the Biblical injunction to love our neighbours and protect their lives, liberties and property. Rather, it is those secular humanists, who claim to be democratic, who are being hypocritical by ignoring the clear opposition of the majority of citizens to abortion, pornography and perversion.

Are we seeking to “*force our views on others*”? No, we believe that God has entrusted man with personal responsibility. We will never seek to force anyone to become a Christian. We use evangelism and education - not force. What we want is for our Christian convictions to be respected and recognised. In secular states it is always a very small percentage of atheists who impose their will on the rest of the nation through dictatorship (e.g. Soviet Union, Red China, Cuba).

Time and again we have heard the accusation that a state which recognises Christian principles would result in “*oppression*”. Some have tried to suggest that “*more evil has been done in the name of religion!*” This accusation is completely unjustified by the record of history! The Church has never been perfect, but its track record in history should be remembered for its good achievements as well as its bad failures. The sins of the Church should not be taken out of their context, blown out of proportion and remembered forevermore as if this has been the only activity of the Church. People have always done evil and this had included many who have claimed to be Christians. However, such evil has **never** been done **because** of the Christian Faith, but despite it -in violation of God's Holy Laws.

Before the advent of Christianity almost every culture practised slavery and human sacrifice - even the highly esteemed Greek and Roman civilisations.

In the great Roman Empire **abortion** was rampant and **abandonment** of unwanted babies was commonplace. In Ancient Rome, unwanted infants were (legally) abandoned outside the city walls to die of starvation or exposure or from wild animals. **Infanticide** was not only legal, it was applauded. A father had the legal right to kill his children, to marry them to whomsoever he pleased, or to sell them as slaves. The Greek philosophers Plato, Aristotle and Socrates lived in, and accepted, a culture which practised slavery and human sacrifice and glorified paedophilia (sexual abuse of children).

When missionaries went to nineteenth century **China** they discovered that baby girls were routinely disposed of by being put out as food for wild dogs and wolves. “*Baby towers*” were common, where unwanted babies were left out to die of exposure and starvation, or to be eaten alive by birds of prey. Some towns had “*baby ponds*” where unfortunate infants were thrown. Tragically this pagan practice of infanticide has made a comeback under Communism. In Red China today every family is restricted to one child. Abortions have been forced upon women when they conceived any more children after their quota of one. China also has had a record number of stillbirths. Often baby girls have been drowned in a bucket of water or strangled at birth by parents who would prefer to have a son.

Child sacrifice was common amongst the pagan religions. Fertility cults such as those who worshipped Baal and Asherah, the Ammonites who worshipped Molech and the Phoenicians who worshipped Kronos all practised child sacrifice.

The **Aztec** Empire in Mexico and the **Inca** Empire in Peru engaged in **slavery, ritual rapes and mass sacrifice**. Slaves were marched up the stairs of the pyramid-type Inca temples in the Aztec Empire. At the top a priest would rip out their beating hearts - one by one.

One writer who expressed appreciation for the positive impact of the Judeo-Christian emphasis on the sanctity of life came from an unexpected quarter. Jerry Adler of Newsweek (6 November 1995) wrote: *“The Gods must be hungry”* in response to the uncovering by archaeologists of a 12 year old girl sacrificed by the Incas five hundred years ago. He expressed outrage at the tendency amongst anthropologists to justify barbaric practices such as the ripping out of beating hearts from human offerings by Aztec priests. He quoted the following example of intellectual detachment: *“A Tulane University anthropologist has written about ritual killings: ‘within the context of [Aztec] culture, it all made sense. The sacrifice of human blood, and particularly the heart, was necessary to make the Sun go around every’ day. It ties in to their stories of creation and myth. It was part of the cultural tradition.”* Adler went on to note: *“‘The Highest Altar’ writer Patrick Tierney documented the prevalence of human sacrifice in cultures from almost every part of the world.”* Adler’s article concluded: *“The religious tradition of the West begins with a great renunciation of blood offering, when Abraham put down the knife and unbound Isaac. And it proceeds through the glorious sacrifice on Calvary, when God Himself offered up His Son to redeem the world. Modern people know better than to think that the Sun needs a fresh heart to rise each day, or that natural disasters can be bought off with corpses. Funny, though, we keep on killing one another.”*

“Suttee” - the burning of widows on the funeral pyre of their husbands - was common when missionary William Carey arrived in **India**. Yet with perseverance he succeeded in having that vile practice outlawed. It was the tireless work of Christian missionaries like Anna Bowden, Nan Mullins, Mary Slessor and Amy Carmichael which saved tens of thousands of abandoned children. They raised them in their own homes or orphanages. And it was the persistent work of Christians which outlawed abortion, abandonment and infanticide, first in the Roman Empire, then throughout Europe and America.

Similarly, **slavery was eradicated** as a result of the tireless efforts of Christians such as William Wilberforce, David Livingstone and General Charles Gordon. **Respect for life and liberty** are a fruit of Christianity. Those promoting abortion, euthanasia and pornography are not offering us progress, but only a return to pre-Christian paganism.

Most in our society do not seem to realise how much we owe to the advent of Jesus Christ. **Hospitals** as we know them were an innovation of Christianity (hence the universal healing symbol of a cross to represent hospitals). The **nursing** profession was founded by Florence Nightingale out of devotion to Christ. One of history’s greatest humanitarian movements, the **International Red Cross**, was founded by Christians in response to the Scriptural injunction to care for the sick and suffering. Christians, such as Dr. Louis Pasteur, have fuelled some of the greatest practical advances in medicine. More hospitals and schools have been founded by Christians than by all other religions combined. The Christian Church has been the supreme (and often the only) force restraining man’s inhumanity towards man.

The whole concept of **charity** was a Christian innovation. The Church of Christ has done more than any other institution in history to alleviate poverty and suffering. Before Christ, **benevolence to strangers** was unknown. Where the Bible became known, compassionate and unselfish sacrifice flourished. Dr. James Kennedy’s book *“What if Jesus Had Never Been Born?”* documents a wide range of the unparalleled contributions of the Christian Church.

Some time ago I led a march of over 20 000 South African Christians to the gates of our Parliament in Cape Town to protest the legalisation of abortion and pornography and the establishment of a *“Secular State.”* I was invited to articulate our concerns before a select committee of our Constitutional Assembly and to answer their questions. Their main argument for the legalisation of abortion seemed to be the street children. *“Who will look after these unwanted street children?”* they demanded.

To this I responded that every day and night some Christian is picking up the casualties of society and giving them a bath, a meal or a bed for the night. Christians have always been in the very forefront of relief aid, caring for widows, orphans and refugees.

“Sir”, I declared, “I have spent many accumulated months ministering on the streets to the victims of the laws you pass - those impoverished by gambling, alcoholism, drug addiction and prostitution. When Crossroads (a squatter camp) was burning, we were there the very next day with soup kitchens and blankets. When the refugees were fleeing from Marxist Mozambique we took food, clothing and blankets to them. I’ve had drunkards vomit down my back while I carried them from the gutter to a place of shelter and a bath. I know that humanist politicians and socialists like to talk about caring for the poor - but it is us Christians

who actually do the work. What I would like to know is this: What have any of you ladies and gentlemen ever done - personally - for the poor and needy?"

Even as I boldly challenged them, my heart missed a beat and I felt that I had overstated my case. Surely one or two of them must have actually been involved in works of mercy? However, I was astounded that all 50 Members of Parliament present averted their eyes, looked down and many started scratching the back of their heads, shuffling the papers in front of them or squirming in their seats with discomfort. Not one answered my question! Humanists often talk about caring for the poor - but it is the Christians who normally do the work.

The Christian Church has made more positive changes on earth than any other force or movement in history. Most of the languages of the world were first codified and put into writing by Christian missionaries. More schools and universities have been started by Christians than by any other group. The elevation of women (from the second class status they were assigned to by other religions) was a Christian achievement; as was the abolition of slavery, cannibalism, child sacrifice and widow burning. The Christian Church has been the supreme (and often the only) force in restraining man's inhumanity towards man. Almost every civilisation and culture had slavery and human sacrifice before the Christian influence came in. Those countries which enjoy the most civil liberties are generally those lands where the Gospel of Christ has penetrated the most.

As Noah Webster, the statesman, educator, and author of Webster's Dictionary, wrote: *"The Bible is the chief moral cause of all that is good and the best corrector of all that is evil, in human society, the best book for regulating the temporal concerns of men, and the only book that can serve as an infallible guide . . . The principles of genuine liberty and of wise laws and administrations are to be drawn from the Bible and sustained by its authority. The man, therefore, who (undermines) the Divine authority of that Book may be accessory to all the public disorders which society is doomed to suffer."*

Christianity gave birth to liberty. Constitutional republics, the separation of powers, limited government and freedom of conscience are a result of the Reformation.

It is the secular humanists who have a heritage of oppression. The 44 secular or atheistic states have caused the deaths of over 160 million people in this century alone. The abuses of human rights, atrocities and massacres in the Soviet Union, Red China, North Korea, Eastern Europe, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Angola, Mozambique and Cuba were the inevitable results of rejecting God's Law. Either men will be governed by God's Law or they will be ruled by tyrants.

"All the miseries and evils which men suffer from: vice, crime, ambition, injustice, oppression, slavery and war proceed from their despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible." (Webster)

We could also recount the unparalleled contributions made by Christians in the fields of **science, art, education, economics, civil and human rights** and in works of **compassion and mercy**. Only those ignorant of history could fail to acknowledge that Christianity has made more positive changes on earth than any other force or movement. **The teachings and example of Jesus Christ have inspired the greatest acts of generosity, hospitality, self-sacrifice and service for the sick, poor and needy.**

It's easy for opponents of Christianity to criticise, but - what are our critics doing for the lonely, the widows, the orphans, the sick, the aged and the refugees?



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THE GAYGB AND PINK INQUISITION

The Soviet Union's Secret Police – the KGB – was a vicious persecutor of Christians who opposed communism. Millions of Christians were investigated, interrogated, tortured, imprisoned and murdered for failing to comply with political party orders, or for failing to pay homage to the Dictator of the Soviet Union at the time. 50 Million were sent to freeze, or starve to death in the 1200 concentration camps, many in Siberia. The KGB also used “*Active Measures*” disinformation to discredit critics and undermine “*enemies of the Soviet state*”.

Today, homosexual activist bullies – “*the GayGB*”, are the rising KGB of the West – a force of radical homosexuals whose aim seems to include desensitising, intimidating, silencing and prosecuting Christians for their beliefs on marriage and morality. All over the world, Christians are being targeted, bullied and prosecuted for believing what the Bible teaches about the institution of marriage, sexuality and family.

A New Inquisition

Here we highlight a selection of serious cases in South Africa, Sweden, Germany, the United Kingdom, America and Canada of Christians harassed, or prosecuted, for expressing their thoughts and beliefs about homosexuality.

SOUTH AFRICA

Court Case That Could Threaten Church Autonomy

On Tuesday, 21 August, the long-awaited case of *Gaum vs Dutch Reformed Church of South Africa* (“*the DRC*”) was finally heard by a full bench of the Pretoria High Court. The judges heard a full day of argument by the various Counsel for the Applicants (LGBT members of the DRC), the Respondents (the DRC), the Commission for Gender Equality (“*CGE*” – the *first amicus curiae* in the matter), the Minister of Home Affairs and the Alliance Defending the Autonomy of Churches in South Africa (“*ADACSA*” – the second *amicus curiae* in the matter). At the time of this publication going to print, the Court reserved judgment, which could take a while to come out. While it is difficult to say – and only time will tell – which way the Court will lean, it is very possible that in any event this will not be the end of the road because the losing party will likely consider an appeal to a higher court.

The case before the Court, concerned the 2016 decision by the Dutch Reformed Church (“*DRC*”) Synod, to reverse its 2015 decision removing the celibacy requirement for homosexual ministers and permitting its ministers to solemnise same-sex civil unions (should they so choose). At the hearing, Counsel for the various parties presented legal technical arguments on why the 2016 decision – both from a procedural, and a substantive/constitutional, point of view – should, or should not, stand. (www.forsa.org.za)

Freedom of Speech Under Attack at UCT

A Christian University of Cape Town (UCT) student was suspended from the Student Representative Council (SRC) in June 2015 for expressing her Biblical beliefs on her personal Facebook page. Zizipho Pae, a final year Economics and Statistics student and Vice-President of the SRC at UCT, joined millions of people around the world by posting her opinion on her Facebook page in response to the recent US Supreme Court ruling that legalised same-sex “*marriage*” in all 50 states in America. She wrote, “*We are institutionalising and normalising sin. God have mercy on us.*” The backlash to her brief post went beyond irrational. Homosexual activists at UCT launched a vicious tirade of hate and intimidation against her that defies description. Ironically, the attackers demand tolerance!

Blasphemy and Pornography

Homosexual pornography and the most depraved anti-Christian blasphemy was posted on her Facebook page. She was also personally threatened, insulted and vilified in most despicable ways.

Vandalism and Intimidation

Her SRC office was trashed. Scriptures pinned on her office walls were ripped off and stomped on. Semi-naked homosexual activists photographed themselves in her office in lewd poses. Despite the awful abuse and intimidation of Zizi, UCT management have repeatedly and publicly expressed their commitment to protect LGBTI “*rights*”, but not the rights of Christians! UCT's management apparently took no action against those perpetrating the harassment and appalling criminal attacks against Zizipho Pae. But they have suspended *her* for her Biblical convictions.

Double Standards

In 2009, UCT featured the most appalling blasphemy of the name of Jesus Christ in their annual “*Sax Appeal*” charity magazine. When they were challenged, they defended the students responsible for the blasphemous outrage - by appealing to the “*free speech*” protections in the constitution. Alarming, a Christian student at UCT expressing her Biblical beliefs on her personal Facebook page is not found worthy of similar “*free speech*” protections. In fact, she is being threatened with expulsion! This is blatant and outrageous anti-Christian discrimination. Homosexual students and every other group are allowed to freely express their thoughts and opinions at UCT. However, Christians do not seem to enjoy the same rights, or respect, at UCT. Members of the SRC Executive and a group calling themselves the Queer Revolution demanded Zizi retract and apologise for her Biblical statement. She could not in good conscience do so. The Student Representative Council (SRC) meeting at UCT (21 July 2015) to discuss Zizipho Pae’s suspension from the SRC, was nothing short of a kangaroo court.

Prejudicial

Christians at the meeting reported that the SRC members seemed biased against the Christian viewpoint from the start. They report that the Christian viewpoint was interrupted and shouted down by a mob of intolerant homosexual activists, reducing their speaking time. This mob had already met with the SRC President on Monday to demand Zizi’s removal. The LGBTI group protested that the SRC President was not fit to chair the meeting (because he was not agreeing with them), and accused him (and another white Christian who spoke in support of Zizi) of racism! Because of the intimidation and chaos, the SRC President eventually adjourned the meeting and left. The meeting continued in his absence and a motion was tabled for Zizi’s expulsion. The motion was accepted with 7 votes for expulsion, 0 against and 1 abstaining. Zizi was thus ‘expelled’ from the SRC with immediate effect. This surely must be a violation of SRC meeting Rules of Order as the Chairman had adjourned the meeting and was not present for this ruling.

Freedom of Speech on Campus

The only positive step that prevailed at the meeting, was when Christian supporters of Pae handed over a petition of four thousand signatures supporting her Constitutional rights. The petition also points out that no UCT or SRC rules, or laws of South Africa, were broken by Pae’s Facebook post.

Victory!

In response to the unlawful SRC ruling, Pae asked the Vice Chancellor to intervene. In a letter to Zizipho Pae, the UCT Vice-Chancellor stated that the decision to expel her from the SRC was found invalid and that she must be re-instated. Despite this delayed justice, (a simple action that he should have made six weeks before), this was a great victory for religious freedom and free speech in South Africa. (www.forsa.org.za)

“But Peter and John answered and said to them, ‘Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge.’” Acts 4:19

Guesthouse Owners Targeted

On 24 June 2014, the Equality Court in Bellville ruled that it was in the interest of the parties, and in the interest of justice, that the dispute between the homosexual couple and the Christian owners of House of Bread Guest House in Wolseley, at this point be referred to an agreed institution for conciliation, mediation or negotiation. The Christian owners of The House of Bread Guesthouse in Wolseley, Western Cape, were hauled before the Equality Court in Bellville for choosing not to host a gay couple in their home in November 2013. The court hearing followed an investigation by the SA Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) following a complaint by the gay couple after they were declined a room at The House of Bread guesthouse. In Court, the Magistrate pointed out that, on the facts as agreed between the parties, it is clear that the Christian owners already on a previous occasion when the issue first arose and before legal proceedings were instituted against them, were desirous to amicably resolve the matter, but that the homosexual couple was not interested. (www.forsa.org.za)

Freedom of Association at Stake

A ruling in favour of the homosexual couple would have set a negative legal precedent for Christians taking a stand on their Biblical convictions on homosexuality. The guesthouse owners would have been forced to donate money to a homosexual lobby group. (FOR SA Report, www.gatewaynews.co.za, 26 June 2014.)

Bloemfontein Christian Training Centre Targeted

A Christian arts training centre in Bloemfontein has been found guilty of human rights violations for discriminating against homosexuals, the SA Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) ruled on 8 April 2013.

Thought Control

The SAHRC has recommended that the Create Training Centre amend its constitution to accommodate diversity and attend “*sensitisation workshops*” conducted by the Institute for Social Justice and Reconciliation Studies at the University of the Free State, in collaboration with the South African Council of Churches.

Freedom of Religion

The Department of Justice ordered the SAHRC to investigate alleged anti-homosexual discrimination by the centre, following media reports that it claims in its prospectus that it can cure gay students and that if they refused treatment, they would be expelled. The centre responded by publishing a statement on its website saying it does not discriminate against anybody and offers a wide range of part-time courses to students irrespective of the race, religion or sexual orientation. It says that students considering its fulltime Bible School course, which accounts for less than 0.5% of its student component, are required to commit to pursuing a Biblical lifestyle that includes a heterosexual view on human sexuality. According to its policy statement, the centre is available to offer ministry support, in the form of Biblical teaching, prayer and encouragement to students who want to change their sexual orientation. (Andre Viljoen, 9 April 2013, www.gatewaynews.co.za.)

Church Ordered to Pay R87 000 Fine for Firing Gay Music Teacher

The Pretoria High Court ruled that the NG Kerk Moreleta Park discriminated against a gay music teacher (2008). Johan Strydom was fired from the church's arts academy because of his unrepentant sexual orientation. The church argued that Strydom set a bad example for his students by being involved in a gay relationship but Judge Deon Basson said it was not part of his job description to be a role model for Christianity. The church was ordered to apologise to Strydom and to pay R87 000 to "*compensate for his loss of dignity and income*". (www.mybroadband.co.za)

AMERICA

Ordered to Create Dating Site for Homosexuals

Neil Clark Warren, the Christian founder of the popular dating site eHarmony, was sued by a homosexual man because his website did not provide for homosexual dating. In 2008, Warren was ordered by the New Jersey attorney general to create a dating site for homosexuals. If he refused, he would not be allowed to operate in the state at all. The company sadly gave in to the demands of the homosexuals and launched a separate homosexual dating website. (BCNN1 Editors, www.blackchristiannews.com, 10 February 2014.)

Fined For Refusing to Design a Gay-Themed Cake

In 2013, the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries ruled that Aaron and Melissa Klein, the Christian owners of Sweet Cakes by Melissa, violated civil rights laws when they refused to design a cake for a lesbian wedding. They were fined \$135,000 as "*compensatory damages for emotional, mental, and physical suffering*." They were also slapped with a gag order that prohibits them from speaking publicly about their refusal to participate in, or design wedding cakes, for same-sex unions.

The Kleins appealed to the Oregon Court of Appeals, which upheld the \$135,000 order. The Kleins then appealed to the Oregon Supreme Court, arguing that the state's high court needed to "*determine whether entrepreneurs in Oregon can exercise their freedoms of speech, religious exercise and conscience; and whether due process will protect them against bias and prejudgment by ideologically motivated adjudicators*." In June 2018, the Oregon Supreme Court declined to consider the case of Sweet Cakes by Melissa, offering no explanation.

Baker Wins Victory in Supreme Court

In 2012, a gay couple visited Masterpiece Cake shop in Colorado, owned by Jack Phillips, to order a cake for their same-sex wedding. Jack explained to the couple that he unfortunately does not create cakes for same-sex weddings because, for him, that would mean that he was giving his personal endorsement to, and actually participating in celebrating, something which is contrary to his most deeply held beliefs. He however offered to sell them any other type of cake they wanted, such as a birthday cake. For Jack, it was the "*kind of cake, not the kind of customer, that mattered*" (as Justice Gorsuch put it). The couple filed a discrimination complaint against Jack in terms of the State's Anti-Discrimination Act (which is Colorado's equivalent to South Africa's Equality Act) with the Colorado Civil Rights Division, who found Jack guilty. This decision was upheld all the way up to the Colorado Court of Appeals.

The Supreme Court's Decision

The Supreme Court in the United States, agreed to hear Jack's appeal. The seven-judge majority reversed the decision of the Colorado Court of Appeals. Their reason for doing this, was because they held that Jack's case was never heard in an unbiased forum (rather than because they had done the much-needed exercise of balancing the above two competing rights). In America, the First Amendment guarantees that laws must be applied in a way that is neutral towards religion. The federal states therefore have a duty to not base laws or regulations on hostility to any religion or religious viewpoint.

Having found blatant evidence of hostility and bias against Jack and his sincere religious convictions and beliefs, all the way up from the Colorado Civil Rights Commission through to the Colorado Court of Appeals, SCOTUS concluded that Jack's right to have the Commission proceed in a manner that was neutral and tolerant towards his religious beliefs, had been infringed. The Court therefore limited its analysis to the State agencies' reasoning and finding fault with this, reversed their decision.

Importantly, SCOTUS held that the government has no role in deciding (or even in suggesting) that a person's religious convictions are legitimate or illegitimate, further stating that: "*the Constitution protects not just popular religious exercises from the condemnation of civil authorities. It protects them all.*" (www.forsa.org.za)

Photographers Targeted

The New Mexico Supreme Court ruled (22 August 2013) that two Christian photographers, Elaine and Jonathan Huguenin, who declined to provide their services at a homosexual union ceremony, violated the state's Human Rights Act. (BCNN1 Editors, www.blackchristiannews.com, 10 February 2014.)

Florists Targeted

The Washington state attorney general filed a lawsuit against Barronelle Stutzman, the owner of Arlene's Flowers & Gifts, when she declined to provide flowers for a homosexual *wedding*. Barronelle Stutzman has served and employed people who identify as homosexual for her entire career. Despite this, the American Civil Liberties Union and the Washington Attorney General claimed that she was guilty of unlawful discrimination when she acted consistent with her faith and declined to use her creative skills to beautify the same-sex ceremony of a long-time customer and friend for his same-sex *wedding*. (Alliance Defending Freedom, www.adflegal.org)

On February 18, 2015, Benton County Superior Court Judge Alexander Ekstrom ruled that she had violated the state's anti-discrimination law in both cases. In July 2017, Alliance Defending Freedom petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court to take up Barronelle's case. In June 2018, the Court sent the case back to the Washington Supreme Court, after vacating that court's decision and instructing it to reconsider her lawsuit in light of the decision in *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*.

Couple Threatened for Refusing Gay Wedding Ceremony

In Iowa, Dick and Betty Odgaard, the Mennonite Christian owners of Görtz Haus, an art gallery, restaurant and wedding venue located in a former church building, declined to give a homosexual couple permission to hold their "*wedding*" ceremony at the location. The Odgaards were forced to pay \$5,000 to the gay couple. They also received threatening phone calls and e-mails from angry homosexuals, and the resulting media slander and boycotts caused them to need to close their business. They decided to stop hosting wedding ceremonies for all couples rather than abide by a government mandate that they accommodate same-sex ceremonies, but the remaining business activity was not enough to keep their doors open. (The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, www.becketfund.org).

Pro-Family Groups Labelled "Hate Groups"

Several dozen army active duty and reserve troops were told during a mandatory military training session in Mississippi (October 2013) that influential pro-family groups such as American Family Association are now classified as "*domestic hate groups*". (www.lifesitenews.com)

Walt Disney World Threatens Boy Scouts Funding

In March 2014, Walt Disney World (Orlando, Florida) said they would stop funding the local Boy Scouts chapter unless the group allows open homosexuals to serve as Scoutmasters. The Scouts have claimed that it would open themselves up to ruinous lawsuits if any scoutmasters sexually abused scouts in their care.

On May 23, the Boy Scouts approved a resolution saying that "*no youth may be denied membership in the Boy Scouts of America on the basis of sexual orientation or preference alone.*" Then on 13 July 2015, the Boy Scouts of America Executive Committee unanimously approved allowing gay adults to serve as scoutmasters. These policy changes have caused many parents to instead enrol their children in the Royal Rangers or Trail Life USA (TLUSA), Christian alternatives created by scouting leaders. (www.lifesitenews.com)

Family Research Council Security Guard Shot By Gay Terrorist

In 2012, a homosexual activist walked into the Family Research Council Headquarters in Washington and said "*I don't like your politics*" and opened fire on a security guard. Despite being shot in the arm, the guard managed to wrestle the gun away before anyone else was hurt. The 28-year-old terrorist, Floyd Lee Corkins, said in a videotaped confession that he hoped the atrocity would make a statement against the people who work in that building "*with their stance against gay rights...*"

BRITAIN

Couple Receive Death Threats After Refusing Homosexual Couple

The Christian owners of the bed-and-breakfast Chymorvah House in Cornwall, England, Hazelmary and Peter Bull, received death threats and were sued after refusing to provide lodging for a homosexual couple. After a legal trial resulted in them having to pay \$6,000 in fines, they decided to close down their business.

Bakers Lose Appeal to GayGB Court Ruling

Ashers Baking Company in Belfast, Northern Ireland, have lost their appeal to a ruling, which said that the business broke the law by declining to decorate a cake with a *support gay marriage* campaign slogan.

In 2015, they were fined for refusing to ice the slogan “*Support Gay Marriage*” on to a cake ordered by a campaigner to mark International Day Against Homophobia. They were charged with discrimination under the Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2006. The McArthur family, who own and run Ashers, said they could not fulfil the order because it conflicted with their Christian beliefs about marriage being between a man and a woman. They declined the order not because the purchaser was homosexual, but because they did not wish to be associated with the political statement expressed in the slogan.

Speaking after the ruling Mr Daniel McArthur said they were “*extremely disappointed*” with the outcome and that they would be taking advice from their lawyers on whether they can further appeal the judgement. “*This ruling undermines democratic freedom. It undermines religious freedom. It undermines free speech,*” McArthur said.

“We had served Mr Lee before and would be happy to serve him again. The judges accepted that we did not know Mr Lee was gay and that was not the reason we declined the order. We have always said it was never about the customer, it was about the message. The court accepted that. But now we are being told we have to promote the message even though it’s against our conscience. What we refused to do, was to be involved with promoting a political campaign to change marriage law.

“Because we’re Christians we support the current law. And we felt that making this cake would have made us responsible for its message. We wouldn’t decorate a cake with a pornographic picture or with swear words. We wouldn’t decorate a cake with a spiteful message about gay people. Because to do so would be to endorse and promote what was said. The court said the commission gave the impression it was not interested in assisting the faith community in issues like this. I think a lot of people will agree with that. That’s certainly how we have felt. We’ll have to take advice from our lawyers about whether there is a way to appeal this ruling. In the meantime, other businesses will have to take advice about whether they can refuse orders that conflict with their consciences. Or whether they too may be coerced into promoting other people’s views.”

69-Year-Old Street Preacher Arrested and Charged for Sermon

In Bournemouth, 2002, Harry Hammond, a Christian pensioner, was convicted under the public order laws for saying that homosexuality was immoral. Mr Hammond, 69 at the time, was preaching in Bournemouth town centre holding a sign bearing the words, “*Jesus Gives Peace, Jesus is Alive, Stop Immorality, Stop Homosexuality, Stop Lesbianism, Jesus is Lord*”. But a crowd of around 40 people who disagreed with his preaching forced him to the ground where some people poured mud and water on him. When two police officers eventually turned up at the scene it was the Evangelist who was arrested and charged. No violent members of the crowd were arrested. Mr Hammond died the following year.

Street Preacher Held for 19 Hours by Police

Greater Manchester Police accused 57-year-old John Craven of public order offences after two teenage boys approached him in September 2011 and asked what he thought of homosexuals. Mr Craven responded by quoting the Bible’s stance on homosexuality, but said that “*whilst God hates sin He loves the sinner*”. The teenagers then kissed in front of him and taunted him with suggestive sexual acts. Mr Craven was arrested by Police Constable Alistair McKittrick for a public order offence, after the pair told the officer they *felt insulted* by Mr Craven’s comments. He was not offered food until, after almost 15 hours, he was given a bowl of cereal and a microwave meal following a complaint to the police from his friend. Mr Craven, who has been street preaching for seven years, said: “*I never intended to cause anyone harassment, alarm or distress. In fact, quite the opposite. I preach the Gospel which means good news and the love of God for all.*” Thankfully, Mr Craven has now received £13,000 as compensation for wrongful arrest, false imprisonment and breach of his human rights.

Pensioners Interrogated by Police for Opinions

In 2005, Christian pensioners, Joe and Helen Roberts, were subjected to an 80-minute interrogation by police because they had expressed opposition to their local council spending public money on ‘gay rights’

projects. No criminal offence was committed and yet the police refuse to apologise for their intimidation of people over their opinions.

Violence at Parliament

In 1998, when the House of Lords voted against reducing the homosexual age of consent, gay rights activists outside Parliament became violent. Protesters scuffled with the police and jumped barricades in a bid to get inside and confront Peers. Some, including Archbishop Donald Coggan, were insulted, jostled and threatened. Christian campaigner Baroness Young, had to be protected by police.

CANADA

Guesthouse Owners Fined for Not Accommodating Homosexual Couple

The British Columbia Human Rights Tribunal has fined the owners of a now-closed Riverbend Bed and Breakfast \$4,500 for declining a gay couple a reservation in 2009. Les and Susan Molnar, the former owners of Riverbend B&B, in Grand Forks, British Columbia, cited religious convictions for why they could not agree to rent a room to Shaun Eadie and Brian Thomas. (www.lifesitenews.com)

SWEDEN

Swedish Pastor Locked Up for Preaching on Romans One

A Swedish pastor, Rev. Ake Green, in 2005, was charged with inviting *hatred against homosexuals* after a sermon urging Christians to show homosexuals “*deep respect*” and offer them the “*grace of Jesus Christ.*” He called sexual immorality, including homosexuality, a “*cancerous growth*” in society. He was convicted and sentenced to one month in jail. The Swedish Supreme Court acquitted him on appeal.

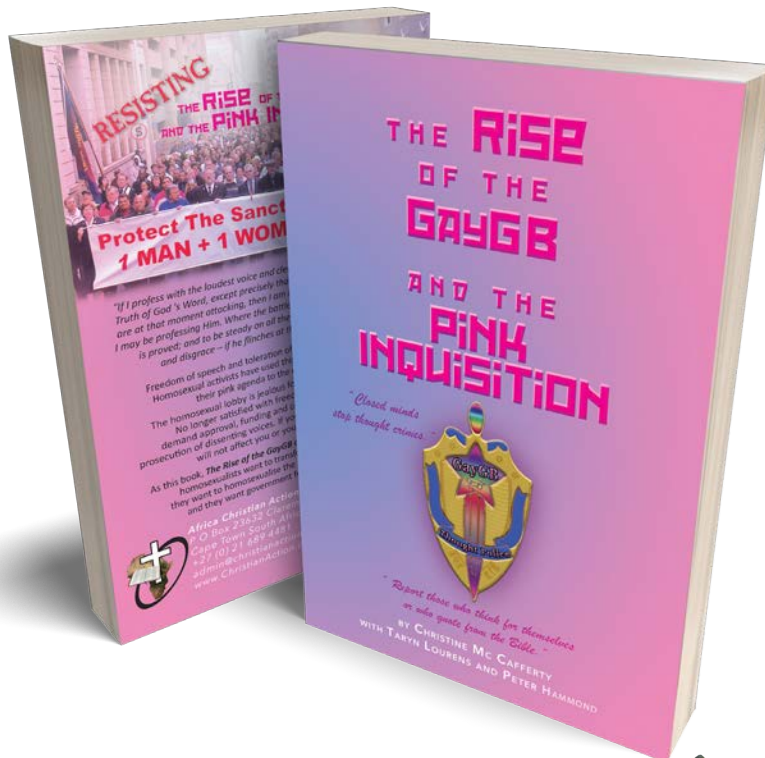
Purifying the Church

Just as God uses persecution to both purify and revive the Church in countries where Christianity is illegal, so God will use this issue of homosexual activism and state bullying to purify His Church in the West. Those who refuse to bow or bend to “*Caesar’s*” demands, will, like Daniel and his friends, “*... shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.*” Daniel 12:3

“Who will rise up for Me against the evildoers?

Who will stand up for Me against the workers of iniquity?” Psalm 94:16

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TRANSFORMATIONS IN THE BIBLE

“Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?” Psalm 85:6

Is Revival the desire of your heart? Do you long to see the churches and communities in South Africa revived and restored to a God honouring condition?

“Restore us, O God Almighty; make Your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.” Psalm 80:7

Are you praying for a great spiritual awakening that will change our cities and our country? Is it your prayer that God may be honoured and glorified in all areas of life?

“Oh that You would rend the heavens and come down, . . . come down to make Your Name known to Your enemies and cause the nations to quake before You!” Isaiah 64:1-2

Duncan Campbell of the Hebrides revival observed that: *“Revival is not churches filled with people, but people filled with God.”* Jonathan Edwards described revival as *“a special season of mercy.”*

Revival is a sovereign move of God initiated by the Holy Spirit working through consecrated men. A study of revivals in the Bible and in history reveals that all revivals begin with a deeper appreciation for the holiness of God and a realisation of how offensive our sin must be in the sight of our holy God.

“Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him, and to our God, for He will freely pardon.” Isaiah 55:7

When the Book of the Law (the 1st five books of the Bible) was read to King Josiah of Judah, he tore his robes in anguish and exclaimed: *“Great is the Lord’s anger that burns against us . . .”* 2 Kings 22:13. He called all the elders together to hear the Law of God and to repent together for the wickedness that they had allowed to flourish in the land.

“The king stood by the pillar and renewed the covenant in the presence of the Lord - to follow the Lord and keep His commands, regulations and decrees with all his heart and all his soul . . . Then all the people pledged themselves to the Covenant.” 2 Kings 23:3

This repentance was then followed by vigorous action to remove or destroy everything contrary to the Law of God - including the pornographic Asherah poles, the Baal altars where babies were sacrificed, and the prostitutes and false prophets who had corrupted the people (2 Kings 23:4-10).

The Bible records that Josiah *“... turned to the Lord with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength, in accordance with all the Law of Moses.”* 2 Kings 23:25. God sent a prophet to declare to Josiah: *“Because your heart was responsive and you humbled yourself before the Lord when you heard what I have spoken . . . I have heard you, declares the Lord.”* 2 Kings 22: 19

Conviction of sin is the first step towards a Biblical Transformation. This includes focusing on the Law of God, mourning over our sin, confessing that sin and undertaking whatever steps of restitution or obedience are necessary.

“If anyone sins and is unfaithful to the Lord by deceiving his neighbour about something entrusted to him or left in his care or stolen, or if he cheats him, or if he finds lost property and lies about it, or if he swears falsely, or if he commits any such sin . . . he must make restitution in full, add a fifth of the value to it and give it all to the owner . . .” Leviticus 6:2-5

Those who claim to want revival, but are unwilling to thoroughly repent of every known sin and make full restitution cannot be serious.

“Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent.” Revelation 3:19

Like Josiah, we need to take a careful look at the Law of God. The Ten Commandments reflect the unchanging character of God. It shows us our responsibilities to God, to our parents and to other people.

“. . . The Law was our tutor, to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.” Galatians 3:24

“The Law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul . . .” Psalm 19:7

Martin Luther declared: *“The first duty of the Gospel preacher is to declare God’s Law and show the nature of sin.”*

John Bunyan said: *“The man who does not know the nature of the Law cannot know the nature of sin.”*

John Wesley suggested that evangelists should preach 90% Law and 10% Grace.

Charles Finney wrote: *“Failure to use the Law is almost certain to result in false hope, the introduction of a false standard of Christian experience, and to fill the church with false converts.”*

Charles Spurgeon declared: *“They will never accept Grace until they tremble before a just and Holy Law.”*

As our Lord taught: *“Do not think I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law . . . Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven, but whoever practises and teaches these commands will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.”* Matthew 5:17-19

We want God to bless South Africa, so we need to evaluate our nation in the light of God's Word. As we seek a Biblical Transformation of our country we need to start by confessing our national sins. As we look at **the Ten Commandments** we must confess that:

Our leaders are too proud to bow before God in prayer at the beginning of Parliament or to acknowledge a higher source of Authority above themselves.

At state events our leaders have committed idolatry, worshipping other gods who are not God at all.

God's Name is routinely taken in vain on national television and at cinemas and this blasphemy is constitutionally protected and regarded as *“entertainment.”*

The Lord's Day is desecrated every week. What God ordained as a Day of rest and a Day of worship is being commercialised and abused for the worship of pleasure.

Respect for our parents and elders is being undermined everywhere by the laws, the entertainment industry and by the explosion of violent crimes against the elderly.

Every year over 20 000 people are murdered in South Africa and our Justice system is failing to protect the citizens of this land. Most of the murderers who terrorise our people escape being brought to justice. In fact our laws seem to favour the rights of the criminals - and all too often criminalise the victims.

Selfishness, greed, covetousness and deception are pervasive and we have become a nation infested with corruption and theft. Our Constitution entrenches the rights of pornographers to exploit for profit people made in the image of God -to take what God has made to be holy and pervert it. Taken what God designed to be special and made it sordid. Distorted what God intended to be private and developed it into a multi-million rand exploitative industry.

And we must admit that it is hypocritical to claim to be a *“human rights society”* while denying the right to life to pre-born babies. Our government interprets the Right to Life to protect guilty murderers from execution, but not to protect innocent babies from receiving the death penalty through abortion. Our society has become so calloused, careless and cruel as to allow little babies to be poisoned, burned, dismembered, smothered or strangled - through abortion -legally -and with tax payer 's money. How can we expect God to bless a nation that kills babies?

“All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good people to do nothing.” And we must confess that most of us, even in the Church, have shamefully done nothing to protest and work against the legalised slaughter of pre born babies in South Africa.

God's Word declares that *“Whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do it for Me.”* Matthew 25:45. *“Anyone then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.”* James 4:17.

We have not loved God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, nor have we loved our neighbours as ourselves. We have not done unto others as we would have others do unto us. We have been thoughtless and careless. We have been self-centred and preoccupied with less important things. We have thought so much of ourselves and so little of God and of our neighbours. We have wasted too much time watching television. And we have too often spent more time reading the newspaper than reading the Bible.

In the Bible, national transformations always involved a return to studying and obeying God's Word.

The Bible is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path (Psalm 119: 105); it is “*sharper than any double edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow, it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart*” Hebrews 4: 12. It is like a fire that burns within our heart, it is like a hammer that breaks the rocks in pieces (Jeremiah 23 :29). “*It is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes*” Romans 1:16. It is the Truth (John 17:17) that sets us free (John 8:32). It is sweeter than honey (Psalm 119:103) and more precious than gold or silver (Psalm 119:72). It is “*radiant, giving light to the eyes*” and “*joy to the heart*” Psalm 19:8.

We cannot achieve anything of eternal value, unless God's Word is foundational and central, and if we think that we can take a short cut to Revival, avoiding repentance, restitution and obedience then we are only fooling ourselves. Every Revival and national transformation in the Bible involved **decisive action to bring society into obedience to the Law of God!**

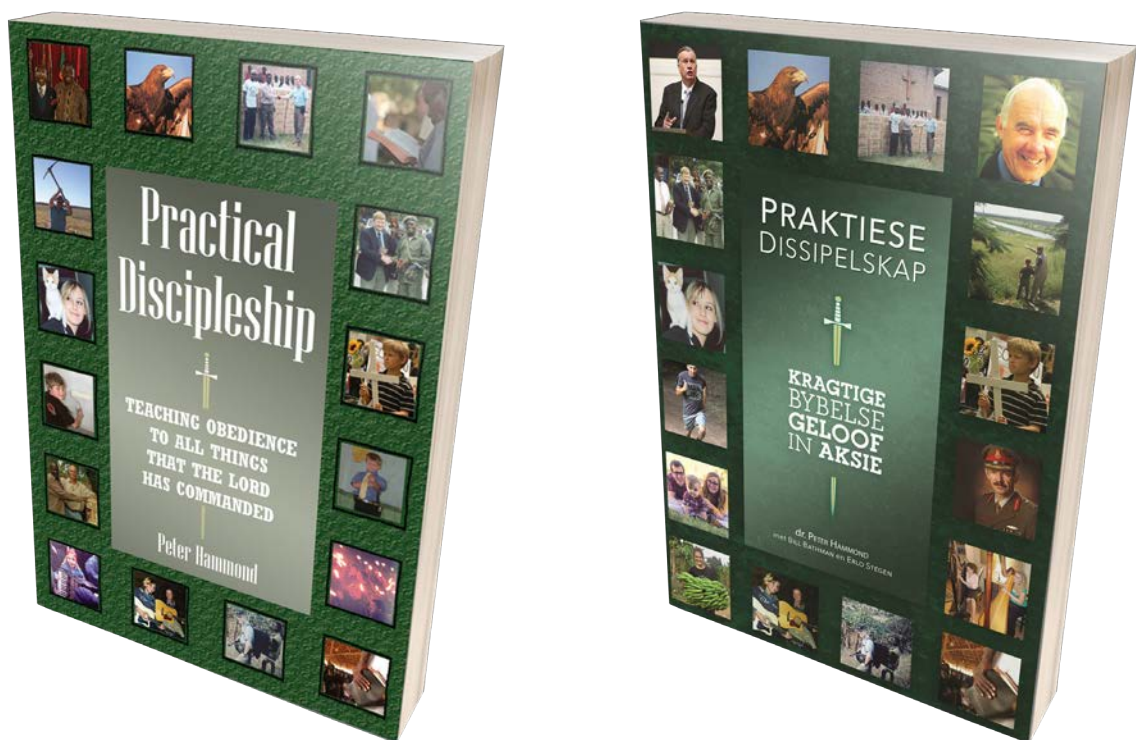
Therefore Asa expelled the prostitutes and destroyed pornographic idols (2 Kings 15:12). Jehu demolished the child sacrificing temple of Baal and turned it into a latrine (2 Kings 10:27). Jehoiada led the people in the destruction of the temple of Baal smashing the perverse idols and blood stained altars (2 Kings 11:18). Josiah ordered idols, charms and other articles of false religion removed from the temple of the Lord (2 Kings 23 :4).

“*Let those who love the Lord hate evil . . .*” Psalm 9 7:10

Jehoshaphat rid the land of Asherah poles and set his heart on seeking God (2 Chron.19:3), Hezekiah also removed offensive materials, that were not in accordance with God's Law, from the land (2 Chronicles 31:1; 33:15). Ezra required the people to bring their marriages into obedience to God's Law (Ezra 10:3). Nehemiah enforced Sabbath observance in honour of the Lord (Nehemiah 13:19). The people of Ephesus destroyed their occultic books (Acts 19:17- 20).

“*Who will rise up for Me against the wicked? Who will take a stand for Me against evildoers?*”

Psalm 94:16



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GOD'S LAW OR CHAOS

There was a time, not so long ago, when Christians were known to be people of integrity -who could be trusted to keep their word. So pervasive was the Christian ethic that verbal agreements were binding and sufficient. Burglar bars, alarms and security gates were unknown and unnecessary. Women and children could walk alone without fear or danger. What happened?

“Hate evil, love good: maintain justice in the courts ... let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never failing stream!” Amos 5: 15, 24

“Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.” Proverbs 14:34

The solution to all our social and political problems is not merely to have Christian officials elected. As recent history amply demonstrates, those who claim to be Christians can advocate and vote for policies which are blatantly in conflict with God's Law. The Bible forbids the shedding of innocent blood (Genesis 9:6; Proverbs 6: 16-17), yet many Christians vote for parties that stand for legalised, taxpayer-funded abortion and euthanasia. The Bible forbids theft, taxation above 10%, the taxation of property, the taxation of inheritance, and the taxation of those involved in the full time service of the Lord (Exodus 20: 15,17; 1 Samuel 8:10-18; 1 Kings 21 :3, Ezra 7:23 -24), yet many Christians support taxation policies which break all of these Biblical principles.

“For I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery and iniquity.” Isaiah 61:8

The great British Reformer and Bible translator, Professor John Wycliffe, taught that *“the Bible is given for the government of the people, by the people and for the people”*. The primary message of the Bible is about how sinful men and women can be reconciled to the Holy Creator. The secondary message of the Bible is how we are to live our lives in obedience to the Law of God. Because God is the Creator of all, His Word speaks on all areas of life -including education, economics and justice. Yet many Christians reject, or neglect, God's Word and its application to all areas of life.

“Jesus replied, ‘If anyone loves Me, he will obey My teaching’ ...” John 14:23

Most Christians do not seem to understand that **we are in a war. It's a war of ideas and of loyalties.** You either give your allegiance to God, or to satan. The world is the battlefield. Unfortunately, many Christians have failed to renew their minds (Romans 12:1-2) and don't understand how the humanist worldview conflicts with the Biblical worldview. **If you read the newspaper more than you read the Bible**, if you read secular books and magazines more than Christian publications, **if you watch TV more than you worship Christ**, then it's inevitable - you may have a Christian heart, but you'll certainly have a humanist mind.

“... since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, He gave them over to a depraved mind.” Romans 1: 28

What is shaping and filling your mind? If it is television, popular music and the newspapers then you will be a humanist in your thinking, because these areas have been generally taken over by those who reject God and the Bible and therefore they promote (often subtly) evolutionism, situation ethics, immorality and socialism. Humanism is a secular religion that teaches that people are not created in the image of God, that there are no absolute standards of right and wrong, that man is a product of his environment, evolved by random chance from lower forms of life. Therefore people are not moral agents, but victims of circumstances. To the humanist man is the measure of all things - not God.

“See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.” Colossians 2:8

In households with television, the average child sees between 15 000 to 30 000 hours of television, and listens to over 10 000 hours of music, before leaving school (*Nielsen Media Research, 1995*). During that time he or she will have seen from 800 000 to 1,5 million acts of violence, including 192 000 to 360 000 murders depicted on television (*US News and World Report 1996*), and 240 000 to 480 000 sexual acts or references to sex (*Media Research Centre*). They will also have spent from 11 000 to 16 000 hours in school - and less than 2000 hours of conversation and interaction with their parents (*Media Wise Family*). What values and worldview will they receive from these sources? **What influence has the media had upon you?**

“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is -His good, pleasing and perfect will.”
Romans 12:2

Unless you make a conscious, deliberate and daily effort to study God's Word and apply the Lordship of Christ to all areas of life, then you will inevitably be conformed to the world. The news media, educational institutions and entertainment industry are seldom sympathetic to Biblical principles. What we see influences what we think and what we think influences what we become and what we do. **Ideas have consequences.** Actions flow from thought patterns. What form of education is moulding your thought patterns? What entertainment and news media is filling your mind?

“Be very careful, then, how you live -not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.” Ephesians 5: 15-16

So, what has gone so wrong that even those who claim to be Christians can be guilty of deceit, theft, immorality and the promotion of pornography, prostitution, homosexuality, gambling and abortion? How can Christians belong to political parties which blatantly reject God's Law and promote such gross evils? How can Christians vote for parties which advocate legalised prostitution, gambling, homosexuality, pornography, abortion and euthanasia?

“There is no fear of God before their eyes.” Romans 3: 18

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 1:7). **For a society to be prosperous and peaceful it is essential that the society be primarily made up of moral people. The foundation for a truly free and stable nation can only be laid in characters, minds and lives changed by the Grace of God. In order to be successful, a society needs to be made up of honest citizens who will not steal, diligent people who are hard working and productive, compassionate families who are concerned for their neighbours, responsible workers who will fulfil their obligations and be faithful stewards of public resources. The essential foundations for morality are: Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Fear of God.**

“Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who finds great delight in His commands.” Psalm 112:1

Here we are getting to the heart of the problem. Most of our churches are devoid of the fear of the Lord, and far from delighting in God's commands, many Christians actually despise God's Law. How often have we heard preachers claiming that *“we are no longer under law”*! **Yet the Bible defines sin as “lawlessness”** (1 John 3:4). Those antinomians who reject God's Law need to heed the words of our Lord Jesus Christ:

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them, but to fulfil them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law ... Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven, but whoever practises and teaches these commands; will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.”
Matthew 5: 17-19

King Alfred the Great (849 -899) of England, who laid the foundations of the Common Law, began his Dooms with the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20), the Mosaic Case Laws (Exodus 21 -23), the Golden Rule of Christ (Matthew 7:12) and other Biblical principles. The principles of limited government and the foundations of individual liberty can be traced through Alfred to the Bible (A History of the English-Speaking Peoples). **The Law of God is the only effective foundation for freedom and justice.** The Ten Commandments covers our responsibility to God, to our parents and to other people. Each command deals with a specific area (God, worship, speech, time, authority, life, love, property, truth and conscience). Each command includes **prohibitions** and each command includes an implicit right (Freedom of worship, the Right to know God's will and to do it, Freedom of speech, the Right to work and to rest, Respect for authority, the Right to life, the Sanctity of marriage, Private ownership of property, the Right to be protected from slander and Freedom of conscience). Adherence to God's Law would result in **respect for God, respect for people and respect for property** - a society where we could love our neighbour instead of fearing our neighbour.

“The Law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.” Psalm 19:7-8

How then can so many Christians claim that God's Law is no longer applicable to us, today? Are we free

to worship other gods? Can we now bow before idols and take God's Name in vain? May we desecrate the Lord's Day and dishonour our parents? May we kill -at least pre-born babies or the very old and infirmed? May we now commit adulterly, steal, lie and covet? Which of God's Ten Commandments may we break without fear of serious consequences? God is not a permissive God. He didn't give us the "Ten Suggestions"!

"Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather; be afraid of the One who can destroy both body and soul in hell." Matthew 10:28

Only the fear of God can produce lasting justice and righteousness in individuals, families, churches and nations. **Only to the degree that people fear God and obey His commandments can society function for the good and freedom of all its citizens.** Honest and hard work abound when God is feared (Leviticus 25 :43; Colossians 3:22). Sound economic practices flow from the fear of God (Nehemiah 5:9 -13).

"For the nation or kingdom that will not serve You will perish, it will be utterly ruined". Isaiah 60:12

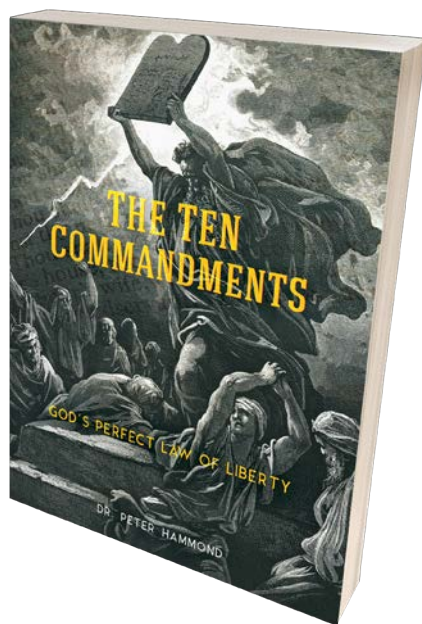
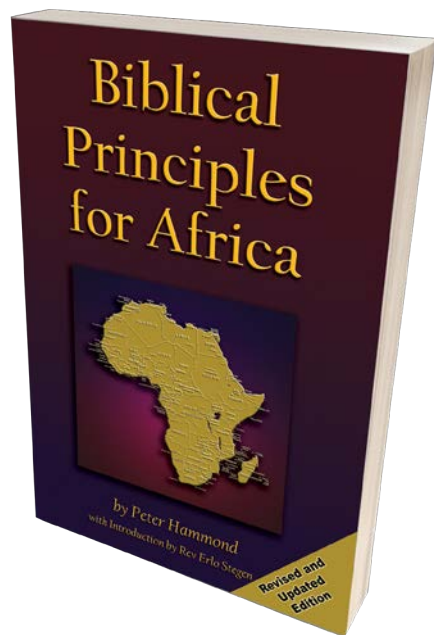
"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord ..." Psalm 33: 12

When something is repeated in Scripture it emphasises its importance. **Loving God**, His Name, His Law and His Word is mentioned 88 times in the Bible. **Trusting God** and His Word occurs 91 times. There are 278 references to **Fearing God** in the Bible. The Fear of God is mentioned more times than any other aspect of devotion. The reverential awe, respect and fear of God must be the fundamental attitude of our Faith. Any view of God which doesn't lead us to fear God and obey His Law cannot be a Biblical view.

"Great and marvellous are Your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are Your ways, King of the ages. Who will not fear You, O Lord, and bring glory to Your Name? You alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before You, for Your righteous acts have been revealed." Revelation 15:3-4

Unless we as individuals, families, congregations, communities and as a nation return to God's Word, we will be doomed to suffer the inevitable consequences of humanistic situation ethics- escalating STD's, inflation and unemployment and increasing corruption, crime and violence. **It's God Law or chaos.**

"See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction ... love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land ..." Deuteronomy 30: 15-16



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HUMANISM IS SELF-DESTRUCTIVE

Most Christians today are neutralised. Very few truly fear God. Instead most are paralysed by the fear of man (Luke 12:4-5). The majority seem to have succumbed to a negative and defeatist view of the future.

Paralysed by pessimism, these passive pew-warmers pray for the rapture to rescue them out of their responsibilities.

Yet if we were to rightly divide the Word of truth, and correctly understand the signs of the times, we would return to the fight of faith with renewed vigour and a revitalised vision.

God is all powerful, all knowing and everywhere present. **He is sovereign** over the affairs of men. He has not predestined defeat for His people. **The ultimate victory of the Kingdom of God is inevitable** (Daniel 2:34- 44). Christians are not doomed to defeat, but **called to conquest** (Psalm 2:8-9).

“All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations will bow before Him, for dominion belongs to the Lord and He rules over the nations.” Psalm 22:27-28.

In fact it should be obvious that it is the enemies of God who are destined for defeat. **Humanism is a self-destructive ideology.**

“Evil will slay the wicked ...” Psalm 34:21

PERMISSIVENESS:

Those who believe the lie of “safe sex”, who sow sex education and promote promiscuity will reap the inevitable consequences of sexually transmitted diseases - gonorrhoea, herpes and AIDS.

ECONOMICS:

Those who worship the idol of chance by squandering their earnings in gambling will end up as bankrupt as those who engage in the unworkable wastage of welfare and socialism.

EVOLUTION:

By promoting the theory of evolution humanists are promoting a meaningless existence in a chance universe - coming from nothing and going nowhere.

EDUCATION:

By removing the Bible from schools and by purging all moral values from education, humanist schools inevitably end up with a functionally illiterate, incompetent, incapable and immoral generation. By abandoning the enforcement of discipline of children, humanists make rods for their own backs as those children grow up into rebellious, lawless and selfish adults.

HOMOSEXUALITY:

When the humanists advocate “alternative lifestyles” and promote homosexuality, lesbianism and bisexuality they are undermining the essential foundation of society -the family.

ABORTION:

By campaigning for abortion the “pro-choicers” are destroying their descendants. They are aborting their own futures.

In short, **atheism offers: no God, no future and no hope.**

The Future Belongs to the People of God

On the other hand, obedience to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ results in the joy of sins forgiven, peace of heart and mind and a restored relationship of love with God as our Father. Jesus Christ gives His people spiritual life now, eternal life after death and abundant life always.

Those who live clean and moral lives and remain faithful to their marriage partner will have the best chance of surviving the AIDS plague.

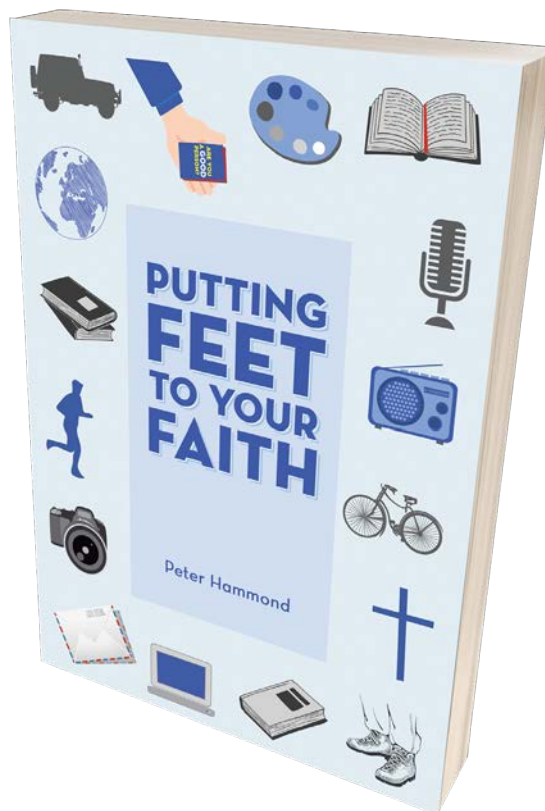
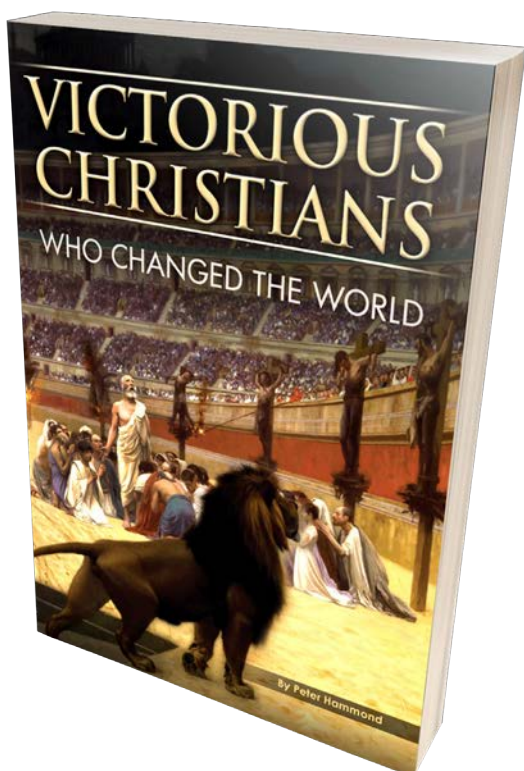
Those who work hard, save wisely and spend their money carefully will be blessed with financial security. Biblical free enterprise produces wealth and rewards hard work and ingenuity.

Those who invest their lives in bringing up God-fearing children, ensuring that they receive Bible based education, will build the future.

As Christians we need to believe in tomorrow. Because we believe in the God who is the beginning and the end. He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. He controls the future. And He answers the prayers of His people.

“They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because He is the Lord of lords and King of kings - and with Him will be His called, chosen and faithful followers.”

Revelation 17:14



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THE DATE AND THEME OF REVELATION

The Revelation of Jesus Christ – not a series of crystal ball revelations.

Revelation 1:4 “... *To the seven churches in the province of Asia . . .*”

Revelation 1:11 “... *to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.*”

Real first century Christians, in actual churches, in historical cities, are being addressed.

Revelation 1:3 The first century Christians were meant to read and understand the message of Revelation as most relevant to themselves.

Revelation 1:1 “. . . *what must soon take place . . .*”

Revelation. 1:3 “. . . *the time is near.*”

Revelation 1:7 “*Look He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him.. .*”

Revelation 2:16 “. . . *I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth. . .*”

Revelation 3:11 “*I am coming soon . . .*”

Revelation 22:6, 7 “. . . *the things that must soon take place. ‘Behold I am coming soon.’*”

Revelation 22:12 “*Behold I am coming soon! . . .*”

Revelation 22:10 “. . . *Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, because the time is near.*”
(Compare with Daniel 12:9 where the prophecies are sealed.)

Compare the apocalyptic language of “*coming with the clouds*” with:

Isaiah 19:1 “. . . *See, the Lord rides on a swift cloud and is coming to Egypt. The idols of Egypt tremble before Him, and the hearts of the Egyptians melt within them.*”

Psalms 104:3, 4 “. . . *He makes the clouds His chariot and rides on the wings of the wind. He makes winds His messengers, flames of fire His servants.*”

(Also Psalm 18:7-15; Joel 2:1, 2)

Matthew 21:40-45 Christ’s hearers understood His coming to be in Judgement upon their own generation.

Matthew 24:34 “*I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.*”

Who is the **harlot** referred to in Revelation? **Jerusalem**

Matthew 23:34-35 “*Therefore I am sending you prophets and wise men and teachers. Some of them you will kill and crucify; others you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town. And so upon you will come all the righteous blood that has been shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Berakiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. I tell you the truth, **all this will come upon this generation.***”

Matthew 27:25 “*All the people answered, ‘Let His blood be on us and on our children!’*”

Revelation 11:8 “*Their bodies will lie in the street of the great city, which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt, **where also their Lord was crucified.***”

Revelation 17:3, 5 “*Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a desert. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns . . . This title was written on her forehead: **Mystery Babylon The Great, The Mother of prostitutes and of the Abominations of the Earth.***”

Revelation 18:24 *“In her was found the blood of prophets and of the saints, and of all who have been killed on the earth.”*

Leviticus 20:10; Leviticus 21:9; Isaiah 1:21; Jeremiah 3:14; Jeremiah 22:8; Lam 1:1; Ezekiel 16:8; Hosea 4:1; Acts 7:51-52; Revelation 16:21; Revelation 17:16

Revelation was written by **AD 65** and it speaks to the first century Church concerning the tribulation which they were entering:

Revelation 1:9 *“I, John, who also am your **brother, and companion in the tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ . . .**”*

Revelation 11:1-2 Indicated that **the temple was still standing in Jerusalem** when the book of Revelation was written.

CF: Luke 21:5-7 and Luke 21:24 fulfilled in the Jewish War with Rome from Spring AD 67 to destruction of Jerusalem in August AD 70 – a period of 42 months which fits the precise measurement of the prophecy in Revelation 11:2.

Revelation 17:7-14 clearly identifies **Rome** and the emperor **Nero**. Rome sat on the 7 hills and Nero was the sixth emperor of Rome – who reigned after the deaths of his five predecessors and before the brief rule of the seventh emperor.

Josephus, the first century historian, listed the first emperor of Rome as Julius Caesar followed by Augustus, Tiberius, Caius, Claudius and Nero.

Revelation 17:10: *“. . . Five have fallen . . .”* the first 5 emperors are dead; *“one is . . .”* – the sixth emperor, Nero, was reigning as John wrote. Nero reigned from October, AD 54 until July 8, AD 68; *“the other has not yet come, but when he does come, he must remain for a little while.”*

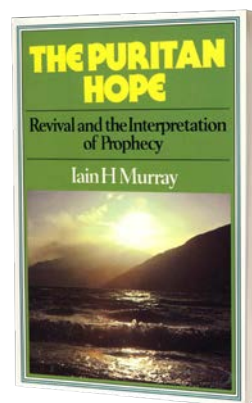
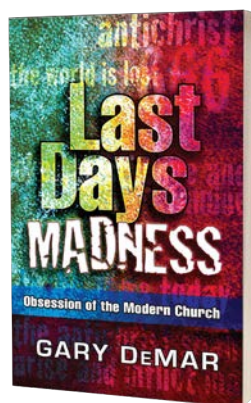
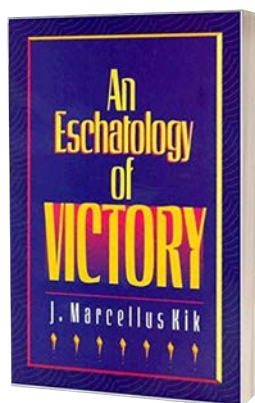
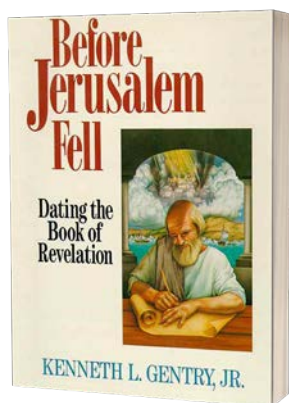
The seventh emperor Galba reigned only six months until January 15, AD 69.

Revelation 2:9, 3:9 also indicate that the book of Revelation was written prior to the Jewish War of AD 67-70 because Christian Jews and unbelieving Jews were still intermingled at the time of writing. A sharp religious, cultural and legal division between Christians and unbelieving Jews ensued after AD 70.

Therefore the Book of Revelation has to have been written prior to the destruction of the **Temple** in August AD 70; before the death of **Nero** on June 8, AD 68; before the **Jewish War** began in AD 67, but after the outbreak of Nero’s persecution of Christians in November AD 64.

The theme of Revelation is the coming judgement of God upon the generation that had rejected and crucified the Lamb of God. **Jerusalem** is depicted as **a harlot** and **Rome** as **a beast**. The wrath of God was poured out on Jerusalem with the destruction of the temple in AD 70.

Source: *Before Jerusalem Fell - Dating the Book of Revelation* by Ken Gentry



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THE BIBLICAL VISION OF VICTORY

As Christians, are we **doomed to defeat on earth** - or are we destined for victory?

Is the fulfilment of our Lord's Great Commission your supreme ambition? Or is your main obsession to be **raptured from your responsibilities on earth?**

Is your faith being strengthened by the victorious vision of the Bible?
Or have you been **neutralised by a defeatist view** of the end times?

Does your understanding of the future inspire you to positive prayer and action?
Or are you being **paralysed into inactivity by an eschatology of escapism?**

Do you long to see the church revived and faithfully "making disciples of all nations"?
Or do you long to be **removed from your responsibilities here on earth?**

Is the glory of Christ inspiring you to greater service for Him?
Or are **speculations about the antichrist** depressing you into inactivity?

Are we living in the last days?

Christ came in "*these last days*" Hebrews 1: 1-2.

The day of Pentecost was in the last days, Acts 2: 16:17: ". . . *this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 'In the last days, God says, I will pour out My Spirit' . . .*"

When will these things be?

Jesus said: "*I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.*" Matthew 24:34

Most of the Scriptural prophecies being quoted today in support of speculation that we are in "the last days" were fulfilled in the lifetime of Christ's 1st century hearers! Fulfilled prophecy is being interpreted as if it is unfulfilled prophecy. For example: Many Jews today are still awaiting the Messiah. They do not realise that the Messianic prophecies have already been fulfilled -and so they are still expecting what has already occurred.

Jesus proclaimed: "*For the Son of Man is going to come in His Father's glory with His angels, and then He will reward each person according to what he has done. I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.*" Matthew 16:27-28

"*I tell you the truth, all this will come upon this generation.*" Matthew 23:36 (see Matthew 21:42-45)

"*I tell you the truth, not one stone here will be left on another, every one will be thrown down.*" Matthew 24:2

Scripture is the best interpreter of Scripture. Note that the clear and plain meaning of the following apocalyptic prophecies can only refer to an imminent event, that was to occur in the life time of those original 1st century believers who heard and read the prophecies: Matthew 10:22-23; 26:64; Romans 13: 12; 1 Corinthians 10:11; James 5:8-9; 1 Peter 4:7; 1 John 2:18; Revelation 1: 1; 1:3; 3:11; 22:6.

The "end of the age" is **not** the end of the world. It refers to the end of the Old Covenant with its animal sacrifices and temple rituals which were mere shadows of the redemptive work of Christ.

The Great Tribulation is past and not future (Exodus 10:14; 11:6; Ezekiel 5:9; Daniel 9: 12; Joel 2:2; Luke 11:50-52; John 18:15; Matthew 27:24-26; 1 Thessalonians 2:14-16).

Christians will always have tribulation (John 16:33; Acts 14:22; 2 Tim. 3:12) - there is no rapture out of tribulation for believers.

The Christian message hinges on the reality of the Resurrection -not the rapture.

John 5:28-29 states clearly that **believers and unbelievers will be raised up at the same time.**

1 Corinthians 15 makes clear that **the resurrection of the dead occurs after the period of the Kingdom and just before "the end."**

“. . . so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the first fruits; then, when He comes those who belong to Him. **Then the end will come**, when He hands over the Kingdom to God the Father after He has destroyed all dominion, authority and power'. **For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.**” 1 Corinthians 15:22-26

1 Thessalonians 4: 16-17 relates to the general resurrection of the saints prior to the second coming of Christ. There is no Scriptural teaching of a separate resurrection/rapture of believers 7 years prior to Christ's return and 1007 years before the resurrection of unbelievers and the end. Such beliefs are not taught in the Bible at all.

The Biblical Vision of Victory

“Ask of Me, and I will make **the nations** your inheritance, **the ends of the earth** your possession. You will rule them with an iron sceptre; You will dash them to pieces like pottery. Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear . . .” Psalm 2:8-11

“**All the ends of the earth** will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations will bow down before Him, for dominion belongs to the Lord and He rules over the nations.” Psalm 22:27-28

“In His days the righteous will flourish . . . He will rule from sea to sea . . . **to the ends of the earth**. . . His enemies will lick the dust . . . **All kings** will bow down to Him and **all nations** will serve Him.” Psalm 72:11

“For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given, and **the government will be on His shoulders . . . of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end.**” Isaiah 9: 6-7

“In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a Kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush **all** those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but will itself endure **for ever**.” Daniel 2:44

“He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; **all** peoples, nations and men of **every** language worshipped Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and His Kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.” Daniel 7:14

“Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be **handed over to the saints**, the people of the Most High. His Kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey Him.” Daniel 7:27

“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.”
Habakkuk 2: 14

“The Lord will be awesome to them when He destroys **all** the gods of the land. The nations on **every shore** will worship Him, **every one** in its own land.” Zephaniah 2: 11

“The Lord will be King over the **whole earth**. On that day there will be one Lord, and His Name the only Name.” Zechariah 14:9

“**The kingdom of this world** has become the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign for ever and ever.” Revelation 11:15

This is what the Great Commission calls us to:

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and **make disciples of all the nations** . . . teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you . . .” Matthew 28: 18-19

This is what it means to pray the Lord's Prayer:

“. . . Your will be done **on earth** as it is in Heaven.” Matthew 6:10



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PRAYING FOR JUSTICE

The Martyr's Prayer

"How long Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until You judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?" Revelation 6:10

We may pray for peace - but the martyrs pray for justice.

The Apostle Paul's Prayer

"... If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned!" Galatians 1:9

Silencing the Sorcerer

"... Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said, 'You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord? Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind ...' Immediately mist and darkness came over him ... When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed ..." Acts 13:8-12

Other **New Testament examples of imprecatory prayers** or warnings:

- Matthew 11:21-24 *"Woe to you Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! ... it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon on the Day of Judgement than for you."*
- Matthew 23:29, 33 *"Woe to you, teachers of the Law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! ... You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell?"*
- Matthew 25:41 *"Depart from Me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, ..."*
- 1 Corinthians 16:22 *"If anyone does not love the Lord - a curse be on him ..."*
- 2 Thessalonians 1:8 *"He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the Gospel of our Lord Jesus."*
- 1 Timothy 1:20 *"... Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme."*
- 2 Timothy 2: 17-18 *"Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have wandered away from the truth."*
- 2 Timothy 4: 14-15 *"Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done ..."*
- Revelation 19:11-15 *"... With justice, He judges and makes war ... Out of His mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations ..."*

Some examples of Imprecatory Psalms

- Psalms 10:15-16 *"Break the arm of the wicked and evil man; call him to account for his wickedness ..."*
- Psalms 21:8-13 *"... You will make them like a fiery furnace. In His wrath the Lord will swallow them up, and His fire will consume them."*
- Psalms 34:16-21 *"the face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth ... Evil will slay the wicked ..."*
- Psalms 37: 9-22, 38 *"But the wicked will perish: The Lord 's enemies will vanish ... like smoke ... all sinners will be destroyed; the future of the wicked will be cut off."*
- Psalms 52: 1-5 *"Surely God will bring you down to everlasting ruin: He will snatch you up and tear you from your tent; He will uproot you from the land of the living."*
- Psalms 58:6-11 *"Break the teeth in their mouths O God; ... Let them vanish like water ... the righteous will be glad when they are avenged, when they bathe their feet in the blood of the wicked"*

- Psalm 59:5-13 *“O Lord God Almighty . . . rouse Yourself to punish all the nations; show no mercy to wicked traitors . . . consume them in wrath. Then it will be known to the ends of the earth that God rules.”*
- Psalm 69:22-28 *“May the table set before them become a snare . . . a trap. May their . . . backs be bent for ever. Pour out Your wrath on them; Let Your fierce anger overtake them.”*
- Psalms 83:13-18 *“Make them like tumble-weed, O my God, like chaff before the wind. As fire consumes the forest . . .”*
- Psalm 94 “ *He will repay them for their sins and destroy them for their wickedness, the Lord our God will destroy them.”*
- Psalm 110 “ *He will crush kings on the Day of His wrath. He will judge nations.”*
- Psalm 149 *“. . . to inflict vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples, to bind their kings with fetters, their nobles with shackles of iron . . .”*

“When justice is done, it brings joy to the righteous but terror to evildoers.” Proverbs 21: 15

Biblical Principles for Imprecatory Psalms

1. These prayers are not to be prayed for our own selfish motives - but for the Glory of God (Psalm 58: 11, 68:34).
2. Not against our own personal enemies - but against the enemies of God (Psalm 119:113).
3. Not to be prayed on our own - but in Christ (John 14: 14).
4. Pray that they fall into the pit that they have dug for others (Psalm 9:16; 35: 7-8; Galatians 6: 7).
5. Pray that their declarations come back to haunt them (Psalm 64: 7-8).
6. Pray that their actions against the righteous be exposed, confounded and confused (Psalm 64:2-9).
7. Individuals and groups should be named according to their malice and persecutions (Exodus 7:2-5, 17-21; Exodus 8:20-21; 12:12; Nehemiah 4:4-5; 6: 14; 2 Timothy 4: 14).

“Then it will be known to the ends of the earth that God rules . . .” Psalm 59:13

Examples of God's Answers to Imprecatory Prayers

Egypt	-	The Ten Plagues - Exodus
Rome	-	Death of Nero
Angola	-	Agestino Neto 1979
Mozambique	-	Samora Machel 1986
Eastern Europe and Russia	-	Demise of Communist Dictators 1989-92
Romania	-	Nicolae Ceaucescu 1989
Zambia	-	Kenneth Kaunda 1991
USA	-	Abortionists - Milwaukee

(For further study obtain: *War Psalms of the Prince of Peace* by James Adams and *Putting Feet to Your Faith* - chapter 8 *Praying for Justice*.)



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BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNMENT

“ . . . where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.” 2 Corinthians 3:17

The only hope for Africa is to return in repentance to God, *rediscover* the Biblical agenda and restore Biblical principles into every aspect of personal and community life.

Many people labour under the illusion that the Bible has nothing to say concerning social structures, constitutional models or political affairs. However, as some theologians point out, while approximately 29% of the Bible deals with our personal lives, 71% deals with social, political and national issues.

God established, in the government of Israel, **ten key principles of freedom:**

1. A **written constitution** (covenant) based on the revealed Word of God (Exodus 20; Deuteronomy 5-8; John 19:11). A Biblical constitution will clearly define and restrict the power of government. It should act as a chain to keep rulers from abusing power. It must be written so that it is specific, clear and permanent.

“The Law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes. The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever . . .” Psalm 19: 7- 10

2. A **separation of powers** and functions into three branches of civil government: **executive** (the King), **legislative** (the Council and Sanhedrin) and **judicial** (the elders or judges in each community). These three functions of government are based on how the Lord revealed His government (Isaiah 9:6, 7).

“For the Lord is our Judge, the Lord is our Lawgiver, the Lord is our King.” . . . Isaiah 33:22

3. An **independent judiciary** and the right to a fair trial. (Exodus 23:1-3).

“He appointed judges in the land . . . He told them. ‘Consider carefully what you do, because you are not judging for man but for the Lord, Who is with you whenever you give a verdict. Now let the fear of the Lord be upon you. Judge carefully, for with the Lord our God there is no injustice or partiality or bribery.’” 2 Chronicles 19:5-7

In Deuteronomy 19: 15-19 the principles for a fair trial are set out: (i) one is innocent until proven guilty, (ii) the right to due process of law, (iii) witnesses must personally confront the accused, (iv) a matter must be established by two or three witnesses, and (v) judges must be impartial.

4. A **national legislature** (law-making body) where one house was composed of representative judges or officials elected by the people (Deuteronomy 1:13-17). Of course the Law is already revealed by God, summarised in the Ten Commandments and Exodus case laws. Legislators need only to apply God's Law to their peculiar circumstances.

“But select capable men from all the people - men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain - and appoint them as officials . . .” Exodus 18:21

5. A **second house** in the legislature was composed of two hereditary elders from each of the 12 tribes (or geographic areas) of Israel, in addition to 24 priests from the tribe of Levi, and 2 lawyers (scribes) from each of the 12 tribes. This unelected (but appointed) body totalled 70 men and became known as the Sanhedrin (Exodus 24: 1; Numbers 11:16-17).

6. An **executive officer** (Judge or King) elected with the guidance of God and the consent of the elders (Deuteronomy 17: 16).

“When all the elders of Israel had come to King David at Hebron, he made a compact with them . . . before the Lord, and they anointed David king over Israel, as the Lord had promised through Samuel.” 1 Chronicles 11:3

7. A **decentralised state** with most responsibilities and powers resting on the local government, the family and the individual (Exodus 24: 1; Deuteronomy 1:13-17, Acts 17:26). Centralisation of power in a unitary state has always been a pagan tendency as seen in Nineveh and Babel (Genesis 10: 11 and 11:1 ff). As power corrupts, it is wise to limit and divide the powers of civil government in a system of checks and balances.

8. A **citizens' army** (militia) made up of trained citizens who have the right and duty to bear arms for the defence of their home and family, community and nation (Numbers 1:2-3; Judges 3:2; Exodus 22:2; Deuteronomy 20: 1-4). One of the best safeguards against tyranny is an armed citizenry.

“Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord Who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.” Nehemiah 4: 14

Local militia units elected their own commanders (Deuteronomy 20:9), and each soldier supplied his own basic weapons (Numbers 32:20; 1 Samuel 25: 13). This was based upon the right of each law abiding citizen to own and use weapons for defence. Any attempt to prohibit the right of an individual to bear arms was unBiblical and was a pagan attempt to centralise (usurp) excessive power (Judges 5:8; 1 Samuel 13:19-22).

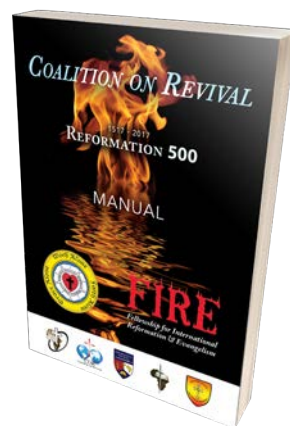
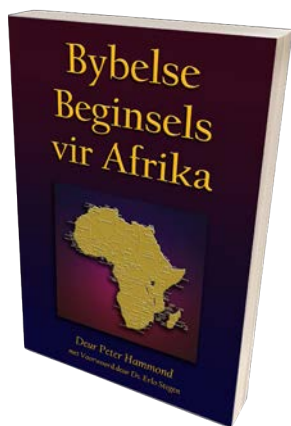
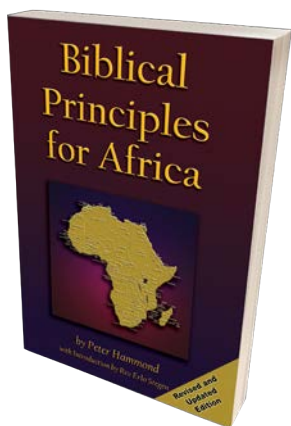
9. A **free market economy** based on the private ownership of property (Exodus 20: 15,17; Deuteronomy 19:14) and individual free enterprise (Ecclesiastes 5:19; Proverbs 10:2-4; 12:24; 13:4,11; 1 Thessalonians 3:10). Any taxation of 10% or higher was defined as oppression (1 Samuel 8:10-18), and any taxation of property, or of inheritance, was strictly forbidden! (1 Kings 21 :3). Institutions and individuals involved in the full time service of the Lord were not allowed to be taxed (Ezra 7:23,24). Any unequal or progressive system of taxation was expressly forbidden (Exodus 30: 14-15; Leviticus 19:15). Biblical economics also forbids unjust weights (unbacked currency) and measures (inflation) (Leviticus 19:35-36; Proverbs 11:1; 20:10; Amos 8:5-7; Micah 6:11,12).

“... proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants . . .” Leviticus 25:10

10. An **education** programme controlled by the parents, aided by the church, but independent of the state (Deuteronomy 6: 7; Hosea 4:6; Matthew 28: 19; Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 2:8). One cannot entrust any state with the moulding of the minds of the future voters. The **control** of education should be in the hands of parents and the **content** of education must be moral, character developing and Bible based.

“He knows not how to rule a kingdom, that cannot manage a Province; nor can he wield a Province, that cannot order a City; nor he order a City, that knows not how to regulate a Village, nor he a Village, that cannot guide a Family, nor can that man govern well a Family that knows not how to govern himself, neither can any govern himself unless his reason be lord, and his will and appetite her vassals; nor can reason rule unless herself be ruled by God and wholly be obedient to Him.”

-Hugo Grotius (17th Century Dutch Theologian)



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BIBLICAL COMMANDS TO A NATION

Pray

“I urge then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for . . . all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.” 1 Timothy 2:1-2

Repent

“If My people, who are called by My Name, will 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.”
2 Chronicles 7:14

Expose evil

“Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness but rather expose them.” Ephesians 5:11

Improve the community

“. . . see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem is in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.” Nehemiah 2:17

Seek justice

“. . . Stop doing wrong, learn to do right! Seek justice . . .” Isaiah 1:16-17

Oppose ungodly rulers

“. . . You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting.” Daniel 5:27

Uphold Christian standards

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.” Matthew 5:13

Disciple the nations

“. . . make disciples of all nations . . . teaching them to obey everything I have commanded . . .”
Matthew 28:19-20

Select God-fearing leaders

“But select capable men from all the people – men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain – and appoint them as officials . . .” Exodus 18:21

We Want God to Bless our Nation

Therefore we want a civil government which:

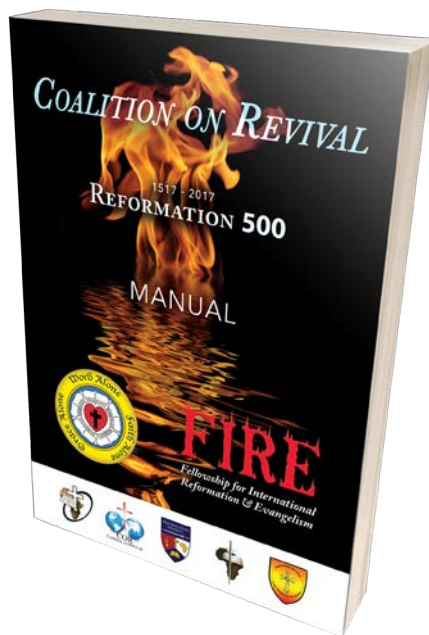
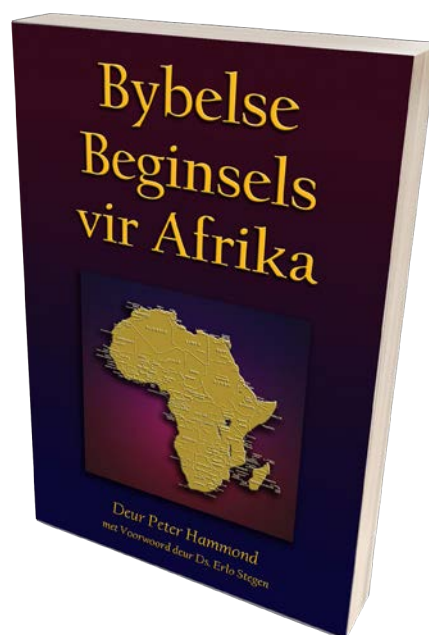
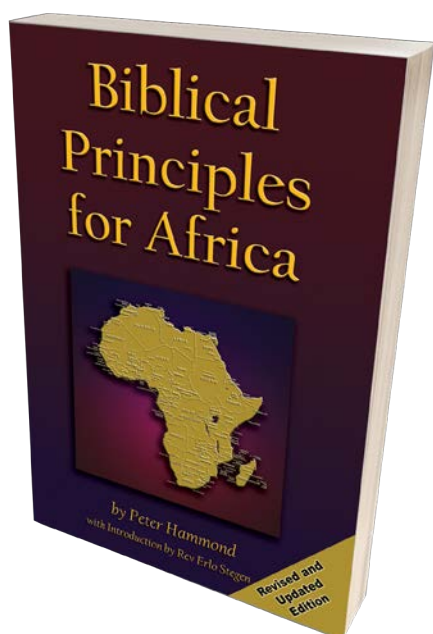
1. Recognises God as the highest source of **authority**.
2. Applies Biblical principles as the foundation for all **law**.
3. Is committed to upholding **the right to life of the innocent** – including pre-born babies.
4. Shows **love** and concern for our neighbours by upholding human dignity and moral standards.
5. **Protects** people from the exploitation and abuse of pornography.
6. Effectively deters **crime** by prompt and appropriate punishment of criminals.
7. Respects parental responsibility for the education of their children and therefore parental authority over schools, teachers and textbooks.

Foundational Principles which God blesses. This is what we should stand for:

1. **The Bible** as the revealed Word of God – perfect and complete, inspired and inerrant.
2. **The Deity of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ** *“God from God, Light from Light, True God from True God; begotten not made, of one substance with the Father. Through Him all things were made.”* – (from the Nicene Creed).
3. **Salvation** by the **Grace** of God alone, based upon the blood **atonement** of Christ’s death upon the Cross of Calvary – received by **Faith**.

4. **Religious Freedom.**
5. The **Right to Life** of Pre-born Babies.
6. The Right to **Decency.**
7. The Right to **Protection** from the exploitation and abuse of pornography.
8. Christian **Responsibility** to be “*salt and light*” in society, to honour God and to love our neighbours.
9. The **Lordship of Christ** in all areas of life. “*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.*” Matthew 28:18
10. The fulfilment of Christ’s **Great Commission** to “. . . *make disciples of all nations . . . teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*” Matthew 28:19

“*See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase and the Lord your God will bless you in the land ... This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life so that you and your children may live.*” Deuteronomy 30: 19



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FAITH AND FREEDOM

“The philosophy of the classroom will become the philosophy of the government in the next generation.”
Abraham Lincoln

“All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.” Edmund Burke

“Takeaway the heritage of a people, and they are easily persuaded.” Karl Marx

“Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.” Thomas Jefferson

“Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.” Lord Acton

“Those who will not be governed by God will be ruled by tyrants.” William Penn

“Only those who do not desire power are fit to hold it.” Plato

“He who shall introduce into public affairs the principles of Christianity will change the face of the world.” Benjamin Franklin

“Apathy is the glove into which evil slips its hand.” Erich Fromme

“We have this day restored the Sovereign to Whom all men ought to be obedient. He reigns in heaven and from the rising to the setting of the sun, let His Kingdom come.” Samuel Adams
(upon his signing the American Declaration of independence 1776)

“Religion and morality are the indispensable supports to good government” George Washington

“The toleration of evil is in itself an evil.” Aristotle

“We laugh at honour and are shocked to find traitors in our midst.” C.S. Lewis

“We have staked the whole of civilization and all of our political institutions upon the capacity of mankind for self-government; upon the capacity of each of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God.” James Madison

“If God is dead, then everything is permissible.” Dostoyevsky

“Knowledge shall forever govern ignorance.” James Madison

“Whoever controls the past, controls the future.” George Orwell

“Either Christ will crucify self or self will crucify Christ.” Olde Puritan Saying

“Those who would trade their liberty for security deserve neither.” Ben Franklin

“I know not what course others may take, but as for me . . . give me liberty or give me death!” Patrick Henry

“Dependence breeds subservience.” Thomas Jefferson

“The Bible is given for the government of the people, by the people, and for the people.” John Wycliffe

“Government is not reason, it is force; like fire, it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master”
George Washington

“Let me write the music for a nation and I care not who makes its laws” Plato

“True religion affords government its surest support.” George Washington

“A thorough knowledge of the Bible is more important than a college education.” Theodore Roosevelt

“America is great because America is good. If America ever ceases to be good, she will cease to be great.”
Alexis de Tocqueville

“Freedom finally falls on those who are willing to die for it.” Colonel William Travis
(The Battle of the Alamo, 1836)

“Liberty has never come from government, the history of liberty is the limitation of government power, not the increase of it.” Woodrow Wilson

“Rebellion to tyrants is obedience to God.” From the Jefferson family seal

“The greatest advances come when we recover the things which are lost.” Sir Winston Churchill

“This constitution is written for a religious and moral people; it is wholly inadequate for the government of any other.” John Adams

“Government cannot make men good, but good men can make good government.” Daniel Webster

“Arbitrary power is most easily established on the ruins of liberty abused to licentiousness.”

George Washington

“A government that is big enough to give you all you want is big enough to take away all you have.”

Barry Goldwater

“I am convinced that there comes a time when every leader entrusted with the safety of his country finds faith in God the ultimate inspiration for victory.” Chester A. Nimitz (Fleet Admiral, USN, 1945)

“Invading armies may be resisted, but not an idea whose time has come.” Victor Hugo

“We are becoming a nation that does not read. Those who do not read do not think. Those who do not think will have their thinking done for them.” E. L. Masters

“People who can be bought with their own money cannot be free.” Cicero

“When the people fear the government they have tyranny; when the government fears the people they have freedom” Samuel Adams

“The study of the past gives us hope. . .” Romans 15:4

“God is like the sun; you cannot look at it, but without it you cannot look at anything else.”

G. K. Chesterton

“There is no history, only biography.” Winston Churchill

“Freedom should be religious and religion should be free.” Lord Acton

“There are two places only where socialism will work: heaven, where it is not needed; and hell, where they already have it.” Sir Winston Churchill

“Whatever makes men good Christians, makes them good citizens.” Daniel Webster

“No man is good enough to govern another man without that other's consent.” Abraham Lincoln

“In the long run, the public interest depends on private virtue.” James Wilson

“The price that people pay for apathy in public affairs is to be ruled by evil men.” Plato

“To be prepared for war is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace.” George Washington

“The love of liberty is the love of others; the love of power is the love of ourselves.” William Hazlitt

“Civilization begins with order, grows with liberty and dies with chaos.” Historian Will Durant

“The lust for power is not rooted in strength, but in weakness.” Erich Fromme

“Truth is truth even if no one believes it, but a lie is a lie even if everyone believes it.” Os Guinness

“God who gave us life, gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed the conviction that these liberties are a gift of God? I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, and that His justice cannot sleep forever.” Thomas Jefferson

“It is impossible to mentally or socially enslave a Bible-reading people.” Horace Greeley, 1852

“Men will be governed either by the Bible or the bayonet.” John Adams

“Where a mother has a legal right to kill her unborn child, that civilization has nothing to defend.”

Mother Teresa of Calcutta

“Those who reject the God-Man Jesus Christ will create their own men-gods.” Dostoyevsky

“When the church transcends culture, it transforms culture.” Charles Colson

“The tree of liberty must be watered from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants alike.”

Thomas Jefferson

“All human laws which contradict His Laws we are bound in conscience to disobey.” George Mason

“Those who do not learn the lessons of history are condemned to repeat them.” Santayana



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“*JUST PREACH THE GOSPEL*”

- **Pornography** is in the supermarkets!
- Legalised **abortion**!
- Many government **schools** are promoting secular evolution, situation ethics, humanism, sex education programmes, the interfaith movement, gender confusion, the gay agenda, witchcraft and even occultism.
- * Yet the response of all too many is to “*just preach the Gospel*” (**a convenient excuse for disobedience** and doing nothing.)
- Q. Do we really believe that Jesus would have us stand passively by while God-hating pagans exploit women made in the image of God, degrade that which God has made to be holy, make public what God has meant to be private, make common what God has meant to be special, corrupting young minds and morals and ruining marriages?
- * “*Just preach the Gospel*” is an excuse to justify **laziness** or **cowardice**.
- Q. Would God have us stand idly by while a murderer rips the arms and legs off a baby and crushes its head?
- Q. Which servant of God in the Bible limited himself to “*just preaching the Gospel*?”
- Q. Was **Elijah** wrong to confront, and expose the pornographic, child-sacrificing prophets of Baal?
(1 Kings 18)
- Q. Was **John the Baptist** wrong to have publicly confronted the immorality of King Herod
(Matthew 14:3-4)?
- Q. Could **our Lord** have been in error when he confronted the corruption in the temple
- overturning the tables and driving out the money changers? (Mark 11:15-16)
- * A careful reading of the **Great Commission** in Matthew 28: 18-20 makes it clear that we are called to do far, far more than “*just preach the Gospel*”.
- “**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me**” - the Lordship of Christ in every area of life. There is no area of life that should not be in submission to Christ.
- “**Therefore go and make disciples of all nations**” -we are not called to make converts or ‘decisions’; but disciples. We are to make disciples not only of individuals but of nations
- all nations.
- “**... baptising them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ...**”
- complete submission to God.
- “**and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.**” - **Education** is an essential part of the Great Commission. And we are not just to teach a few of our favourite things. We have been ordered to teach obedience to everything the Lord has commanded us.
- The Great Commission is **great!** It contains:
 - A great truth - Jesus is Lord over **all** areas of life.
 - A great commission -Disciple **all** nations.
 - A great command - Teach obedience to **everything** the Lord has commanded.
 - A great promise - The Lord Himself will be with us **forever**.
- * The parable of the **Good Samaritan** with its “*Go and do likewise*” (Luke 10:26-37), the coming Day of Judgement when Jesus warns us that we will be judged on the basis of what we did to care for the sick, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the prisoners and welcome strangers (Matthew 25 :31-46).
- And the Biblical definition of true religion before God, “*to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world*” James 1:27
- All these and many other passages of Scripture expose the “*just preach the Gospel*” philosophy as an attempt to limit the impact of the Church on earth.

We are called to be *“the salt of the earth”* Matthew 5: 13. We have been taught to pray *“ Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven”* Matthew 6:9-10.

“You must obey the government - no matter what!”

- Muslim and Communist governments forbid Bibles!
- Evangelism is prohibited by many governments!
- Forcible abortion is mandated by the Chinese government!
Yet the response of all too many Christians is:
“You must obey the government - no matter what!”
- * God has instituted 4 spheres of government:
 - **Self** government (symbolized by our conscience). Proverbs 16:32; 1 Timothy 3:4-5; 2 Peter 1:6.
 - **Family** government (the rod of discipline). Deuteronomy 6: 1-7; Ephesians 6: 1-4; 1 Timothy 3:4-5.
 - **Church** government (the keys of church discipline). Acts 6: 1-6; 1 Timothy 3: 1-13; Titus 1:5-9.
 - **Civil** government (the sword of Justice). Genesis 9:5-7; Romans 13:1-4; 1 Peter 2:13-14.
- I must obey my **conscience** (provided it is captive to the Word of God.)
- I must obey my **parents** - in the Lord. (As with all authority, parental authority is limited by Scripture; child abuse and murder of children is forbidden).
- I must obey the church **elders** -in the Lord (However church leaders are answerable to their congregations in matters of faith and conduct. We are not to submit to false teachers or false shepherds. False doctrine, immorality and misappropriation of funds would disqualify church leaders).
- I must obey the civil **authorities** - in the Lord. (As in all other spheres of government the civil authorities are not permitted to be a law unto themselves. Civil government officials are to be *“God's servant to do you good . . . he is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.”* Romans 13:4 Just as parents and church leaders disqualify themselves by gross sin, so civil authorities disqualify themselves by corruption, immorality and abuse. We are not to submit to false ministers who are in apostasy to God).
- * All authority is from God. Human authority is delegated by God and is answerable to God. Human authority cannot countermand God's commands. To be lawful, authorities need to be in submission to God's Law.

To those who doubt this - let us ask:

- * Whose law is eternal - God or man's?
- * Can God's Law be rescinded, revised or improved?
- * Does God hold His Law or man's law to be higher when the two are in conflict?
- * Does God want His people to obey His Law or man's law when the two are in conflict?
- * Does God hold all rulers in all nations - including non-Christians -accountable to His Law or are the lost free to do what they want?
- * If the lost are free to do as they please, to what standard will God hold them accountable and by what standard will He judge them?
- * How can the Holy Spirit convict them of sin if the measure of sin (the Law) has been removed?

“We must obey God rather than men.” Acts 5:29



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FIRST THINGS FIRST

Habits and routine are a vital part of discipleship. We make time for those things we deem important. God has decreed that we work six days and give the seventh to rest and worship. This was so important to God that He gave us an example to follow, by resting after creating the universe.

“By the seventh day God had finished the work He had been doing ; so on the seventh day He rested from all His work. And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy ...” Genesis 2: 2-3

Why does our week consist of 7 days? Why not make it 10 or 12 for that matter? The Basic Everyday

Encyclopaedia states: *“The seven day week came in from Old Testament sources and the Christian influence.”*

The seven-day week is a testimony to the fact that God created the world in 6 days and rested on the 7th. The fact that Sunday, the first day of the week, is our day of rest instead of the Jewish Saturday, is a weekly reminder that Jesus rose from the dead on the first day of the week.

For that matter, the reason why we date our years as we do, this being the year 2003 AD, is a monumental testimony to the incarnation of Christ. The birth of Christ utterly altered the way we measure time. He turned aside the river of the ages out of its course and lifted the centuries off their hinges. Now, the whole world counts time as before Christ (BC) and AD (Anno Domini), in the year of the Lord. It is ironic that even the most vitriolic atheists have to acknowledge the centrality of Christ every time that they write the date!

In fact, the Revolutionary Convention, during the French Revolution, attempted to abolish the Christian calendar and introduce a 10-day work week, counting the years from the establishment of their *“Republic”*, beginning 1792. It needs hardly to be pointed out that they failed.

The French Revolutionary and atheist, Voltaire, declared: *“If you want to kill Christianity, you must abolish Sunday.”* (To show how God has a sense of humour, the Geneva Bible Society bought Voltaire’s house and printing press to produce Bibles in French!)

As Christians, we should repent for allowing the Lord’s Day to become so encroached upon and desecrated by shopping, sports and worldly entertainment. D.L. Moody observed: *“No nation has ever prospered that has trampled the Sabbath in the dust. Show me a nation that has done this and I will show you a nation that has got in it the seeds of ruin and decay. I believe that Sabbath desecration will carry a nation down quicker than anything else.”*

Any relationship needs quality time and we need to devote at least one day a week to developing and deepening our relationship with our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

“If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on My holy day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and the Lord’s holy day honourable, and if you honour it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words, then you will find your joy in the Lord, and I will cause you to ride on the heights of the land and to feast on the inheritance ...” Isaiah 58:13-14

Setting aside the first day of the week as a special day is good for our body, mind and soul. We need time set aside for relaxation, reflection and restoration. It is a matter of rhythm and routine, but also a matter of revelation and remembrance of the Lord’s great work of Creation (Exodus 20: 8-11 and salvation (Deuteronomy 5: 12-15).

By ordering our week to set apart the Lord’s Day as a special day for the family to rest and worship the Lord – we proclaim to the world that Jesus Christ has risen from the dead and He is Lord of our lives.

Resting one day in seven is also healthy – spiritually, emotionally, physically and economically. It is good for businesses, good for families and good for any country.

“Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the Seventh Day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God ...” Exodus 20:8-9

God has given this commandment, like all the other commandments, for the benefit not just of Christians, but of society in general. *“We ignore the Sabbath at our peril. We keep it to our inestimable benefit.”*
Professor Verna Wright

The pattern of having one special day of rest and worship in every week, does not come from the giving of the Law (Exodus 20), but from the time of creation (Genesis 2:2). The practice of one day of rest in seven began as a gift from God at creation, and was later made a commandment from God as well. This Day of rest and refreshment was to benefit servants, visitors and one's animals as well (Exodus 20:8-11). This Day of rest was also given as a reminder that God is the Creator and the Redeemer.

The early Christian Church gathered for worship "on the first day of the week" (Acts 20: 7; 1 Corinthians 16:2; Revelation 1:10).

"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another ..." Hebrews 10:24-25

Aside from it being a Day of rest, remembrance and worship, the Lord's Day also is a day of hope.

"There remains, then, a Sabbath rest for the people of God." Hebrews 4:9

Every Lord's Day, when we spend time with God's people in worship, fellowship and ministry of the Word, we are reminded that we have something even more glorious and wonderful to look forward to in eternity.

Some Christians reject any suggestion that Sundays are special, claiming that we are not "under Law but under grace" and therefore free to do as we please. However, that suggests that the Lord's Day is some kind of terrible bondage. God's commandments should not be seen as limiting our freedom, but on the contrary, as giving us great freedom to enjoy God's best for our lives. The Law brings an obligation, but grace brings in opportunity. The only people who would find the fourth commandments as some kind of bondage are those who have never really understood its purpose.

Listen to some of these insights from great leaders of the past:

"Sunday is a divine and priceless institution, the necessary pause in the national life. It is the birthright of every British subject, our responsibility, privilege and duty to hand on to posterity." Sir Winston Churchill

"Experience shows that the Day of rest is essential to mankind – that it is demanded by civilisation as well as Christianity." Theodore Roosevelt

"On the Lord's Day, Christians should, in honour of the resurrection of the Lord, defer all worldly business." Tertullian

"The profanation of the Sabbath is an inlet to all impiety. Those who pollute holy time will keep nothing pure." Matthew Henry

"There is nothing in which I would recommend you to be more strictly resolute than in keeping the Sabbath holy; and by this I mean, not only abstaining that Day from all unbecoming sports and common business, but from consuming time in frivolous conversation, which often leads to a sad waste of this precious day." William Wilberforce

"The city will be safe if God be truly and devoutly worshipped and this is attested by the sanctification of the Sabbath ..." John Calvin

"A man shall show his heart and life, what they are, more by one Lord's Day than by all the days of the week besides. To delight ourselves in God's service upon His holy Day gives it better proof of a sanctified nature than to grudge at the coming of such days." John Bunyan

The pioneer inventors of the aircraft, the Wright brothers, had this to say: "We were brought up to have respect for the Lord's Day ... we would never fly on a Sunday."

Of course, our Lord Jesus taught that it is good and right to do works of mercy on the Lord's Day (Matthew 12:11-12). Christians have always recognised that there are necessary emergency services, which are required to do good on the Lord's Day. We don't abandon speed restrictions on the roads simply because the police and emergency services have to go faster. We make laws that will be for the good of society in general, and then discuss the necessary exceptions.

The point is - the Lord's Day should be a special day without any commercial activities. We are to make every effort to ensure that the minimum number of people are forced to work on Sunday's. Nobody should be forced by legislation to go to church on Sunday, but it would be right for governments to make legislation to keep people free from commercial obligations on Sunday. Just as there is legislation such as compulsory wearing of seat belts for motorists and crash helmets for motor cyclists, against drug abuse and other protections, it would be appropriate for the state to pass legislation, allowing people the freedom not to work on Sunday's, although, no government may tell people what to do with their free time.

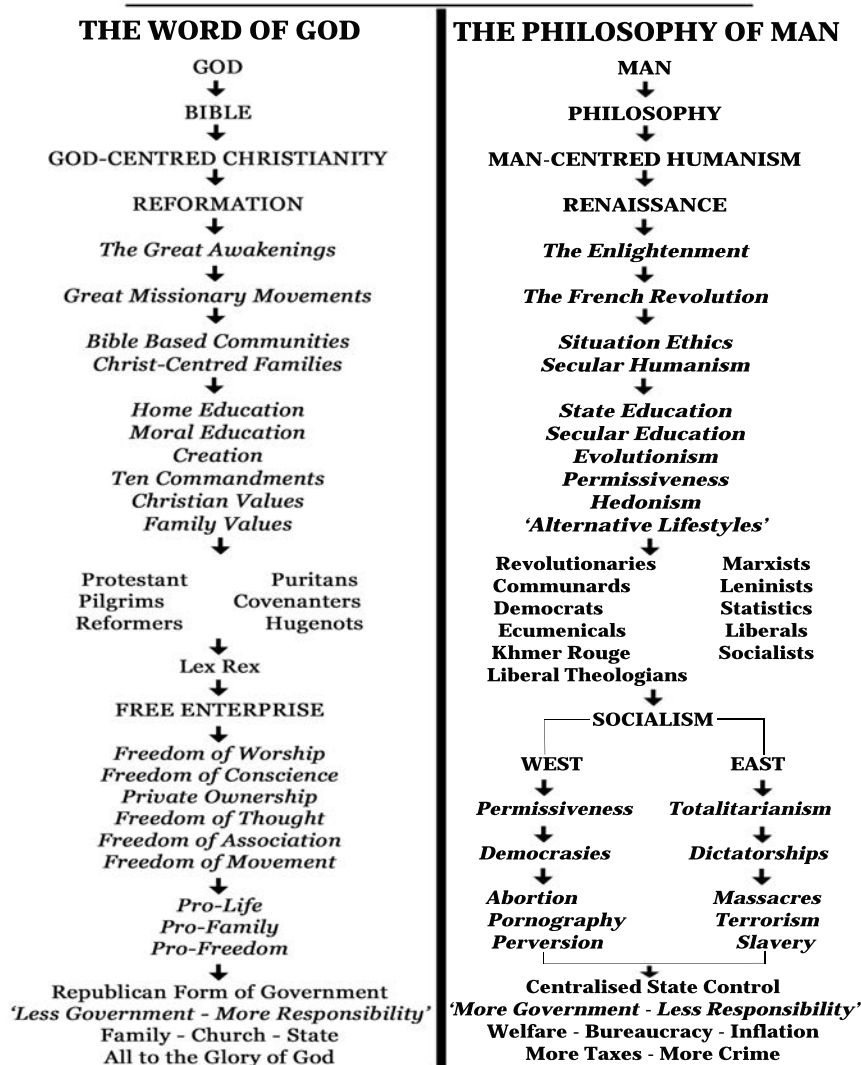
Benjamin Disraeli, the former Prime Minister of Great Britain, declared: *“I hold the Day of rest to be the most valuable blessing ever conceded to man, it is the cornerstone of civilisation.”*

Eric Liddell, the Olympic gold medallist whose refusal to run for the main Olympic race on a Sunday, was the subject of the film Chariots of Fire, declared: *“There are many people today who think of those who honour Sunday in the old-fashioned way as killjoys. They feel that during the years of youth they ought to have a chance to ‘have their fling’. Give me the Day of rest, when all that savours of organised games can be put to one side, and all of life’s joys will be greater because of it. To me personally, it is a time of communion and fellowship with God – a time of quiet, in fact, a time of recreation and fellowship with God. I believe that Sunday as we have had it in the past, is one of the greatest helps in a young man’s life to keep all that is noblest, truest and best. That is why I say: young person, stand for the Lord’s Day, for by losing it you will lose far more than the Day: you will lose the Spirit that it stands for.”*

Eric Liddell went on to win an Olympic gold medal for a race he had not specifically trained for, and then became a missionary to China, dying in a concentration camp.

Bishop J.C. Ryle wrote: *“My advice to all Christians is to contend earnestly for the whole Day against all enemies, both without and within. It is worth the struggle. The Sabbath breaking of the present day is one among many proofs of the low state of vital religion. The observance of a Sabbath Day is part of the eternal Law of God. The Sabbath is Gods’ merciful appointment for the common benefit of all mankind.”*

THE GREAT DIVIDE



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HOW CAN I REMAIN POSITIVE IN A NEGATIVE WORLD?

“The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the Lord, But the words of the pure are pleasant.”
Proverbs 15:26

“The Lord knows the thoughts of man, That they are futile.” Psalm 94: 11

“O Jerusalem, wash your heart from wickedness, that you may be saved How long shall your evil thoughts lodge within you?” Jeremiah 4:14

“But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, ‘Why do you think evil in your hearts?’” Matthew 9:4

“For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.” Matthew 15:19

“... although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened” Romans 1 :21

“And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting” Romans 1:28

“Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the Law of God, nor indeed can be.” Romans 8:7

“This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their minds.” Ephesians 4: 17

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” Romans 12:2

“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy - meditate on these things.” Philippians 4:8

Focus on true perspectives on news and history, films recommended by Movieguide, noble and excellent characters, pure and lovely art, God's creation, uplifting music, good company and praiseworthy activities. Cultivate an attitude of gratitude to God. Put God first. Read the Bible everyday.

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



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FOOLISHNESS AND IGNORANCE

- “ ... they are foolish, for they do not know the way of the Lord, the requirements of their God.”* Jeremiah 5:4
- “They do not know the thoughts of the Lord; they do not understand His plan ...”* Micah 4:12
- “They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.”* Ephesians 4: 18
- “ ... another generation grew up, who knew neither the Lord, nor what He had done ...”* Judges 2: 10
- “My people are fools; they do not know Me. They are senseless children; they have no understanding. They are skilled in doing evil; they know not how to do good.”* Jeremiah 4:22
- “ ... But My people do not know the requirements of the Lord.”* Jeremiah 8:7
- “But they refused to pay attention; stubbornly they turned their backs and stopped up their ears. They made their hearts as hard as flint and would not listen to the Law or to the Word¹ that the Lord Almighty had sent by His Spirit through the earlier prophets. So the Lord Almighty was very angry.”* Zechariah 7: 11-12
- “For this people’s hearts has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.”* Matthew 13:15
- “Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, He gave them over to a depraved mind to do what ought not to be done.”* Romans 1:28
- “The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God’s Law ...”* Romans 8:7
- “The discerning heart seeks knowledge, but the mouth of a fool feeds on folly.”* Proverbs 15:14
- “The fool says in his heart, ‘there is no God.’ They are corrupt, and their ways are vile; there is no one who does good.”* Psalm 53: 1
- “The senseless man does not know; fools do not understand.”* Psalm 92:6
- “ ...whoever spreads slander is a fool.”* Proverbs 10: 18
- “Fools mock at making amends ...”* Proverbs 14:9
- “A fool spurns his father’s discipline, but whoever heeds correction shows prudence.”* Proverbs 15:5
- “The Lord detests the thoughts of the wicked ...”* Proverbs 15:26
- “A fool’s lips bring him strife and his mouth invites a beating.”* Proverbs 18:6
- “It is to a man’s honour to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel.”* Proverbs 20:3
- “He who trusts in himself is a fool ...”* Proverbs 28:26
- “The prudent man keeps his knowledge to himself, but the heart of fools blurts out folly.”* Proverbs 12:23
- “The tongue of the wise commends knowledge, but the mouth of the fool gushes folly.”* Proverbs 15:2
- “A fool finds no pleasure in understanding, but delights in airing his own opinions.”* Proverbs 18:2
- “For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God’s sight ...”* 1 Corinthians 3:19
- “Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools.”* Romans 1:22
- “Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil.”* Proverbs 3:7
- “Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight.”* Isaiah 5:21
- “Do not see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.”* Proverbs 26: 12
- “For by the grace given me I say to everyone of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgement, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.”* Romans 12:3
- “ ... The fear of the Lord - that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding.”* Job 28:28

“The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him - the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power: the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.” Isaiah 11:2

“ ... in Whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Colossians 2:3

*“... call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and ... search for it as for hidden treasure.”
Proverbs 2: 3-4*

“The discerning heart seeks knowledge ...” Proverbs 15:14

“Buy the truth and do not sell it; get wisdom, discipline and understanding.” Proverbs 23:23

“Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” John 8:32

“ ... the Lord searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever.” 1 Chronicles 28:9

“I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve.” Jeremiah 17:10

“Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. “ 1 John 2: 15

*“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is - His good, pleasing and perfect will.”
Romans 12:2*

*“Finally brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things.”
Philippians 4:8*



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BIBLICAL ECONOMICS

Free Enterprise

The 10 Commandments (not “*the 10 Suggestions*” note!) still stand:

“*You shall not steal.*” Exodus 10: 15 and “*You shall not covet . . . anything that belongs to your neighbour.*” Exodus 20: 17

Socialism is legalised theft. It is institutionalised envy. And it just doesn't work. Socialism produces nothing except poverty and bureaucracy. Socialists are parasites who consume what others have earned by hard work and ingenuity. There is a world of difference between voluntary Christian generosity and sharing, and compulsory socialist confiscation and coercion. Private ownership of property and of the means of production is Biblical.

Any taxation of **10%** or higher is defined as oppression (1 Samuel 8:10-18) and any taxation of **property** or **inheritance** is strictly forbidden (1 Kings 21 :3). **Institutions and individuals involved in the full-time service of the Lord may not be taxed** (Ezra 7:23, 24). **Any unequal or progressive system of taxation is also unscriptural.**

“*The rich are not to give more . . . and the poor are not to give less . . .*” Exodus 30: 14, 15

“*Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favouritism to the great, but judge your neighbour fairly.*” Leviticus 19:15

Instead of nationalisation (theft and bureaucracy), the Bible advocates privatisation (private ownership and personal responsibility). Rather than encourage a beggar mentality of the outstretched hand demanding charity, the Bible commands diligent **hard work, honesty and thrift.** (1 Thessalonians 4: 11,2 Thessalonians 3:10)

“*Ill-gotten treasures are of no value, but righteousness delivers from death. The Lord does not let the righteous go hungry but He thwarts the craving of the wicked. **Lazy hands** make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth.*” Proverbs 10:2-4

“*Diligent hands will rule, but laziness ends in slave labour.*” Proverbs 12:24

“*The sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied . . . Dishonest money dwindles away, but he who gathers money little by little makes it grow.*” Proverbs 13:4, 11

Accordingly, the ***KwaSizabantu Affirmation*** declares:

We affirm that the Bible is clearly against oppression of the poor by the rich. It is also very clear about the right to own land and property: “*You shall not covet your neighbour’s house; you shall not covet your neighbour’s wife or . . . his ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour*” (Exodus 20:17); “*While it (the land) remained, was it not your own?*” (Acts 5:4; Matt. 20: 15). Based on the commandments “*Thou shalt not steal*” and “*Thou shalt not covet*”, we reject any form of ‘nationalisation’ and forced redistribution of wealth and land. It is an observable fact that wherever the Biblical Law has been violated, as in Socialist countries, the result has been starvation, wastage and death for millions.

Honest Money

Biblical economics also forbids unjust weights and measures/inflation.

“*Do not use dishonest standards when measuring length, weight or quantity. Use honest scales and honest weights . . . I am the Lord your God . . .*” Leviticus 19:35, 36

Throughout the Bible, money is spoken of by weight. God's Law required that financial transactions be made in terms of honest measures. **Inflation is the theft of wages and the destruction of savings by devaluing the currency.** This is the result of counterfeiting - printing more “*money*” than there is gold to back it. It is essentially dishonest - a hidden tax - where “*silver has become dross*” (Isaiah 1:22).

“*The Lord abhors dishonest scales, but accurate weights are His delight.*” Proverbs 11:1

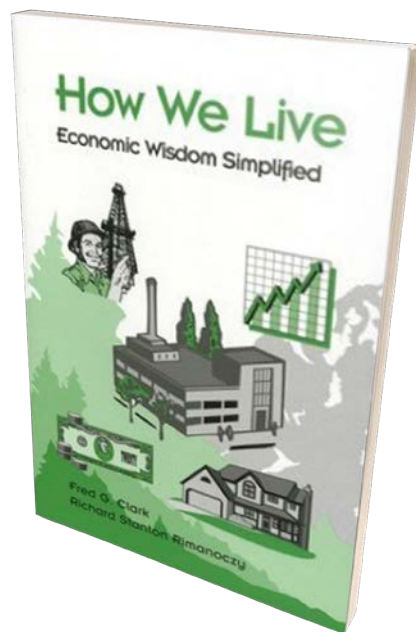
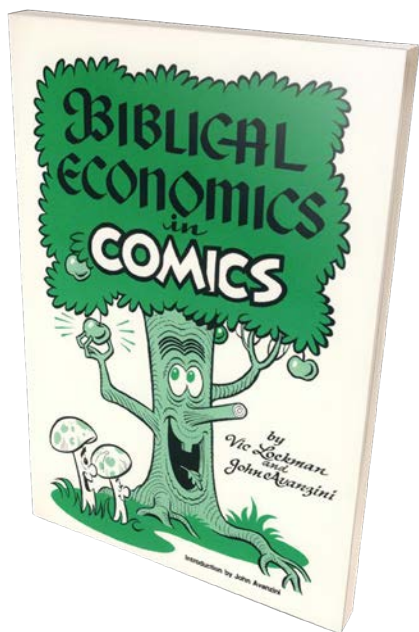
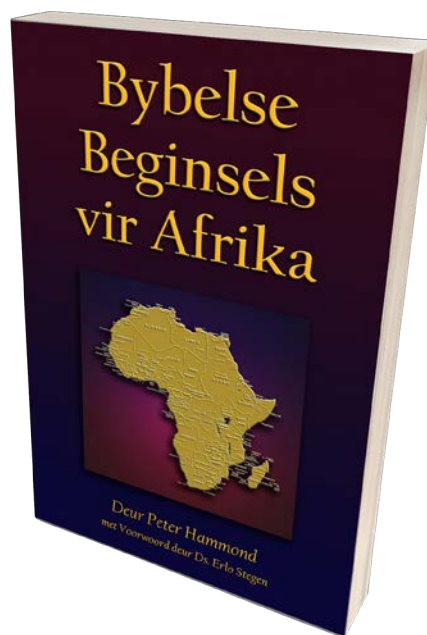
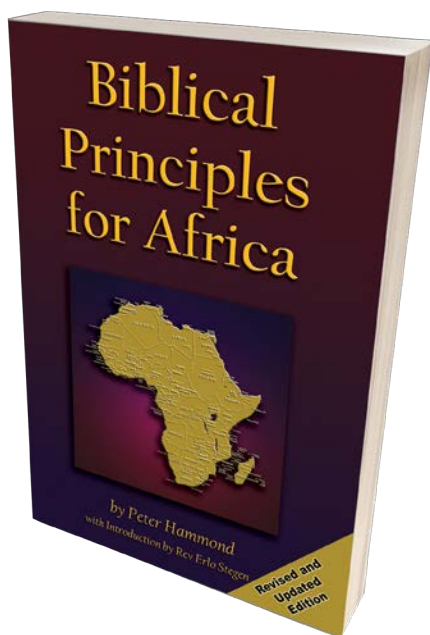
A survey on **inflation** in South Africa (undertaken by the Old Mutual) reported that in 1971 you could buy a car for about R1000. In 1981 the same amount of money could buy a motorbike. By 1991 the buying power of R1000 had so collapsed that you could buy a bicycle. By 2001 a good pair of running shoes cost over R1000.

In Zambia at independence (1964) one Kwacha equalled one British Pound. In 2011 one Pound equaled over 8000 Kwacha. At independence one could buy a car for about K140. By 2011 a bottle of Coca Cola cost over K1200.

*“ . . . Skimping the measure, boosting the price and **cheating** with dishonest scales . . . I will never forgive.”*
Amos 8:5-7

The **devastating impact of unbacked currency/inflation on pensions and savings is criminal**. Biblical law requires that we use honest scales and honest weights - in other words **honest money backed by real constant value**. (Proverbs 20: 10).

*“Shall I acquit a man with **dishonest scales**, with a bag of false weights? Her rich men are violent; her people are liars and their tongues speak deceitfully.”* Micah 6:11, 12



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REDISCOVERING THE CHRISTIAN WORK ETHIC

Laziness! Lethargy! Absenteeism! Corruption! Embezzlement! Theft! Strikes!

These are some of the now familiar words which describe the crisis in all too many of the work places of our country. Unless this disastrous trend is dramatically reversed, the economy will eventually collapse. The inevitable results of undermining the productivity of the economy are seen in increasing poverty and widespread unemployment. What is needed is for our country to rediscover the Christian work ethic.

At the very dawn of history God called man to work. God ordained work before the fall. Work is not a part of the curse. Adam was commanded to tend the garden before he fell into sin (Genesis 2: 15). Labour is a God given responsibility. Work is not a curse to be avoided, nor is it an undesirable activity to be pursued only when necessary. In the Bible we are commanded to:

“be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed . . .”

2 Timothy 2:15

Before the coming of Christ, the heathen nations despised honest work and consigned it to slaves. When Christ was born, half of the population of the Roman Empire were slaves. Three-quarters of the population of Athens were slaves.

When Luke visited Athens he noted that *“all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing.”* Acts 17:21

But Jesus revolutionised labour. By taking up the axe, the saw, the hammer and the plane, our Lord imbued labour with a new dignity. Christianity undercut slavery by giving dignity to work. By reforming work Christianity transformed the entire social order. In time this gave birth to the free enterprise system which brought unparalleled prosperity and progress to billions of people.

“The hand of the diligent makes one rich.” Proverbs 10:4

God is a worker. God worked to create the world and He works to sustain it. He is also constantly at work fulfilling His purposes in history and in the life of every person (Philippians 2: 13). As our Lord Jesus declared *“My Father has been working until now and I have been working”* John 5:17. God called His work *“good”*, confirming that work has intrinsic worth. Work is no disgrace - the disgrace is idleness.

“He who is slothful in his work is a brother to him who is a great destroyer.” Proverbs 18:9

God created man in His image as a worker. Before the fall, God assigned to men and women the task of caring for His earthly creation and cultivating the garden they lived in (Genesis 1:26 - 29; 2:8, 15). Work is a gift to us. By assigning responsibilities to Adam and Eve, God was making them significant and valuable. By working diligently they reflected God's image. This was the first partnership. Adam and Eve were created as co workers with God. God planted the garden and man cultivated it. All legitimate work is an extension of God's work.

“Therefore . . . whatever you do, do all to the glory of God” 1 Corinthians 10:31

Unfortunately, many Christians seem to have lost this Christian work ethic. Most people labour under the illusion that God is concerned merely with our purely spiritual pursuits. This misunderstanding is based upon these four **false assumptions**:

1. That God is only interested in people's souls, rather than their bodies.
2. The things of eternity are of such overriding importance as to exclude all concern with the things of time.
3. Life is divided into the secular and the sacred.
4. Becoming a minister, evangelist or missionary is the only way to serve God.

However, the Bible shows that God is interested in whole people, not in disembodied souls. Many of Amy Carmichael's fellow missionaries in India considered her efforts to build an orphanage and school was actually a *“worldly activity”* that distracted her from *“saving souls”*, to which she replied: *“Souls are more or less firmly attached to bodies.”*

The manufacturer who provides the goods, the transporter who ensures distribution and the shopkeeper who makes the item accessible to us are as vital to our lives as those who provide electricity, plumbing and roadworks. We need the teachers, nurses, policemen, firemen, postmen, businessmen, secretaries, mechanics and other workers.

What goes on in both time and for eternity are equally real and important to our Sovereign God. Being co-labourers with God in making His physical, temporal world run smoothly is important, as is co-labouring with Him in evangelism. Eternity is our ultimate destiny and we will each have to give an account of our lives before Almighty God. In the light of eternity we need to work diligently on earth. If God has designed you to be an architect, a carpenter or a builder, then build buildings to the glory of God. **The quality of our daily work should witness to our faith in Christ.** As Martin Luther declared: *“A dairymaid can milk cows to the glory of God.”*

For Fulfilment of the Great Commission

Good work well done is an essential part of fulfilling the Great Commission. God has commanded all Christians to proclaim the Gospel of Christ. Our witness is not only to be carried out by our **talk**, but also by our **walk**. It is not only what we say that proclaims our faith - it is by what we **do**. Our **words** mean nothing if they are not backed up by our **work**.

The great commandments of Christ are that we are to love God, and that we are to love other people (Mark 12:30,31). One of the ways we show love for God is by caring for His creation -reflecting the image of God in useful work. And one of the primary ways we show love for people is by doing productive work which contributes to their well being.

One of the best sermon illustrations is the daily testimony of a Christian doing his work with integrity and diligence. When others see our concern for both people and products we earn their respect and their interest in what motivates us.

For most Christians our workplace is our main mission field. Our job is not secondary to the making of friends and proclaiming the Gospel. In fact, completing our *“secular”* work in a God honouring way is one of the most powerful demonstrations of the Gospel. Through meaningful work we can reveal our love for God, His Word and His people by: serving people; meeting our own needs; meeting our family's needs; earning enough money to be generous to others, to practise hospitality and to support our local churches, charities and missions. As John Wesley taught: *“religion must necessarily produce both industriously and frugality.”* When we realise that God has placed us in our job to co-labour with Him, contributing to His creation, it leads to a sense of dignity and destiny in our work.

The Scripture declares that an industrious housewife and hard-working mother pleases the Lord and delights her husband (Proverbs 31:10-31). A man who fails to provide for his family . . . *“has denied the Faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”* 1 Timothy 5:8. Christians are commanded to learn to devote themselves *“to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful!”* Titus 3:14

In the parable of the talents, Jesus teaches us to serve Him faithfully with the talents He has entrusted into our care (Matthew 25: 14 -30). Christians must work in order to give to others: *“Let him who stole, steal no longer, but rather let him labour, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need”* Ephesians 4:28. Being a faithful worker is a powerful testimony to outsiders: *“. . . aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, that you may walk properly towards those who are outside, and that you may lack nothing.”* 1 Thessalonians 4:11 - 12

The Scriptures are scathing in recording God's denunciation of laziness:

“Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, which, having no captain, overseer or ruler, provides her supplies in the summer, and gathers her food in the harvest. How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep - so shall your poverty come on you like a robber . . .” Proverbs 6:6 - 11

“Because of laziness the building decays, and through idleness of hands the house leaks .”

Ecclesiastes 10:18

“Why have you been standing here idle all day?” Matthew 20:6

It is a disgrace to be lazy (Proverbs 10:5). Lazy people always find excuses not to work (Proverbs 15:19; 26: 13 - 16). Those who love sleep will grow poor (Proverbs 19:15;20: 13). *“I went by the field of the slothful, by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding; And there it was, all overgrown with thorns; its surface was covered with nettles, its stone wall was broken down . . . a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest; So your poverty will come like a prowler . . .”* Proverbs 24:30 - 34

Therefore, the Apostle Paul taught:

*“For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you . . . but worked with labour and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you . . . to make ourselves an example . . . We command you this: **If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.**”*

2 Thessalonians 3: 7-10

On the day of judgement *“each one 's work will become manifest”* 1 Corinthians 3:13. Jesus taught that *“whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.”* Matthew 20:26.

The Economic Fruit of Faith

Dr. James Kennedy in “What if Jesus had never been born?” made the following observations on the role of faith in economics: “Why has America - and for the most part, the West - enjoyed such material abundance? Why have some of the Asian countries also prospered after they adopted economic ideas from the West? If you look at the poor nations around the world, you will find that what the Bible says is true: they are what they are because of what they believe. *‘As a man thinketh in his heart so is he’* (Proverbs 23: 7). Look at India, a nation that has stagnated in its poverty for several millennia. Why? Because of what its people believe. Its Hindu religion teaches that there is no reality to matter. The external, visible world is unreal; therefore, you do not try to correct an unreal world; you try to escape from it. Consequently, progress dies. And the belief in reincarnation has also had a devastating effect on the nation's poverty. Or consider North Africa, which for centuries has been sunk in poverty, superstition and ignorance. Why? Because of what its people believe. The fatalism of Islam has kept the Muslims from progress because human initiative can accomplish absolutely nothing, and all that is, Allah has fated; therefore they are left in perpetual stagnation. Or consider the many nations of the East (prior to Western influence), whose religion is Buddhism, which teaches that life is irreparably evil and cannot be changed. Man's only hope is to rid himself of all desire for any improvement in this life. The goal is not a more abundant life, but its extinction - absorption into the world-soul - and so the very roots of social amelioration are severed. No so with the nations that have had a Christian base, especially when they have applied a more Biblical interpretation of economics.”

Many would be surprised to learn that there are over 700 references to money in the Bible. Nearly two-thirds of the recorded parables of Christ deal with the use and handling of money. In the Ten Commandments God laid the foundation for all good economics: **private ownership of property**. The right to life, liberty and property and the importance of the family unit as the basic building block of society are all spelled out in Exodus 20.

The commandments, *“Thou shalt not steal . . . Thou shalt not covet”* have inspired millions of believers to work hard, show up on time and to be honest. The free enterprise system has generated the highest standards of living on the face of the earth since the creation of the world. Many Christians can testify to the fact that when they became Christians they began to prosper. Firstly, this is because they stopped wasting their money on alcohol, gambling, cigarettes, drugs, prostitutes, pornography or other vices. (1 Peter 4:2-3)

Secondly, they began to have a purpose for their lives and work. *“And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the Name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”* (Colossians 3:17)

Thirdly, Christians have new wisdom, inspiration and strength from God (James 1:5, Philippians 4:13).

Fourthly, Christians are freed from many of the anxieties, worries and fears which so frustrate and limit one (Philippians 4:6).

The Effects of Sin on Work

When man rebelled against God, the ground that man had to cultivate was cursed, but the task of cultivating it was not a punishment (Genesis 3:14-19). Granting sinful man the responsibility to undertake some constructive work was actually a gift of grace. The devil finds evil work for idle hands, so productive employment is actually a protection from falling into even worse sins.

Inaction speaks louder than words. Idleness is an enemy of the soul. Our idle days are Satan's busy days. As C.H. Spurgeon said: *“Some temptations come to the industrious, but all temptations come to the idle.”*

Sin, however, made work harder. The burdensomeness of work is a result of the Fall. The sinfulness of man leads to the deception, dishonesties and degeneration which affect the business world. People lie, cheat, steal, overcharge, waste valuable time and money, engage in corruption and produce shoddy workmanship. Often Christians who sincerely want to work with integrity are forced to deal with unethical suppliers. Even Christians of integrity often need to battle their own sinful temptations to laziness, selfish ambition or pride.

Many in our culture have made an idol out of their work. Instead of seeking to glorify God by co-labouring with Him and serving others, many workaholics and overly ambitious individuals try to climb the corporate ladder at any cost. Instead of finding their worth as a child of the Living God they seek to prove their worth by financial prosperity or career success.

However, success in life is measured by how faithfully we love God, our family and our neighbours -not by work status. God is more interested in the heart motivations, attitudes and integrity of a person than in his outward appearance and position. While careful planning, efficiency and hard work are commendable, nothing justifies unethical work practices or hurting people. “*Success*” at any price is a sure recipe for failure. A man whose children are on drugs, whose marriage is on the rocks and whose employees despise his morals is a failure in God's eyes - even if he is “*successful*” in business.

“For what advantage is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?”

Luke 9:25

To the Glory of God

It would be worthwhile for each of us to prayerfully examine our motives for working. Sinful motivations and attitudes would include: a lust for wealth, status, respect or power, to avoid responsibilities at home, or to just collect our pay cheque without due concern for the quality of our work. Selfish ambition, greed or careless indolence are equally wicked in the sight of God. On the other hand God-honouring motives include: the desire to meet people's needs, to serve and honour Christ and to glorify our Creator.

Our responsibility is to do our work to the very best of our ability, out of love for Christ and to the Glory of God. As the great inventor Thomas Edison said: “*There is no substitute for hard work . . . I never did anything worth doing by accident nor did any of my inventions come by accident; they came by work.*”

A dictionary is the only place where you will find success before work. An idle life and a holy heart are a contradiction in terms. Salvation is a helmet - not a nightcap. Our work should be an overflow of our devotion to God.

The foundation for a truly free and prosperous nation can only be laid in characters, minds and lives changed by the grace of God. In order to be successful, a society needs to be made up of honest citizens who will not steal; diligent people who are hard working and productive; compassionate families who are concerned for their neighbours and responsible workers who will fulfil their obligations and be faithful stewards of public resources.

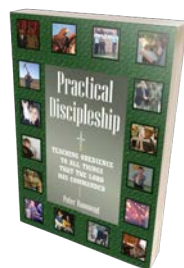
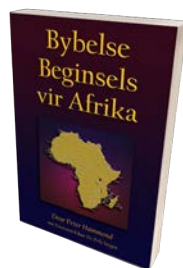
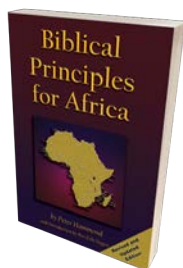
For nations to be strong their families need to be strong. For governments to be good their citizens need to be good. Those who cannot control themselves are not capable of ruling over a city (Proverbs 16:32). Those who cannot manage their household well are not qualified to lead others (1 Timothy 3:4-5).

For this reason, the message of “*repentance and forgiveness of sins must be preached . . . to all nations.*”

Luke 24:47

The Church is to “*make disciples of all the nations . . . teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you*” Matthew 28: 19 - 20.

Each one of us need to “*be transformed by the renewing of your mind; that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God*” Romans 12:2.



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THE BIBLICAL SOLUTION TO CRIME

There was a time when few of us were touched by crime. Then we all began to know somebody who had been affected by crime. Now each of us has our own stories of how we were stolen from, directly threatened by crime, or worse.

At a recent meeting, the 80-odd people in attendance were asked to name some of the crimes they had personally experienced. In short order, those present related house breaking, car theft, cell phone theft, fraud, assault, hijacking, armed robbery and murder - all experienced either by themselves or their immediate family, recently.

At almost any social occasion, you can find South Africans swapping stories about a brush with death or the long hand of crime having stolen from them and their loved ones. Crime is a reality that affects each one of us. The situation in South Africa got so bad that the government even placed a moratorium on crime statistics, forbidding the police to release statistics of incidents of crime in South Africa to the voters and tax payers they are meant to represent and serve.

The Cost of Crime

According to a study by the American Management Association, US businesses annually lose over \$10 billion to employee theft, over \$4 billion to embezzlement, over \$2.5 billion to burglary, over \$2 billion to shoplifting, over \$1.3 billion to arson and over half a million dollars per incident of computer fraud. According to the US Department of Commerce, approximately one-third of all business failures each year can be traced to employee theft. US law enforcement officials estimate that almost half of all employees are guilty of stealing. Retailers in South Africa lose billions of Rand each year to shoplifting and even more to theft by employees.

Who Pays?

Now obviously somebody has to pay for the cost of all this theft. You and I and all the other customers have to share the burden of the billions of Rands shoplifted, or stolen by employees. In addition, we have to pay for the increased insurance premiums, for the additional security personnel and equipment necessitated by this shoplifting spree. It all gets added to the price tag of everything we buy.

Of course we also pay for the cost of crime through our taxes and in supporting the police force, legal and judicial system and the prison service, which is all meant to be designed to protect us from the criminal elements of society. But far more seriously, a vast number of South Africans are directly suffering the effects of crime, personally.

What Causes Crime?

What causes crime? I have heard University professors and other experts speaking about how very complicated it is to analyse the sociological and economic factors that lead to the phenomenon of crime. Yet, if we turn to the Bible, we will find a very straightforward answer: *“Why do people commit crimes so readily? Because crime is not punished quickly enough.”* Ecclesiastes 8: 11

Surely that is the common sense answer. It is so obvious. Crime is increasing in our society because our courts seem to be more obsessed with the *“rights”* of the criminal, but not as concerned about the rights of the victim, or the policemen for that matter. Murderers have been released while policemen have been prosecuted. Rapists have been set free on amnesties, and presidential pardons, while victims have been imprisoned for defending themselves. Right has become wrong and wrong has become right! *“Woe to those who call evil good and good evil. ... who acquit the guilty for a bribe, but deny justice to the innocent.”* Isaiah 5:20-23

The Role of Government

The Bible is very clear that God has instituted civil government as *“an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.”* Romans 13:4. The civil government is called to be a minister of God’s justice: *“to punish those who do wrong”* 1 Peter 2: 14.

The primary duties and responsibilities of civil government are the protection of the law-abiding citizens and punishment of law-breaking criminals. Psalm 101 reminds us that the duty of God-honouring rulers is to destroy the wicked, to root out evil and to protect the law-abiding - all to the glory of God. *“Every authority instituted among men ... who are sent by Him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.”* 1 Peter 2: 13-14

“For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong . . . for he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.” Romans 13:3-4

Capital Punishment

For those who hold the Word of God as authoritative, capital punishment is not a matter of choice or opinion poll, or even of court or parliamentary decree. It is God's clear command: *“Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man.”* Genesis 9:6

God instituted Capital Punishment long before the enactment of the Mosaic Law. In fact, Capital punishment was declared not only for Noah's time, but ".for all generations to come. “ Genesis 9: 12

“Anyone who strikes a man and kills him shall surely be put to death ... if a man schemes and kills another man deliberately, take him away from My altar and put him to death ... anyone who kidnaps ... must be put to death.” Exodus 21: 12-16

“If anyone takes the life of a human being, he must be put to death ... whoever kills a man must be put to death ... I am the Lord your God.” Leviticus 24: 17-22

“Bloodshed pollutes the land and atonement cannot be made for the land on which blood has been shed, except by the blood of the one who shed it.” Numbers 35:33

God's Law remains in force after Calvary (Acts 25:22). As our Lord Jesus taught: *“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them. I tell you the truth, until Heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law.”* Matthew 5: 17-18

The government *“does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.”* (Romans 13:4) Governors *“are sent by Him to punish those who do wrong.”* (1 Peter 2:14).

“Anyone who kills with a sword, must himself be killed by the sword.” Revelation 13:10

By obeying God's Law and punishing murderers with the death penalty, a nation can cleanse itself from the guilt of innocent blood. On the other hand, a nation that refuses to avenge the taking of innocent human life, must share the guilt of the murderer (Deuteronomy 21: 1-9).

The opposition of certain *“human rights”* groups to the death penalty is selective. As capital punishment is only inflicted upon murderers, one is given to wonder why these groups are so concerned for the *“rights”* of murderers? Should we not provide compassion and justice for the many thousands of victims and families of victims of violent crimes?

Since the state unilaterally suspended the death penalty for murder in South Africa (in 1989), criminals have inflicted the death penalty on well over 250 000 innocent victims in South Africa. Who is campaigning for their rights? And what about the 250 000 who could be murdered in the coming decade? Surely any civilised society has the moral right and the duty to protect itself from those who have no respect for human life?

The taking of a murderer's life is akin to the amputation of a diseased limb in order to save the rest of the body. All murder is serious and demands capital punishment. Capital punishment is necessary for justice, for the rule of law and for the protection of the innocent.

Restitution

In cases of theft, arson or malicious damage to property, the Bible decrees restitution. Restitution is the restoration of a thing to its proper place or owner. It is reparation for injury or damage to property. The Bible requires that the restitution goes entirely to the victim of the crime. Restitution is also required for culpable negligence. God's Law is clear: the criminal is held accountable and is responsible to pay for his crime. He is to work and earn, in money or kind, that which is required for the reparation of what he stole, damaged or destroyed. *“... he should make full restitution; if he has nothing, then he shall be sold for his theft. If the theft is certainly found alive in his hand, whether it is an ox or a donkey or sheep, he shall restore double. If a man causes a field or vineyard to be grazed and lets loose his animal, and it feeds in another man's field,*

he shall make restitution from the best of his own field and the best of his own vineyard. If fire breaks out and catches in thorns, so that stacked grain, standing grain or the field is consumed, he who kindled the fire shall surely make restitution.” Exodus 22: 3-6. The punishment is to fit the crime. The more serious the crime, the more severe the punishment (Deuteronomy 19:15-21).

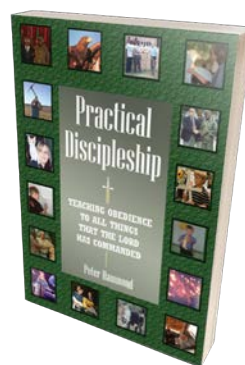
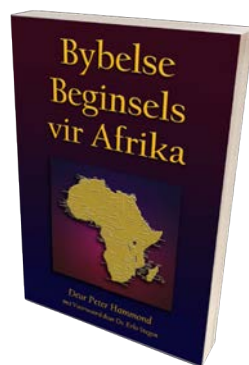
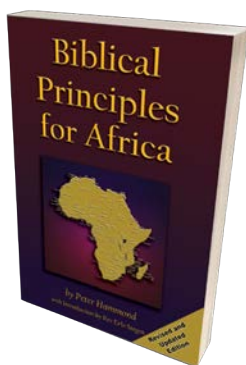
Under God's Law, there would be fewer criminals, fewer victims and much less burden on the tax payer. Under our present humanistic system, our prisons have become a higher institute of learning for criminals, where they cross train one another and work out how not to get caught next time. Instead of the victim and his relatives receiving restitution, under our present system the victims are forced to pay taxes which provide food, accommodation and entertainment for the criminals, while they languish in prison. The solution to this intolerable situation includes a return to the Biblical pattern of restitution.

Making Sure that Crime Does Not Pay

There are also some practical, common sense measures which could ensure that crime does not continue to pay in South Africa.

1. Repeat offenders should be made to complete the rest of their sentence before beginning their second sentence.
2. No bail should be available for repeat offenders. (There is no provision for bail for serious offences in the Bible).
3. All violent criminals should bear the full responsibility for their actions, whether or not they were deemed mentally competent, drunk or of diminished capacity, or under the influence of drugs (Numbers 35: 16-21).
4. Penalties for violent youths should be the same as for adults. Those who commit adult crimes such as rape and murder should suffer adult consequences (Ezekiel 18:10-13).
5. A return to the Biblical principles of execution for all first degree murder, rape and kidnapping; and restitution for all theft of, or damage to, property. (Exodus 21 and 22).
6. As it is impossible for any police force to guarantee the safety of every citizen, no hindrance should be placed upon the right of law-abiding citizens to obtain and use firearms for self-defence. As the vast majority of violent crimes are committed by criminals using unlicensed weapons, it is clear that restricting the rights of citizens to own, carry and use licensed firearms, cannot prevent violent crime. Disarming the potential victims of crime can only serve the purposes of the criminal. We therefore must reaffirm the Biblical lights and responsibilities of citizens to obtain, own, carry and use firearms for personal or family defence. (Exodus 22:2; Nehemiah 4: 14; 1 Timothy 5:8).

It is time for the civil authorities to take consistent, strong and resolute action to protect law-abiding citizens and to punish law-breaking criminals. *“Administer justice every morning; rescue from the hand of his oppressor the one who has been robbed, or My wrath will break out and burn like fire because of the evil you have done - burn with no-one to quench it.”* Jeremiah 21: 12



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FIREPOWER AND FAITH

Firearms in the hands of pastors or missionaries seems to have become a controversial subject. There is no doubt that the primary weapons for missionaries and pastors are spiritual - the Bible and prayer. However, does God require full-time Christian workers to ignore Biblical commands, which require self-defence and mandate the protection of one's family? (See: Exodus 22:2; Nehemiah 4: 14; Luke 22: 36; 1 Timothy 5: 18).

Sometime ago, while I was engaged in a mission trip to Sudan, I was taking the picture of 4 pastors, each in their clerical collars, and each holding an AK-47 assault rifle. I requested them to put their rifles to one side for the picture. They laughed. "*Christians in the West will not understand pastors carrying firearms*" I told them. They laughed even more. I put my camera down and explained: "*pastors in the West do not carry rifles.*"

The response of one was: "*Why not?*"

Why not indeed? The present paranoia against firearms has not been shared throughout most of Church history. Christians have always maintained that evil comes from within, from the heart, mind and soul of individuals. A bad workman blames his tools. We cannot blame a cold, metal, inanimate object for the evil that men choose to do. While many men have misused firearms, many others have used firearms to protect the innocent and to prevent evil doers from having their way.

During a slide presentation in a church in America, the pastor objected to the Christians in Sudan taking up arms against the Sudan government. I asked him what Americans celebrate on the 4th July? He seemed somewhat confused, so I reminded him that their founding fathers had unilaterally declared independence from Great Britain on 4 July 1776. The British called it a rebellion.

The American colonists took up arms against the Crown because the British had failed to rule the Americans in accordance with *Magna Carta* of 1215, and the Declaration of Rights of 1689. King George III had violated his Coronation Oath. The American Founding Fathers maintained that the British government was no longer an authority to be submitted to, but a tyrannical power to be resisted. How then could Americans object to Christians in Sudan doing what they had done in 1776?

I then pointed out that in the entrance way to their Church they had a framed, colour picture on the wall of early American settlers going to Church, carrying their rifles with their Bibles. I reminded him that many Churches in America in the 17th Century fined men if they came to Church without a rifle! 1 Timothy 5:8 requires men to make provision for their family, and declares that any who fail to do so deny the Faith and are worse than an infidel! Churches penalised members who showed such irresponsibility as to fail to carry a weapon for the defence of their family members.

I then had to point out that Sudan, today, with slave raiders kidnapping children, burning crops, looting cattle, poisoning wells, destroying Churches and crucifying pastors, is far more dangerous than America was in the 1600's.

Far from Christians in previous centuries having an aversion to firearms, not only were swords or rifles freely brought into many Churches, but the pastors were often some of the best shots in town. During the American War of Independence, an enormous amount of pastors served as officers in the Continental Army under General George Washington, fighting for independence.

Pioneer missionary William Carey, whose landmark book, "*An Enquiry Into The Obligation Of Christians*", the book which launched the modern missionary movement, listed as essential equipment for any missionary "*knives, powder and shot*". Mary Slessor included Maxim machine guns in her checklist to a mission team coming to a very violent, slave trade ravaged area of Nigeria.

David Livingstone, pioneer missionary and explorer who first landed in Africa in 1840, was well equipped with some of the most advanced weapons then available, including a 6-barrelled revolver. On occasion Livingstone was compelled to use his weapons for protection from wild beasts and to persuade slave traders to set the captives free. At one point, when criticised, Livingstone responded: "*I love peace as much as any mortal man. In fact, I go quite beyond you, for I love it so much I would fight for it.*" Blessed are the peacemakers - not the pacifists. To make peace requires resolution, courage and action.

Bishop McKenzie, of the Church Missionary Society, was involved in several fire fights against slave traders in the Shiri Valley (present day Malawi), and set many captives free.

Francis McDougal, the first Bishop of Labuan, reported an attack by pirates in 1862: "*My double-barrelled Torry's breechloader proved a most deadly weapon, for its true shooting and certainty and rapidity of firing.*"

Many religious readers today would be shocked and horrified to read such reports in present-day missionary newsletters. Perhaps the comfortable and prosperous surroundings that most Christians in the West have enjoyed for so long have blinded us to the harsh realities that most Christians throughout the centuries, and less fortunate parts of the world today, have had to face. An unBiblical pacifism has gripped many Western Christians.

When world-famous cricketer turned pioneer missionary, C.T. Studd, undertook the first baptisms in a river in the Congo, he needed to fight off the crocodiles with a revolver in one hand while baptising the new converts with the other!

Adoniram Judson, America's first foreign missionary to Burma was captured on the high seas and incarcerated in a French prison, from which he escaped. Later he was imprisoned and tortured in "death prison" in Burma for eighteen months.

David Livingstone was mauled by a lion and endured multiple attacks on his life by slave traders.

John Paton, missionary to the cannibals in the New Hebrides Islands, described being encircled by cannibals "in a deadly ring and one kept urging another to strike the first blow."

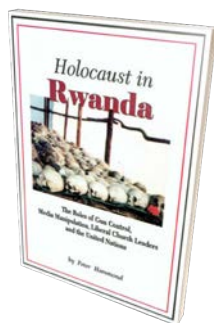
Missionaries such as these faced dangers which we can hardly imagine. We should not be too quick to judge and condemn others for doing what the Bible commands them to do, to take reasonable precautions for self-defence and for the protection of their families. Yes, the primary weapons of missionaries are the Bible, prayer, faith and persuasion. Just as our primary spiritual food is the Word of God. But that does not stop us planting seeds, harvesting crops, shopping in the market and preparing food. Christians must be balanced, and we need to recognise that sin comes from the heart of man (Mark 7: 21-23). There is no point blaming a tool for the evil in men's hearts. Pacifism is in defiance of historic Church teaching.

The *Thirty-Nine Articles*, the foundational statement of the Church of England, states clearly in article 37: "It is lawful for Christian men to carry weapons. "The Westminster Catechism, considered the finest expression of Biblical teaching, states under the Sixth Commandment that the prohibition against murder requires as our duty "all careful studies, and lawful endeavours, to preserve the life of ourselves and others by resisting by just defence against violence protecting and defending the innocent." (Q 135).

Under sins forbidden, the *Westminster Standards* includes: "The sins forbidden in the Sixth Commandment are all taking away the life of ourselves, or of others, except in the case of public justice, lawful war; or necessary defence; the neglecting, or withdrawing the lawful and necessary means of preservation of life; and whatever else tends to the destruction of the life of any." (Q136). In other words, God's Law forbids any government restrictions or interference in the right and duty of self-defence. It also forbids us neglecting these means for protecting the innocent.

Common Law has recognised this, including *Magna Carta* of 1215 and the English Declaration of Rights of 1689, which were foundational to the United States Bill of Rights. All these recognised the inalienable right of all free men to keep and bear weapons for self-defence.

The first president of America, George Washington, declared: "Firearms stand next in importance to the Constitution itself They are the American people : liberty teeth and keystone under independence. To secure peace, security and happiness, the rifle and the pistol are equally indispensable. The very atmosphere of firearms everywhere restrains evil interference. They deserve a place of honour with all that is good."



"Like a muddied spring or a polluted well is a righteous man who gives way to the wicked." Proverbs 25:26

"If anyone does not provide for his relatives and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." 1 Timothy 5:8

"... he who has no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one." Luke 22:36

"If the thief is found breaking in, and he is struck so that he dies, there shall be no guilt for his bloodshed." Exodus 22:2



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CHRISTIANS CAN CHANGE THIS WORLD

If God can change you - then God can use you to change some part of this world.

That our fallen world needs changing is beyond question. When our newspapers and films glamorise immorality, undermine traditional family values and encourage selfishness, greed and lust; when criminals escape justice by legal technicalities; when half of the world suffers under totalitarian dictatorships and persecution; when pornography, perversion, abortions, terrorism and the occult are increasing - then we know that this world needs to be changed.

But most Christians have abandoned their moral responsibility to bring the light of the Gospel into heathen darkness. Many Christians are allowing their own children to be brought up by godless humanism in the schools and entertained by occultism and pagan magic through Hollywood films and television.

There are many anti-Christian forces seeking to undermine and destroy the Christian Faith, including: persecution by Muslim and communist governments; secular humanist domination of educational institutions, the entertainment industry and news media; and false gospels and unBiblical heresies within many theological seminaries and all too many churches.

We've also allowed ourselves to become misinformed, brainwashed and intimidated into feeling guilty for the great achievements of Christian missionaries and reformers over the past centuries. Christians who are ignorant of history have ended up apologising for those faithful Christians who converted cannibals, ended inter-tribal genocide, abolished child sacrifices, defeated witchcraft and won whole nations to Christ.

Many Christians have surrendered to the forces of darkness, entered into negotiations and co-operation with idolaters, "*demythologized*" the Bible, removed "*offensive*" Bible passages from their preaching and lowered standards to allow the unconverted easy access to the church.

In the past the church went out to conquer the world for Christ. Today, in too many churches, Christ is being sold for 30 pieces of silver, or less. Instead of the church changing the world, the world is changing the church.

For decades now many Christians in the West have been turning away from the God-orientated, Bible-based, Christ-centred foundation of the Reformation. Instead, many Christians have been turning to the man-centred humanism of the Renaissance, which has always inevitably led to the extremes of permissiveness or totalitarianism, as seen in the French Revolution and the Russian Revolution.

The results of this apostasy are plain to see in the abortion holocaust, the pornography industry and the political protection of perversions in the West; and the massacres and concentration camps of the East.

The results of abandoning God's eternal standards as revealed in the Bible, are families that fail to nurture, governments that fail to punish the guilty, governments that fail to provide security for the law-abiding, schools that fail to educate and churches that fail to be houses of prayer for all nations, making disciples, teaching obedience.

We're living in an age of guilt manipulation where all too many Christians are being prepared for slavery by the abuse of Scripture and by the manipulation of our emotions. Some of the key phrases in this campaign are: love, unity, equality, tolerance and reconciliation. Nice words. Noble sentiments. However, the slogan of the French Revolution was: "*Liberty! Equality! Brotherhood!*" (Actually the full, original slogan of the French Revolution was: "*Liberty! Equality! Brotherhood! Or Death!*"). Yet, despite the apparent good intentions of their slogan, 40 000 heads rolled as the guillotine went into overtime, 300 000 were executed by other means, and Europe was plunged into 25 years of war - with millions killed.

In the same way, we must be aware of the politics of guilt and pity, which seek to manipulate our emotions and make us the willing tools of evil men who know how to disguise their intentions. By observation, we can note that some of the cliches used in this moral revolution have hidden meanings. For example, love can mean the passive acceptance of evil; by unity is usually meant conformity; equality you can find in the concentration camps in Red China; by tolerance is normally meant tolerance of evil; and by reconciliation is normally meant surrender. (Why should we disagree, argue or fight? Be reasonable. Give in to my way and we'll be reconciled).

What is the solution? What can we do? Firstly, we need to study the Scriptures to learn the objective truth. The Word of God must be the judge and the solid foundation of all our actions. This is where the Reformation started. Until we know the Word of God, we can be easily misled.

Secondly, we must warn our people about the dangers of humanism, immorality, false religions like Islam and Marxist revision of history. We must wake up to what is happening around us and expose the tactics of anti Christian forces.

Thirdly, we must realise that truth is not determined by majority opinion, but by the Word of God. We must not confuse change with advance. Neither must we allow ourselves to become guilt manipulated. Refuse to apologise for the alleged sins of Christians of another age and place.

Fourthly, we need to encourage our people and direct them to positive Christian action. *“Without a vision, the people perish.”* We need to instil courage, hope for the future and build up our faith in God's Word. People overcome by fear and guilt are unable to resist evil. We must turn to God and find forgiveness, freedom and strength through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

Elijah dared to stand alone against the 450 false prophets of Baal and the 400 false prophets of Asherah. Elijah challenged their heresy and idolatry. Elijah's faith in God made him strong and bold enough to oppose the majority who were wrong. And Elijah changed history that day on Mount Carmel -by exposing falsehood and turning the people of Israel back to God (1 Kings 18).

Wycliffe, Huss, Luther, Zwingli, Calvin, Tyndale and Knox changed the course of human history by daring to study the Bible and by boldly speaking out against the unBiblical teachings and corrupt abuses of the medieval Roman Catholic church.

Missionaries like **William Carey** changed history by taking the Gospel to India, translating the Bible into numerous local languages, and by ending the Hindu practices of infanticide, child prostitution and the burning alive of widows on the funeral pyres of their deceased husbands.

William Wilberforce launched a life-long campaign to end the slave trade and set the captives free.

Eastern and tribal thought have a cyclical view of history. Repetition and *“the inevitability of history”* are so ingrained in Animist and Eastern thought that they see themselves as suffering history rather than affecting or making history. Easterners see themselves as caught up in the process of history and at the mercy of the forces of nature, the spirits or the ancestors (all external forces).

This is in contrast to the Christian worldview, which sees a linear development of history -which starts at creation, goes through the flood, the giving of the Law at Mount Sinai, the Incarnation of Christ, His crucifixion and resurrection, His Ascension, the Day of Pentecost and will culminate in the Return of Christ and the Day of Judgement. Hence Christians say: *“Only one life, it will soon be past - only what's done for Christ will last.”*

Every day is unique, every opportunity must be used. Time is limited in the Christian worldview. The Christian sees himself as significant because he is an individual created by God with a purpose. This emphasis on the individual is unique to Christianity among the major world religions. We must each individually stand before God on the Day of Judgement and give an account of our faith and conduct. Each of us must repent for our own sins and exercise personal faith in Christ for forgiveness for our sins and freedom from the power of sin.

In Christian thought, nature is subject to us, able to be developed and used for God's glory. We are able to change the course of history, because our Sovereign God is Almighty, His Word is the power of God for the salvation of all who believe, and He answers prayer.

The Bible teaches us to have a holy dissatisfaction with second best, a bold faith to trust God for great things, to step out and to change what is wrong and to establish what is right in God's eyes. We must not underestimate the power of praying according to God's Word and stepping out in faith and obedience to His commands. It is this faith that enabled Christians to end child sacrifices, cannibalism, polygamy, slavery, widow burning and other atrocities of heathen religions.

But remember, **you cannot have victory without a battle.** Sacrifice and risk are essential. We can never win if we keep avoiding problems - we must solve problems by facing them and dealing with them. The future belongs to the brave and the bold.

Are you such a Christian who can claim:

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Philippians 4: 13

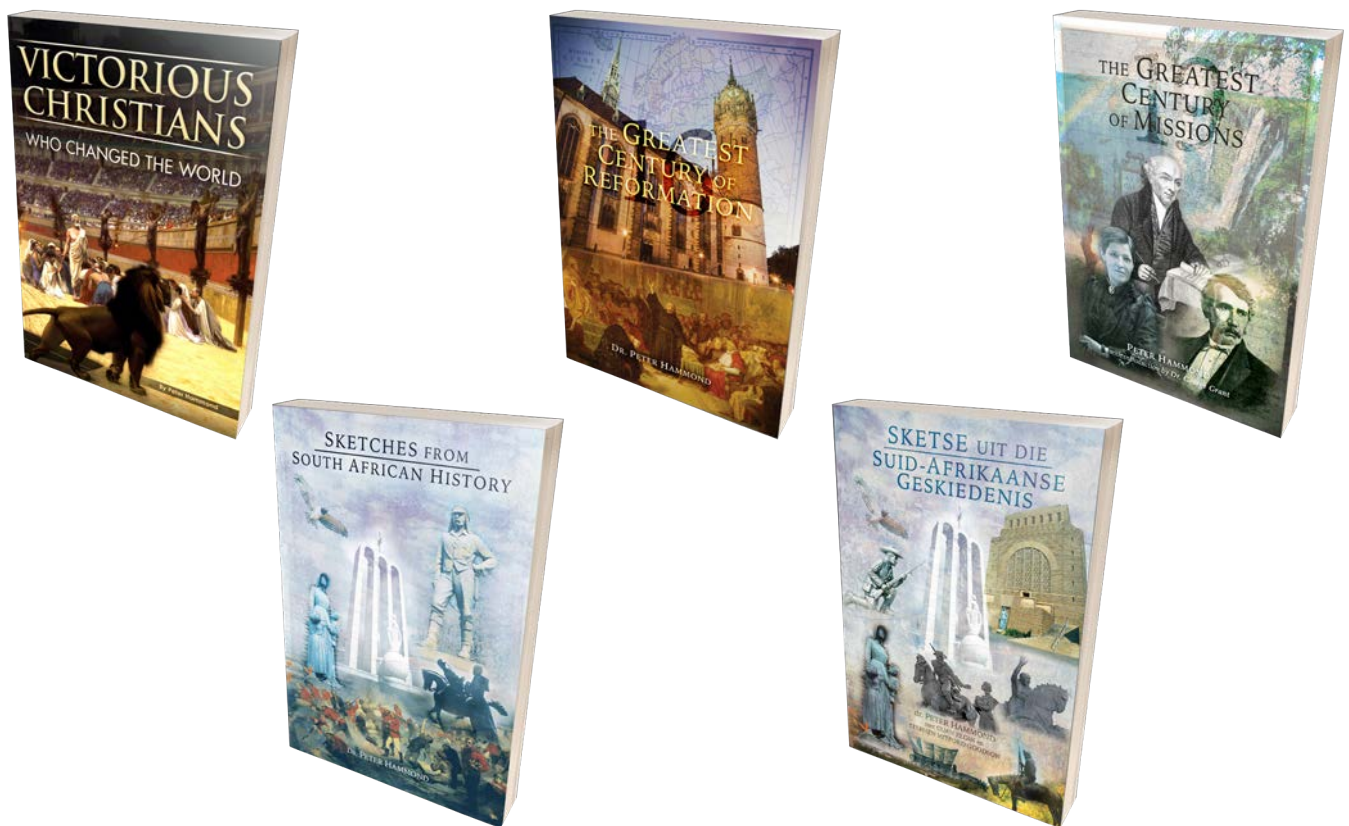
Christianity calls us to action. The Eastern religions, on the other hand, produce stagnant, backward, non productive societies obsessed with selfish meditation and fatalism. However, as the West accepts more and more of the Eastern religions and pagan presuppositions of false religions, much of the West is decaying on the inside through secularisation, permissiveness and materialism. By neglecting God's Word, by forgetting those Christian principles which made the West prosperous and free, our people are dying on the inside. There is a practical unbelief -having the form of Christianity but rejecting its real power (2 Timothy 3:5). Many times one can hardly tell the difference between the standards of the Christian and the heathen. All too many are obsessed with “*me, myself and I*” - this existentialism (self-centred experience orientation) and humanism. All this has breed selfishness, pride and rebel lion against God.

One of the results of this “*me*” generation obsessed with self-gratification is that the cohesive unity of our communities has vanished. In this age of mobility and prosperity, loyalty is being rejected. Loyalty to family, wife, church, denomination, work and country is evaporating. This is an age of rebellion and self-assertion - doing your own thing. Long-term commitments seem to be no longer acceptable to most of this self-seeking generation.

It is the responsibility of God's people in the Church to offer our confused and searching young people an exciting challenge, a worthwhile cause, a demanding mission and opportunities for action. But we must again teach our people, by word and example, of the need for long-term commitment and uncompromising standards of loyalty to God and country, to church and mission, to duty and honour, to family and friends. Personal, wholehearted commitment to Christ and His cause is at the heart of the Gospel.

We have to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind and with all our strength. Are you committed to Christ? Are you wholeheartedly committed to His standards of duty, honour and loyalty -no matter what the cost?

By faith and obedience we can tum stumbling blocks into stepping stones, crisis situations into opportunities for ministry, battles into victory. We are “*more than conquerors*” (Romans 8:37) and “*overcomers*” (1 John 5 :4) through Christ.



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REFORMING OUR FAMILIES

“Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; He is the faithful God, keeping His covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love Him and keep His commandments.” Deuteronomy 7:9

The second commandment contains both a severe threat and a most incredibly gracious promise. *“You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in Heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to thousands who love Me and keep My commandments.”* Deuteronomy 5:8-10

A Solemn Responsibility

Parents have an awesome responsibility. We are to bring our children up *“in the training and instruction of the Lord”* Ephesians 6:4. We are to *“train a child in the way he should go ...”* Proverbs 22:6

We are to manage our own family well and see that our children learn to obey with proper respect (1 Timothy 3:4).

We are to *“tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, His power and the wonders He has done ... so that the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget His deeds, but would keep His commands. They would not be ... stubborn and rebellious ... whose hearts were not loyal to God, whose spirits were not faithful to Him.”* Psalm 78:4-8

The Bible tells us to not just raise God-fearing sons, but sons who will become God-fearing fathers, who in turn will raise God-fearing sons to become fathers who will love, honour, trust and obey God. We are to raise disciples who raise disciples so that God's generational blessing is passed down and the chain unbroken.

The First Priority of Parents

One of the most important passages in the Bible comes in Deuteronomy 6, right after the restating of the Ten Commandments. It contains the most important statement, the most important command and the first priority of parents.

*“These are the commands, decrees and laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe ... so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all His decrees and commandments that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. Hear O Israel and be careful to obey, so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in the land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord the God of your fathers promised you. Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is One. **Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.** These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. **Impress them on your children.** Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the door frames of your houses and on your gates ... Be careful that you do not forget the Lord who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. **Fear the Lord your God. serve Him only ...”** Deuteronomy 6: 1-13.*

Here, at a most important occasion, after reminding all Israel of the Ten Commandments, the uniqueness of our Sovereign Lord is proclaimed. Then what our Lord Jesus identified as the greatest commandment is given: *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”* This is the summary of all the commandments. And as our Lord reminded us: *“If you love Me, you will obey what I command.”* John 14:15

Educating the Next Generation

The very first application of this, the greatest commandment, is to *“Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”* The education and discipleship of the next generation is given as the very first application of God's Law and the highest priority of God's people. We are not merely to teach a head knowledge, but a wholehearted love for the Lord, not just with all our heart, but with all our soul and with all our strength. Body, mind and spirit in every aspect of our lives, we are to radiate and reflect our love for our Lord. These commandments should be discussed morning, noon and night. From the first thing in the morning to the last thing at night. God's Word is to be such an integral part of our lives that everything we do with our hands and everything that we think with our minds is to be guided and governed by Scripture. Our homes should also reflect the Lordship of Christ in

all areas of life and everything within our gates, even our gardens. People should be able to tell the difference Christ makes in our lives. They should see that we love the Lord and that the Bible governs every aspect of our lives.

If we fail to do this, we may reach the disgraceful and disastrous situation described in Judges 2: 10: *“Another generation grew up, who knew neither the Lord nor what He had done ...”*

We are in danger of that today when many children of Christian parents are more enthusiastic for Pokemon and Harry Potter, which are occultic, than for the Lord Jesus and the Bible.

“My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as My priests; because you have ignored the Law of your God, I will also ignore your children.” Hosea 4:6

We are commanded in Scripture *“only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.”* Deuteronomy 4:9

“Their children, who do not know this Law, must hear it and learn to fear the Lord your God ...” Deuteronomy 31:13

The Bible includes many frightening examples of tragic failure by Christian leaders to adequately disciple and discipline their children in the ways of the Lord. The High Priest, Eli, failed to restrain his sons (who were priests) from dishonourable and disastrous conduct (1 Samuel 3: 13). The children of the prophet Samuel also behaved in a disgraceful way, accepting bribes and perverting justice (1 Samuel 8:3).

King David's failure to discipline his rebellious sons, Adonijah and Absalom, had the most disastrous consequences for the Kingdom, even leading to civil war.

Of the stories of the Exodus from Egypt and Israel 's wanderings in the wilderness the Scripture says: *“These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us ...* 1 Corinthians 10:11

The Scriptures also warn us of a time that will come when: *“people will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God - having a form of godliness, but denying its power ... always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth.”* 2 Timothy 3:2-7

That description could so accurately be applied to much of what is going on in our society today. Notice how the Scripture places those who are *“abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful”* amongst some of the most brutal and vicious sins.

Respect for Authority

Indeed, God's Law declares: *“Cursed is the man who dishonours his father or his mother. Then all the people shall say Amen!”* Deuteronomy 27: 16

“The eye that mocks a father, that scorns obedience to a mother, will be pecked out by the ravens of the valley. will be eaten by the vultures.” Proverbs 30: 17

Our Lord Jesus declared: *“Honour your father and mother and anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.”* Matthew 15:4

Tragically, respect for parents and elders is becoming increasingly rare, even in Christian circles today. Yet, God's Law makes clear that we are to *“rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly”* (Leviticus 19:32) and *“Listen to your father; who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old.”* Proverbs 23:22.

These are commands not just to young children. No matter what our age, whether we are living under our parents' roof or running our own household, we are still responsible to honour and respect our parents in the Lord (Exodus 20: 12).

“Each of you must revere his mother and father and you must observe My Sabbaths. I am the Lord your God.” Leviticus 19:3

In the light of the overwhelming pressures which assail families, and the relentless temptations that surround young people today, parents must take extraordinary steps to ensure that our children are raised in the love and fear of the Lord. We need to lay solid foundations and form good habits, which will discipline, disciple, strengthen and prepare our children for lives of godliness and productive service in our congregations, communities and countries.

1. Bible Before Breakfast

It is essential that we **establish Bible-centred homes**. There are many ways that we can do this. Firstly, we can establish the principle of the **Bible before breakfast**. Encourage each member of the family to conduct their personal devotions before breakfast or at least read a passage of Scripture or a devotional reading together as a family before breakfast.

2. Scripture Before Supper

As the evening meal tends to be the most important time of fellowship in most families, it would be ideal to establish the principle of **Scripture before supper**. This could include just reading a chapter of the Psalms or Proverbs each night, or working through some kind of devotional book.

3. Devotions After Dinner

Some families may prefer **Devotions after dinner**, which could be done around the meal table, in a bedroom, or in the lounge. The important thing is that Scripture, Psalms and Hymns and prayer should be a daily part of every Christian home. This does not mean that these family devotions need to be long. In fact, particularly in families with small children, it is wise to keep family devotions short, cheerful and focused. Children thrive on repetition, and so one could incorporate basic memorisations of the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments and the Apostles' Creed. Even 3 or 4 year old children can memorise the Lord's Prayer and some basic Scriptures.

4. Bible Stories and Prayer Before Bed

One of the most important parts of any Christian family with children should be **Bible stories and prayer before bed**. This should be an enjoyable and vibrant time of fellowship, either cuddling up together on the couch or on the bed, using colourful story book pictures if possible, and regularly asking questions and involving the younger children in these great stories from God's Word. Many parents will protest that they don't have the time for all this. Well, actually you do have the time if you severely cut down on television and newspapers. In the light of eternity, what good have the multiplied hours spent each week in front of the TV set and poring through your local scandal rags done for either you or your children? Cut out TV and you 'll have enough time to disciple your children.

5. Make Sundays Special

From the earliest, we need to teach our children a love and a respect for God's Word, for the Church and for the Lord's Day. Children thrive on routine and rhythm. That is why ensuring that our calendar reflects our faith is most important. Habits and routine are a vital part of discipleship. We make time for those things we deem important. God has decreed that we work six days and give the seventh to rest and worship. It was so important to God that He gave us an example to follow, by resting after creating the universe. As Christians, we should repent for allowing the Lord's Day to become so encroached upon and desecrated by shopping, sports and worldly entertainment.

The French Revolutionary and atheist, Voltaire, declared: *“If you want to kill Christianity, you must abolish Sunday.”*

D.L. Moody observed: *“You show me a nation that has given up the Sabbath. and I will show you a nation that has the seed of decay.”*

Bishop J.C. Ryle challenged us: *“Common sense, reason, conscience will combine, I think, to say that if we cannot spare God one day in a week, we cannot be living as those ought to live who must die one day.”*

The Puritan writer, Richard Baxter, advised: *“See that the Lord's Day be spent in holy preparation for eternity.”*

Any relationship needs quality time and we need to devote at least one day a week to developing and deepening our relationship with our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

“If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on My holy day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and the Lord's holy day honourable, and if you honour it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words, then you will find your joy in the Lord, and I will cause you to ride on the heights of the land and to feast on the inheritance ...” Isaiah 58: 13-14

Setting aside the first day of the week as a special day is good for our body, mind and soul. We need time set aside for relaxation, reflection and restoration. It is a matter of rhythm and routine, but also a matter of revelation and remembrance of the Lord's great works of Creation (Exodus 20:8-11) and Salvation (Deuteronomy 5: 12-15).

By ordering our week to set aside the Lord's Day as a special day for the family, to rest and to worship the Lord, we proclaim to the world that Jesus has risen from the dead and He is the Lord of our lives. Resting one day in seven is also healthy -spiritually, emotionally, physically and economically. It is good for business, good for families and good for any country.

Preparation for worship on Sunday begins the day before -ensuring that our children get to bed early enough to be well rested for Sunday worship. We can also encourage our children to respect where we gather for Sunday Worship and the Lord's Day by seeing that they wear their best clothes for the Lord's house. And ensuring that we arrive early enough for worship with expectant and teachable hearts and minds.

It is essential that we teach our children respect for authority, starting with their parents, and then for grandparents, uncles and aunts, authority in the church and in society. Respect for God, respect for people and respect for property.

6. Scripture Memorisation

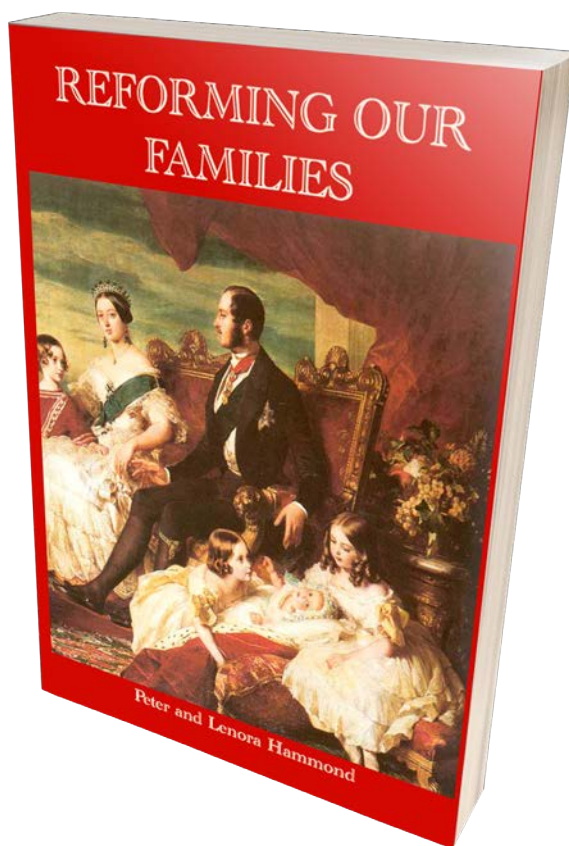
Scripture memorisation is a vital tool in discipleship: *"How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to Your Word ... I have hidden Your Word in my heart that I might not sin against You."* Psalm 119:9-11

"Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." Psalm 119:105

If we build our children's lives upon the Rock of God's Word, then they will stand in the storms of life that most surely will assail them (Matthew 7:24-27). These principles of: respect for authority, for the Lord's Day and for the Lord's house; and love for God's Word, the Bible, and for God's people; feeding our children's hearts and minds with examples of excellence from the Scriptures and Christian history; ensuring that they receive the Bible before breakfast, Scripture before supper and are sent to bed only after Bible stories and prayer; with much of the Scripture stored up in their hearts through Scripture memorisation, we may be confident that *"... when he is old, he will not turn from it."* Proverbs 22:6

Let us disciple our children by word and deed, by our lives and our lips, by education and by example - consistently (Deuteronomy 6: 6-7).

"Let the Word of Christ dwell in your heart richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom and as you sing Psalms, Hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in Word or in deed, do it all in the Name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." Colossians 3: 16-17



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BUILDING CHRISTIAN ALTERNATIVES

“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” Romans 12:1-2

EDUCATION - Home based education (Deuteronomy 6: 1-7)

- * **Parental control of teachers * Biblical content of textbooks:** Education that is moral, character building, based on the fact of Creation, rooted in the Ten Commandments and true to Christian family values
- * **Support Christian schools, Home Schooling and Christian teachers.**
- * **Support Seminars such as the *Biblical Worldview Seminar*; the *Great Commission Camp* and *Reformation Conferences*.**
- * **Sponsor Christian textbooks** for community Christian Schools.
- * **Trusted Education Curriculum providers include:**
Accelerated Christian Education (ACE): Tel: 031 573 6500, www.aceministries.co.za
Christian Liberty Books (CLB): Tel: 021-689-7478, www.christianlibertybooks.co.za.
Theocentric Christian Education (TCE): Tel: 021 557 2612, www.homeschool-tce.co.za

ENTERTAINMENT (Philippians 4:4-9)

- * Subscribe to *Movieguide* online at www.movieguide.org or email: info@movieguide.org
- * Take control over the TV - use the **off** button!
- * Cultivate the habit of reading good **Christian books**.
- * **Visit friends and relatives more often.**
- * Get involved in **healthy outdoor activities** such as: hiking, nature trails, camping and outreaches.
- * **Get** friends together to watch some of **the great classics** on video - such as Ben Hur, The Ten Commandments, Born Free, Chariots of Fire and other positive up-building family films.
- * Rediscover the joys of **worship, fellowship, Bible study, Christian service and evangelism!**

NEWS MEDIA (Romans 12:1-2)

- * Subscribe to, circulate, promote and **support independent Christian Newsletters** such as:
 - **ASSIST News**, Email: <http://assistnews.net/index.php/contact-us>. Web: www.assistnews.net
 - **Christian Action**, PO Box 23632, Claremont 7735, Cape Town South Africa
Email: info@christianaction.org.za Web: www.christianaction.org.za
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Email: admin@frontline.org.za Web: www.FrontlineMissionSA.org
 - **Henry Morton Stanley School of Christian Journalism**,
Email: hmsscj@frontline.org.za Web: www.hmsschoolofchristianjournalism.org
 - **Mcalvany G2** <https://mcalvanyintelligenceadvisor.com/special-offers-Daily-G2>
 - **Mcalvany Intelligence Advisor**, P.O. Box 84904, Phoenix, AZ 85071, USA
Email: <https://mcalvanyintelligenceadvisor.com/contact>. Web: www.mcalvanyintelligenceadvisor.com
 - **World Magazine**, P.O. Box 20002, Asheville, NC 28802, USA
Email: webeditor@wng.org. Web: www.world.wng.org
 - **World Net Daily**, Email: <http://www.wnd.com/contact-wnd/> Web: www.wnd.com
- * **Write letters on contemporary issues to the editors** of your local newspapers and magazines.
- * Establish or improve a **Christian Resource Library** of good Christian books, DVDs, newsletters and audio MP3s at your local church or community school.
- * Set up a **Christian Issues Bulletin board** at your school, church and work.
- * **Support independent Christian community radio stations.**



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BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES FOR EVERYDAY ISSUES

- Abortion** (Psalm 139:13-16; Exodus 20:13; 21:21-24; Prov. 6:17; Isaiah 44:24; Jeremiah 1:5; Luke 1:41-44; Proverbs 24:11; 31:8; Psalm 127:3; Deut. 14:16; Matt 18:14).
- Capital Punishment** (Ex. 21:12-16; Gen 9:6; Lev 24:17; Num 35:33; Acts 25:10-12; Rom 13:4; Prov 21:15).
- Child Abuse** (Lev 18:21; Matt 10:14; 18:5, 6, 10; 25:35-40; Deut 6:7-21, Psalm 127:3).
- Crime** (Exodus 22:1-6; Lev 20:46; Numbers 5:6-8; Eccl 8:11; 1 Peter 2:13, 14).
- Debts & Deficits** (Proverbs 22:7; Psalm 37:21; Romans 13:8; Deut 28:43, 44).
- Education** (Col 2:8; Prov 22:6; 2 Tim 2:15; 3:16, 17; Matt 28:19; Romans 12:2; Psalm 111:10; Is 18:20; Psalm 78:3-7; Deut 6:2, 4-7; Deut 11:19; Eph 6:4).
- Evolution** (Gen 1:1; John 1:1; Heb 1:2; 11:3; Col 1:16, 17; Rom 1:18-25; Ps 14:1; 19:1; 2 Peter 3:3-5).
- Families** (Gen 2:24; Matt 19:5; Eph 5:33; 1 Tim 5:8; Exodus 20:12; 2 Cor 12:14).
- Gambling** (Ex 20:17; 1 Thess 4:5; Matt 16:26; Col 3:4, 5; Eph 5:5; Prov 21:25, 26).
- Home Schools** (Prov 22:6; Deut 6:6-9; Eph 6:4; Deut 11:18-21; 1 Tim 4:12).
- Homosexuality & Perversion** (Gen 19:4-24; Lev 20:13; Romans 1:24-32; 1 Cor. 6:9, 10).
- Humanism** (Romans 1:22-25; Psalm 14:1; 2 Tim 3:1-5; Gal 1:10; 2 Peter 2:1).
- Inflation** (Lev 19:35, 36; Isaiah 1:22-25; Deut 25:13-16; Ex 22:18-22; Prov 11:1; 20:10; Amos 8:5-7).
- Justice** (Isaiah 33:22; Deut 16:18, 19; Prov 14:34; 17:15; 23:10; 24:23-25; Amos 5:21-24).
- Making Covenants with God's Enemies** (2 Chron 19:2; Isaiah 5:20-24; 28:15-18; Ps 108:13).
- National Defence** (Nehemiah 4:13-23; Psalm 144:1, 2; Ecc 3:1-8; Num 1:2-3; Judges 3:2; Deut 20:1-4; Num 32:20; Judges 5:16-18, 23; Deut 28:1.7; Lev 26:14-17).
- Pornography** (Eph 5:3-7; Ez 23:14-20; Matt 5:27-30; Gal 5:19-21; Luke 17:1-3; James 1:15; Psalm 101:3; Colossians 3:5-10; Romans 1:23-28).
- Religious Liberty** (Acts 4:19; John 1:11, 12; Mark 10:17-22; 2 Cor 3:17; 1 Pet 2:16; Gal 5:1,13; Acts 5:29; John 8:32-36).
- Satanism** (Exodus 20:3; Deut 18:9-13; Rev 9:20; 13:4; 14:9-11).
- Sex Education & Values Manipulation** (1 Peter 1:16; Eph 5:1-6; Exodus 20:14).
- Sunday Observance, Keeping the Lord's Day** (Ex 20:8-10; Isaiah 58:13-14; Lev 19:30; Ex 34:21; Is 56:2; Neh 13:15; Jer 17:27; Ezek 20:13; 22:8; Acts 20:7; Rev 1:10).
- Taxation** (Exodus 20:15-17; 30:14,15; 1 Samuel 8:10-18; 1 Kings 21:3; Ezra 7:24).
- Television** (Romans 12:2; 2 John 10; Jude 4; Deut 13:3, 4; Psalm 1:1-3; Matt 5:29; 6:22; Phil 4:8; Rom 1:28; 8:7; Psalm 94:11; Proverbs 15:26).
- United Nations & World Peace** (Psalm 127:1; Isaiah 2:2-4; 56:7; 59:13-15; Rev 18:4; Psalm 2; Jeremiah 6:14; 8:11; 1 Thess 5:3; 2 Peter 2:19; Jer 17:5; Psalm 146:3).
- Witchcraft & Superstition** (Deut 18:9-13; Exodus 22:18; Lev 19:28-31; 20:6; 1 Sam 15:23; 1 Chron 10:13; Isaiah 8:19; Micah 5:12; Gal 5:20).

"I looked for a man among them, who would build up the wall and stand before Me in the gap on behalf of the land . . ." Ezekiel 22:30

DEALING WITH GUILT MANIPULATION

How can you tell the difference between real guilt and false guilt?

Corporate Guilt or Personal Responsibility?

We live in an age of guilt manipulation, where many reject the concept of an objective standard of right and wrong. Yet, while denying personal responsibility, many will accuse whole nations of corporate guilt.

A Brazilian Confession

An example of this was seen at the Cape Town 2010 Third Lausanne Congress on World Evangelisation. On the final Sunday, at the Africa regional meeting, a delegation from Brazil asked to speak to the African participants. Their spokesman then read out a very long declaration, which in very categorical terms declared their guilt for the Slave Trade: *“We are guilty of having kidnapped Africans from their homes, transported them across the Atlantic, to excavate our mines and to build our cities.”*

“Forgive Us and Punish Us!”

The Brazilian spokesman declared: *“Our children deserve to be taken from us and forced to be your slaves, to be buried in unmarked graves beneath your cities!”* In these and in many other words, the Brazilians bewailed their guilt, confessed their sin and pleaded with the African delegates to forgive them for this evil and to regard the Brazilians as their own slaves, to do with as they wished.

Should Descendants be Held Accountable for The Actions of their Ancestors?

Evidently the Brazilian participants were sincere and their declaration of repentance indicated humility and a genuine desire to make right the wrongs of long ago. However, as I sat in the auditorium listening to this, the Scripture came to mind: *“The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.”* Ezekiel 18:20

Confessing Someone Else’s Sin

Were these humble, dedicated Christian Brazilians really personally responsible for the evils of the slave trade? Of course not.

Would Two Wrongs Make a Right?

Would it be just for their sons to be sold into slavery in this generation? Would such a wrong make right the wrongs of long ago?

Is it Biblical?

Then one of the African participants made the comment that it was a pity that this apology had not come from the delegates from Europe, or the United States of America.

From the nodding heads and exclamations of agreement all around me, it was evident that many in the auditorium agreed with this sentiment. But is it Biblical?

Sin is Specific and Personal

In the Bible sin is very specific. It is the violation of the Law of God. Repentance in the Bible is specific and personal. We are guilty when we disobey one of God’s Commandments. Sin is failing to worship God alone, it is making, or worshiping, an idol, taking God’s Name in vain, desecrating the Sabbath, dishonouring our parents, taking innocent life, committing adultery, stealing, bearing false witness and being covetous. In the Bible guilt and repentance are specific and personal, not vague and national.

Restitution is to be From the Villain to the Victim

There was some discussion about the needs for restitution from America and Europe for the slave trade, but Biblical restitution is to be made by the culprit to the victim, directly and entirely. Restitution is not meant to be some political scam, a cover for corruption, where restitution is demanded from people who didn’t do the crime, to be distributed to people who weren’t the victims.

What about the Ongoing Arab Slave Trade?

If the 300 year European and North American involvement in the Atlantic Slave Trade was to be discussed, then why not the 1,400 year Arabic involvement in the Slave trade in North Africa, Central Africa, East Africa, in the Indian Ocean and the Middle East?

The African Slave Trade

In fact, as the president of Benin pointed out some years ago, everyone in Africa is descended from those who were both the victims of the slave trade and descended from those who were participants in the slave

trade. It is a fact of history that almost every tribe in Africa practised slavery, as part of their criminal justice system and enslaved neighbouring tribes. The Yao people of Malawi carried out slave raids on the Bemba and Chichewa of Zambia. The Madagascans enslaved Mozambicans. The Ovambo enslaved the Bushmen. The Matebele enslaved Shona people. Congolese tribes enslaved the Pygmies. In Loziland, the paramount chief of the Barotse abolished slavery only in 1906. Ethiopia abolished slavery in 1942. Saudi Arabia only abolished slavery in 1962. Peru abolished slavery in 1968 and India only in 1976. Yet, there are still officially over 27 million slaves in the world today, mostly in the Muslim world.

Britain's Legacy of Setting the Captives Free

It seemed most unreasonable to single out Great Britain in demands for reparation, for her disgraceful involvement in the slave trade, considering that it was Britain who first pioneered the abolition of the slave trade from 1807. From 1809 the British government mobilised its navy to search suspected slave ships, even foreign vessels, on the high seas. For a century, the Royal Navy was dedicated to setting the captives free, going far beyond clearing the oceans of slave ships, to boldly sailing up unchartered rivers and creeks to storm slave stockades, freeing captives at every turn. The British representative at the Congress of Vienna insisted on Abolition of the slave trade being included in the International Treaty. After the Battle of Waterloo, this treaty was signed by all the European powers (with the exception of Portugal), on 9 June 1815.

War Against Slavery

For anyone to demand of Great Britain a further apology, for its part in the transatlantic slave trade, betrays an ignorance of history. Britain's involvement in the slave trade, from 1713 – 1807, was indeed disgraceful. But, led by William Wilberforce, the British nation more than atoned for its guilt in this vile trade in human flesh, by not only setting every slave in Britain free in 1772, but by outlawing the slave trade in 1807, mobilising her navy to suppress the slave trade throughout the 19th Century and setting free all slaves in any territory in which Britain had influence, or control, in 1833. No other nation has done more than Great Britain in fighting and opposing the slave trade.

British Restitution

The British spent millions of pounds in suppressing the slave trade and sacrificed much blood in fighting to set the captives free. Britain also invested vast amounts of money into developing Sierra Leone as a free and independent state, where liberated slaves could settle.

American Restitution

The United States, for their part, engaged in a bloody civil war, in part to set all slaves free, at a cost of over 650,000 of their own people dead. The United States also heavily invested in establishing Liberia as a free state where liberated slaves could settle.

White Slaves

Some participants at the congress made the comment that all whites are to blame for the slave trade, yet the word 'slave' comes from the East European 'Slavs'. Most of the slaves in the Roman Empire were white people. St. Patrick, the English missionary to the Irish, was once a slave himself, kidnapped from his home in England and taken to Ireland against his will. Millions of whites were enslaved by Muslims throughout the Middle East from the 7th Century onwards. Many were kidnapped from coastal towns by Muslim pirates. In 1526, over 200,000 Hungarian Christians were dragged off to slavery in Turkey.

The Blame Game

If all whites are to blame for the slave trade, which a few whites, over 200 years ago, were involved in, are all blacks to blame for the murders and massacres which many tribes engaged in over the last 200 years? What about the Arabs, who are still involved in the slave trade today?

Blaming the Benefactors

Considering that many whites opposed the slave trade and that the British Empire did the most to end the slave trade, is it reasonable to blame Britain for an evil that she vigorously fought against and eradicated, throughout the 19th Century? What about great emancipators, such as Dr. David Livingstone, Samuel Baker, Dr. James Kirk, Henry Morton Stanley and other dedicated emancipators who set countless captives free?

Ignoring Past Accomplishments and Present Realities

Are claims for restitution from Great Britain and the United States reasonable, when both these nations abolished the slave trade over 200 years ago? Bearing in mind that both Britain and the United States have invested many billions of pounds and dollars into developing Africa, should the demands for restitution not more rightly be demanded from the Arab world which has been enslaving Africans and waging *Jihad* against Christians to the present day?

How Far Back do we Go?

How far are we to go in corporate and national guilt? Must the Italians repent for and do restitution for, the

devastations, wars, aggressions and enslavement of the Roman Empire?
Must the Greeks do restitution for the conquests of Alexander the Great?
Are the Iranians to do restitution for the invasions and oppression by the Persians?
Are the Danes and Norwegians responsible for the death and destruction caused by the Viking raids?
What restitution should be required of the French for the devastation caused by the Napoleonic wars?
What about the Japanese for atrocities committed in World War 2?
Have the British and Americans undertaken sufficient restitution for bombing whole cities like Hamburg and Dresden, incinerating hundreds of thousands of men, women and children in civilian centres?

What about Contemporary Crimes?

What restitution has been done by the United Nations and Organisation of African Unity for destroying Rhodesia and installing Mugabe's murderous regime in Zimbabwe?
What restitution have the Cubans undertaken for the wholesale atrocities and massacres perpetrated in Angola?
Have the World Council of Churches and their associate members duly repented, apologised publicly and undertaken restitution for supporting and financing terrorists who murdered missionaries in Rhodesia?
Have the Congolese undertaken national repentance for the massacres of hundreds of missionaries and tens of thousands of Christians in the Simba Uprising in the 1960s?
Have the Kenyans apologised and repented for the Mau Mau murders and mutilations?
What about ANC supporters for their petrol bombs, necklace murders, landmines and car bombs?

Are Whole Races Guilty for the Crimes of Some?

If all whites are guilty for what some whites did over 200 years ago did, are all blacks guilty for what some blacks have done in murders and mutilations of missionaries and farmers more recently?

It is Unreasonable to Blame Christians for what Pagans Have Done

No, it is not reasonable to blame Protestant Christians for what Catholic Inquisitors and Conquistadors may have done centuries ago. Christian whites are not responsible for what pagan whites have done at other times and places. It is not fair to blame Christian blacks for what non-Christian blacks have perpetrated.

Psychological Guilt

Biblically, true guilt is when I personally violate a specific Command in Scripture. False guilt, or psychological guilt, is a result of selected focus, distortion of reality and ignorance of history. It is vague and it involves guilt manipulation.

Forgiveness and Freedom

When we repent of our personal guilt in violating God's Commands the result is forgiveness, freedom, healing and restoration. However, you can repent for false, or psychological, guilt every day for decades, but you will never find freedom and forgiveness from false guilt – because the devil is a hard taskmaster.

Condemnation Enslaves

The Holy Spirit brings conviction of sin, but the devil brings condemnation. You can easily tell the difference. Conviction by the Holy Spirit leads to Repentance. On the other side of repentance is forgiveness, freedom, healing and restoration. By way of contrast, condemnation from the devil and his disciples paralyses and enslaves us.

Is Colonialism to Blame?

At the congress I also heard some people grumbling about colonialism. However, the blaming of all the ills of Africa on colonialism reveals an ignorance of history. Much of Africa was not colonised, but became protectorates as part of the European crusade against the slave trade. Sudan was once a colony of Egypt, but never of Britain. Sudan became a protectorate of Great Britain. Similarly, Lesotho and Swaziland were never colonies, but protectorates. Britain's involvement in Malawi was primarily to end the slave trade there and set the captives free.

To End Slave Raids

Most of North Africa came under European control in response to raids by Muslim Barbary pirates on Southern Europe. The colonisation of North Africa began as campaigns to close down the slave markets and prevent the ports of North Africa from being used for slave raids on Southern Europe.

Developing a Continent

The fact is that Africa was in a desperate state in the mid-19th Century. Yet, in a few generations, European involvement brought about a dramatic improvement in the standards of living of millions of Africans - many benefits and blessings of civilisation, medicine, literacy, education, roads, railways, bridges, aircraft, telecommunications, trade and industry, tourism, jobs, employment, freedom and the Gospel.

Benefits and Balance

On balance it is clear that there were far more benefits and blessings to the European involvement in Africa than

burdens. Never, in all of history, has any continent done more to aid in the development of another continent. Future historians will look back in amazement at how Europe benefited Africa in less than a century. European settlers fed the starving, cared for the sick, liberated nations in bondage and uplifted the standards of living to unprecedented levels.

Rewriting History

Yet, another example of guilt manipulation can be seen in a most dishonest book, which is being promoted on shelves at this time: *"The Kaisers Holocaust."* What this book ignores is the context of centuries of incessant inter-tribal genocide and the ravages of the Herero and Damara who were annihilating and enslaving the other tribes of South West Africa (Namibia). Local chiefs pleaded with the missionaries to request colonial intervention. The Rhenish Mission requested the involvement of Great Britain, but their colonial authorities claimed that they were too thinly spread and overcommitted elsewhere. Aside from annexing Walvis Bay, the only potential sea port on the coast, the British had no further interest in South West Africa.

German Intervention

At this point the missionaries approached the German Chancellor, Otto von Bismarck, who approached the Kaiser, who agreed to send a small detachment to attempt to bring peace to the warring tribes of South West Africa. This they achieved in a remarkably short time. When the Herero revolted against this new rule of law the result was the War of 1904 to 1905. Missionaries, settlers and officials were murdered and mutilated and the Kaisers' soldiers responded with decisiveness to put down the rebellion. This was done to the applause and approval of the other tribes in South West Africa who had all suffered for far too long at the hands of the Herero and Damara. That this defensive war has now been reinterpreted in such a sinister and manipulative way is outrageous. *"Woe to those who call evil good and good evil; who put darkness for light and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and prudent in their own sight."* Isaiah 20:21

Ignorance Leads to Exploitation

Ignorance of history makes one susceptible to guilt manipulation. Communism not only seeks to re-write history, but to hijack and pervert Christianity. Both in the Soviet Union and Red China the commissars set up public confessions where landowners would confess to being *"bourgeois"* *"enemies of the people"*. Public repentance and confession sessions to humiliate the previous elite and thereby to lift up the Commissar and Communist Party members, was seen as part of *"class warfare."*

"If you abide in My Word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the Truth and the Truth shall make you free... Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed." John 8:31-35

National Repentance

There is a place for national repentance before God. Ezra 9, Nehemiah 9 and Daniel 9 are examples where prophets led the people of God in repentance of behalf of the sins of the nation. However, this repentance was based upon specific transgressions of God's Law and this national guilt was confessed to God, not to men.

Personal Repentance

When we are guilty of breaking God's Commandments we must humble ourselves, seek God's face, turn from our wicked ways and pray. We should humbly kneel before God in full surrender, praying the Psalms, working through the Ten Commandments, listing out our sins and naming them in repentance and confession before Almighty God.

Restitution

Then we should do Restitution, such as Zacchaeus, returning, repairing and restoring. Reconciliation with family members and friends is also a natural outworking of Repentance before God. We should list the people with whom we need to make right with. Make that appointment. Initiate that phone call. Write that letter.

Are You Personally Guilty?

Are you guilty of idolatry? Blasphemy? Disrespect? Desecrating the Lord's Day? Malice? Immorality? Theft? Greed? Gossip? Pride? Envy? Covetousness? Selfishness? Bitterness? Unforgiveness? If God was to speak to you today, what sins would He confront you with? You know He wouldn't be bringing up other people's sins from long ago. He would be dealing with what you personally are responsible for and guilty of. *"The lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life."*

Ensure that Your Relationship with God is Right

We have enough sins of our own that we are personally guilty of, without wasting our time following the political agenda of guilt manipulators seeking to get rich out of other people's misfortune.

"Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him when He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man His thoughts; let him return to the Lord and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon." Isaiah 55:6-7



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- *Winning the War Against Radical Islam* – Robert Morey, Christian Scholars Press, 1992.

Useful Internet Addresses

Answers in Genesis:	http://www.answersingenesis.org
Christian Action:	http://www.christianaction.org.za
Chalcedon Foundation:	http://www.chalcedon.edu
Christian Liberty Books:	http://www.christianlibertybooks.co.za
Christian Answers Net:	http://www.christiananswers.net
Covenant Media Foundation:	http://www.cmfnow.com
Frontline Fellowship:	http://www.FrontlineMissionSA.org
Henry Morton Stanley School of Journalism	http://hmsschoolofchristianjournalism.org
Institute for Creation Research:	http://www.icr.org
Livingstone Fellowship:	http://www.livingstonefellowship.co.za
Movieguide:	http://www.movieguide.org
Operation World:	http://www.operationworld.org
Reformation Society:	http://www.ReformationSA.org
Scripture and Science	https://reformation.edu/scripture-science-stott/
The Bible and Animals:	http://www.theBibleandAnimals.org
Western Conservatory:	https://westernconservatory.com/
William Carey Bible Institute	http://www.williamcareybi.com/



OTHER RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Books

Answering Skeptics * (Also Available in Afrikaans)
Biblical Faith and Modern Day Counterfeits *
Biblical Principles for Africa (Also in Afrikaans and French) *
Chaplains' Handbook
Character Assassins - Dealing with Ecclesiastical Tyrants & Terrorists *
Church History Manual *
Discipleship Handbook *
Discipleship Training Manual
Faith Under Fire in Sudan (in both hard cover and soft cover) *
Going On ... with a nod from God *
Going Through - Even if the Door is Closed *
Great Commission Manual
Greatest Century of Missions
Greatest Century of Reformation
Holocaust in Rwanda (also available in French)
In the Killing Fields of Mozambique
Make a Difference - A Christian Action Handbook for Southern Africa
Old Testament Survey - Exploring the Central Message of Every Book of the Bible
Pornademic - How the Pornography Plague Affects You and What You Can Do About It
Practical Discipleship * (Also Available in Afrikaans)
Prison Break
Putting Feet to Your Faith *
Reforming our Families *
Rise of the GayGB and the Pink Inquisition
Security and Survival Handbook
Sketches from South African History * (Also Available in Afrikaans)
Slavery, Terrorism and Islam - The Historical Roots and Contemporary Threat *
South Africa - Renaissance or Reformation? *
The Apostles Creed - Firm Foundations for your Faith *
The Authority of Christ and the First Day Sabbath *
The Christian at War (also in Afrikaans, German and Spanish)
The Ten Commandments – God's Perfect Law of Liberty * (also available in Afrikaans)
The Wonders of Water
Victorious Christians Who Changed the World *

* Also available as an E-book

DVDs

Reformation 500
Behind Enemy Lines for Christ (107 min)
Sudan the Hidden Holocaust (55 min)
Terrorism and Persecution - Understanding Islamic Jihad (55 min)
Evangelising in the War Zones (35 min)

AUDIO MP3s

Answering Skeptics
Biblical Worldview Summit
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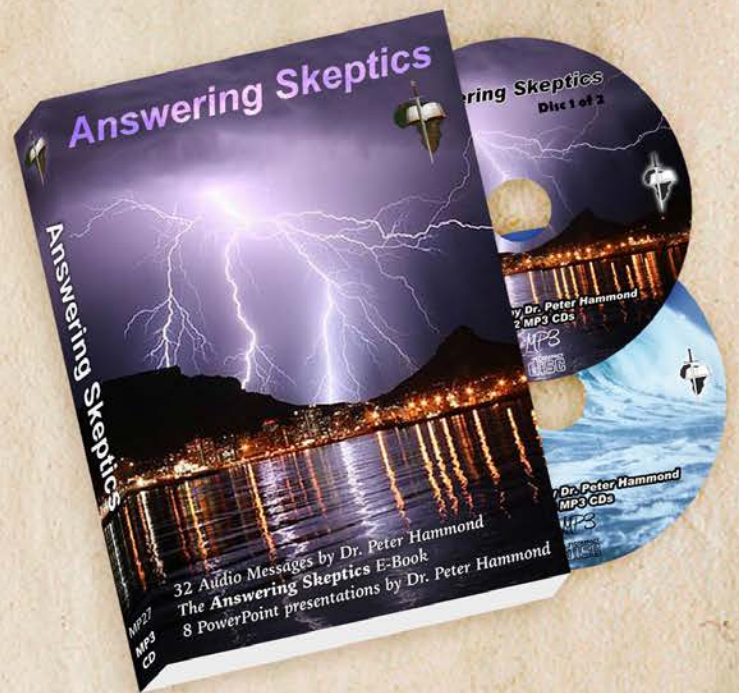
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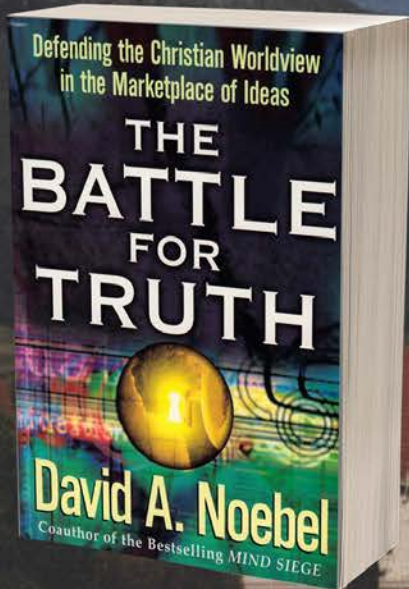
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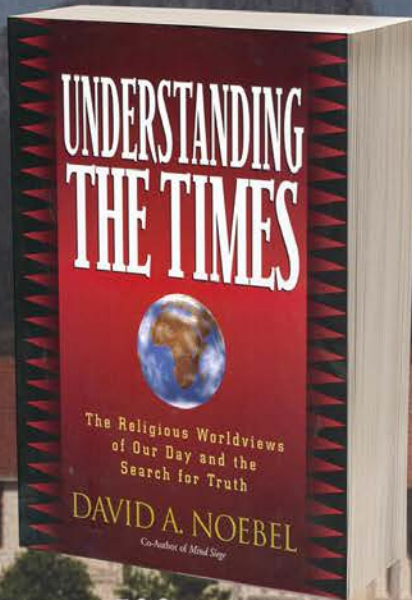
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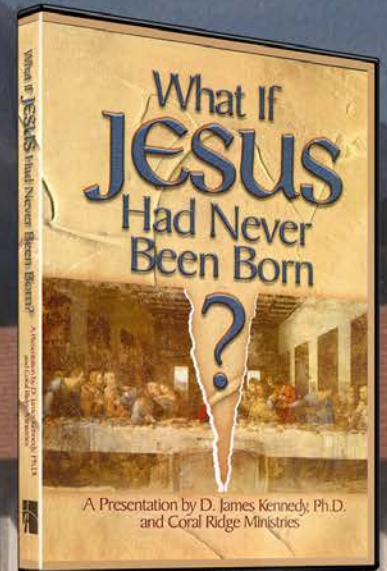
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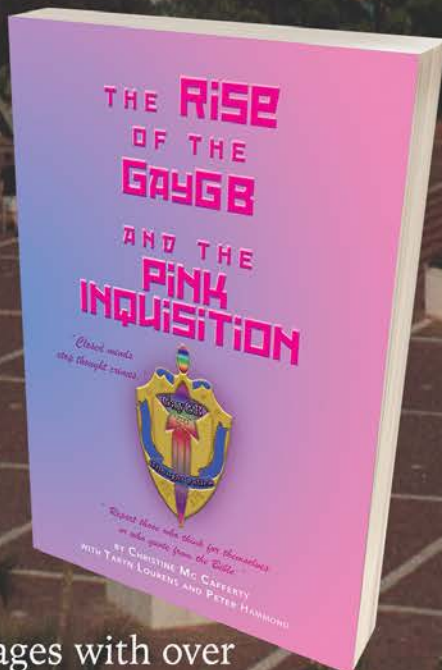
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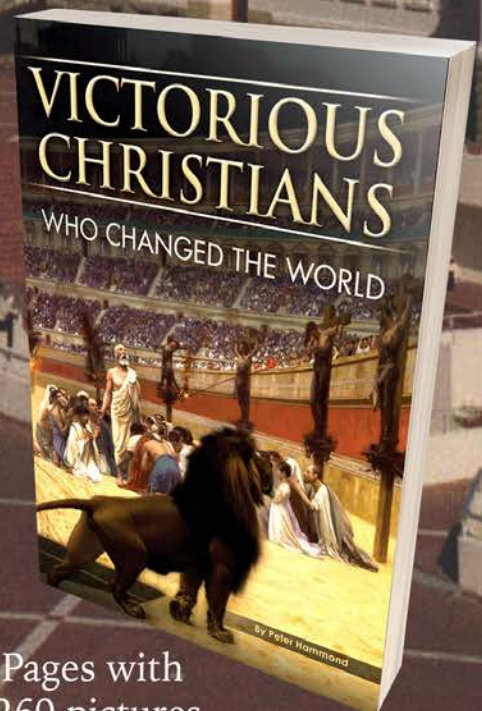
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