

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

- Week of October 13, 2024 -

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| Sunday School | 31 |
| Sunday Morning Service | 38 |
| Sunday Evening Service | 18 |
| Wednesday Eve., 10/16/24 Service | 12 |

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of October 13, 2024 -

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Undesignated Tithes & Offerings | \$ 605.55 |
| Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund | \$ 150.20 |
| TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 10/13/24: | \$ 755.75 |

- Week of October 6, 2024 -

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Undesignated Tithes & Offerings | \$ 2,538.48 |
| TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 10/06/24: | \$ 2,538.48 |

- Week of September 29, 2024 -

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Undesignated Tithes & Offerings | \$ 515.11 |
| Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund | \$ 150.20 |
| TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 09/29/24: | \$ 665.31 |

- Week of September 22, 2024 -

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Undesignated Tithes & Offerings | \$ 1,514.41 |
| Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund | \$ 170.20 |
| TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 09/22/24: | \$ 1,684.61 |

- Week of September 15, 2024 -

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Undesignated Tithes & Offerings | \$ 831.05 |
| Auditorium A/C Replacement Fund | \$ 150.20 |
| TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 09/15/24: | \$ 981.25 |

Average amount of **Undesignated** Offerings needed for church operating expenses **EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,600.00**



WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. Admit that you are a sinner.
2. Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.
3. Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.
4. You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).
5. By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, Who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.



Our deepest and most heartfelt thanks to all of our church family for your love, fellowship, and support. We are humbled and honored to be your servants. Your gracious words and wonderful gifts are a benediction to us.

- Pastor Todd and Shirley White

Church Directory

| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| Todd W. White | Pastor |
| Debra Carlton, Mickie Shatwell, Lois Mae Floyd | Pianists |
| Derek Quinnely | Greeter |
| Kim Phillips; Shirley White/LeAnna White; Berdena Bergman/Debra Carlton; Daniel Avery/GiGi Avery; & Keith Shufelt | Teachers |
| Larry & Mary Byars | Outreach |
| Keith Shufelt | Men's Prayer Group |
| GinaMarie Shufelt | Ladies Bible Study/Flowers |
| Seth White | Sound/Video |
| Larry Byars, Derek Quinnely, David Smith | Trustees |

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REMINDER

PLAN NOW TO BE PRESENT NEXT SUNDAY TO HEAR

DR. PHIL STRINGER

WHO WILL BE SPEAKING ON

Bible Prophecy

and End Time Events



NEXT SUNDAY, OCT. 27th - WED. OCT. 30th

TOPICS COVERED INCLUDE:

- Sunday, October 27th -
 - ☛ 9:45 AM Sunday School - **"How to Understand Bible Prophecy"**
 - ☛ 11:00 AM - **"The Rapture of the Church"**
 - ☛ 6:30 PM - **"The Tribulation"**
- Monday, October 28th @ 7 PM - **"The Marriage Supper of the Lamb"**
- Tuesday, October 29th @ 7 PM - **"The Return of the King"**
- Wednesday, October 30th @ 7 PM - **"The Millennial Reign Of Christ"**



INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND DON'T MISS A SINGLE SERVICE!

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**HAVE LUKEWARM CHURCHES
AND SECULARISM CREATED
THE PERFECT STORM FOR
AMERICA'S DECLINE?**

by David Fiorazo

Twenty years ago, when I lived in southern California, a guest speaker gave a sermon at the church we were attending at the time. He was describing the condition of America, the apathy of too many professing believers, and the moral decline that had been gradually increasing since the 1960s.

I thought of the reputation we used to have around the world as a great Christian nation and beacon of religious freedom. And, even though our country has been tremendously blessed as God shed His grace on us for over 200 years, it did not last. It rarely does. More on this in a moment.

While churches in the West are becoming lukewarm, fading, or spiritually insignificant, there are thriving churches in countries where persecution is quite common. The speaker was discussing missions and said something I will never forget:

“There are Christians from Asia and nations where the gospel is restricted who are sending missionaries to America. They are flying into LAX (Los Angeles International Airport) with the goal of evangelizing the decadent West.”

We need to be evangelized! A recent guest on my show, *Worldview Matters*, also said that if you want to be a missionary, go to church, meaning – get them saved. What happened to the morality and influence of born-again believers? Where is the light of Christ and the preserving influence of Christians on American culture?

Sadly, the United States is a top exporter of abortion, demonic entertainment, pornography, the prosperity gospel, drugs, and more. We are full of pride and perversion. Abraham Lincoln, in the 1860s, said we have become too proud to pray to the God who created us and blessed this land. We’ve become apathetic, comfortable, distracted, and divided. Tragically, the Church is no longer leading the way.

Let’s look at how Jesus rebuked the lukewarm church in Asia Minor:

Revelation 3:15-22 reads, **“I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, ‘I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing’; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit**

with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”

Notice that this is a message from Jesus (through the Holy Spirit) to Christians in one of the early churches in Asia Minor. He is standing outside the door of His church!

How about today? Is Jesus knocking on the door of churches claiming to worship Him?

Is the state of today’s church any indication of the morality, stability, and strength of America? There’s an expression many believe to be accurate: as *the church goes, so goes America*.

You may have heard about the concept of a ‘Life Cycle of Nations,’ put forth by Scottish historian, Alexander Tyler at the time of the American Revolution. Nations generally follow this pattern:

- From bondage to spiritual faith; From spiritual faith to great courage;
- From courage to liberty; From liberty to abundance.
- From abundance to selfishness;
- From selfishness to apathy;
- From apathy to dependence;
- From dependence back into bondage...

As we consider Bible prophecy and current events, let’s also be reminded that, though the biblical worldview is on life support, God is not shocked and His sovereignty still rules over all.

Contrary to the left, the media, secular government, the K-12 education system, and Marxist universities, America’s greatness was undergirded from the beginning by our Judeo-Christian moral foundation.

In November 1620, Pilgrims and Puritans created the first social contract in the New World. The *Mayflower Compact* set a precedent for religious freedom and became a guide for later charters of self-government in North America. It’s vital to understand the Compact declares profound religious commitment while organizing a civil government.

The second sentence states their purpose:

“...Having undertaken for the Glory of God and advancement of the Christian Faith and Honour of our King and Country, a Voyage to plant the First Colony...”

At the time of the American Revolution, historian from France, Alexis de Tocqueville attributed America’s greatness to what he described as American pulpits “afire with righteousness.” We would have had no American Revolution without the black robed regiment; pastors speaking the whole counsel of God’s Truth and standing up to tyranny.

In order to have a strong, stable nation, we needed a healthy, vibrant, influential church committed to preaching the gospel of repentance and being counter-culture – refusing to conform to this world.

Sadly, there are millions of people who go to church every Sunday and are not even saved. They profess to believe Jesus is the only way and claim to trust the Bible, but they are better

classified as unconverted or ‘so-called Christians.’

In light of a huge national election coming up in a few weeks, how could someone claim to be a Christian and support the Democrat Party? How do they justify supporting things like abortion, homosexuality, drag queens, transgender surgeries, open borders, socialism, and do not support Israel?

They don’t know or haven’t read the Bible.

You’ve heard it said politics are downstream from culture meaning culture influences government. Ideally, as in the early church and the earliest days in America, biblical Christianity influenced the land. A vibrant faith and religion should be shaping culture and politics today but I’m afraid it’s the other way around.

George Barna was my guest on *Worldview Matters* a few weeks ago and shared some tragic news about the alarming decline in biblical worldview among pastors and church leaders. A majority (62%) do not even believe the Bible they preach from on Sunday mornings. **How’s this possible?**

It just takes one generation. Worldly pulpits have led to Syncretism (a merging of – or a combination of conflicting and differing religions, beliefs, or practices). Barna estimates that a staggering 92 percent of Americans fall into the category of syncretism!

People can’t decide on just one, so they mix a patchwork of beliefs such as Buddhism, Christianity, the New Age, works righteousness, and worldviews such as: Islam (everything must submit) Postmodernism (everything is about power) and Marxism (everything advances revolution, oppressed vs oppressor).

A weak American church combined with secularism have now produced some awful consequences. Only one percent (1%) of 18–29-year-olds have a biblical worldview today. **We desperately need repentance and revival!**

Barna concluded:

“It certainly seems that if America is going to experience a spiritual revival, that awakening is needed just as desperately in our pulpits as in the pews; ...This [research] is another strong piece of evidence that the culture is influencing the American church more than Christian churches are influencing the culture...”

Too many pastors are unwilling to teach the whole counsel of God, equip the saints, address Bible prophecy, politics, and expose darkness. They will answer to God one day.

Moreover, a Gallup Poll last year had this headline revealing a big part of the problem: **“Belief in the Inerrancy of Scripture Rapidly Declining”**

Just 20% – a record low of Americans think the Bible is actually and literally God’s Word. This is the first time in history more Americans do NOT view the Bible as divinely inspired. In addition, almost 30% of Americans now think the Bible is merely a collection of “fables, legends, history, and moral precepts recorded by man.”

Abandoning inerrancy is the first downward step to apostasy, accommodating sin, and post-modernism.

In his 1998 book, *The God Who Is There*, the late Dr. Francis

Schaeffer warned about the danger of compromise and what happens when we stop believing in the inspiration of Scripture:

“Here is the great evangelical disaster – the failure of the evangelical world to stand for truth. There is only one word for this, namely accommodation: the evangelical church has accommodated the spirit of this age. First, there has been accommodation of Scripture, so that many who call themselves evangelicals hold a weakened view of the Bible and no longer affirm the truth of all that it teaches – truth not only in religious matters but in matters of science, history, and morality.”

He was spot on!

We need to acknowledge how we got here, understand the signs of the times, and also know how to respond. Doing nothing, not warning people, keeping our faith to ourselves must not be options. The Bible warns about falling away, heresy, and rebellion against God. Let’s see if any of these predictions sound familiar.

II Timothy 3:1-5 states: **“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”**

Things will get worse. The question is this: What will we do about it? How are we responding today to blatant evil and perpetrators of demonic agendas? If you are a believer in Christ and you are silent in the face of evil, whose approval are you more concerned about, God’s or man’s?

II Timothy 3:12-13 further states, **“Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.”**

Those who truly believe and live out their faith will be persecuted. In other words, when people know you by your fruit and bold witness, they will hate you.

Some speculate America is ripe for judgment. Others say we’re in the early stages. Too many don’t seem to care, and many Christians seem unconvinced the time is short.

Why does all this matter?

Sadly, too many professing Christians are ineffective or unproductive as salt and light; many are clueless about how late the hour is and it seems we’d rather be busy, be entertained, and of course, comfortable. This is “cruise ship Christianity”.

The truth is we’re on a battleship and Satan is pulling out all the stops. We know our struggle is not against flesh and blood – but we also know the enemy uses people, flesh and blood, to do his work on the earth. We must discern and respond.

Writer of “Amazing Grace,” John Newton, once said, “If I might read only one book beside the Bible, I would choose *The Christian in Complete Armour*,” by William Gurnall, an English scholar, preacher, and puritan. Born in the 1600s, he wrote much

about spiritual warfare and the duty of believers. He stated:

“It is the image of God reflected in you that so enrages hell; it is this at which the demons hurl their mightiest weapons; ...God himself underwrites your battle and has appointed His own Son ‘the captain of [your] salvation’ (Hebrews 2:10)... The soldier is summoned to a life of active duty, and so is the Christian. The very nature of the calling precludes a life of ease.”

You don’t see much about pursuing comfort and leisure in the pages of the Bible.

Daily news and headlines clearly prove the dark and dramatic moral decline. Some topics include abortion, antisemitism, transgender ideology, environmental extremism, population control, AI, hyper-sexuality, LGBTQ, globalism, Marxism, medical tyranny, communist policy in America, delusion, persecution, evil called good, increasing crime, and violence.

These are just a handful of indicators that the return of the Lord must be getting close.

Judgment is coming, and it’s not going to be pretty. Do you think there’s chaos and disorder and turmoil on the earth now? We ain’t seen nothin’ yet. Just imagine the darkness when the church is removed.

Yet, how many pastors today are warning people of the judgment to come and teaching about the holiness of a God who is described as a consuming fire?

Like Noah’s day, many people will not understand until it’s too late; they are busy, preoccupied, and carrying on with life. Nonetheless, we are called to share the good news because we’re messengers of a righteous, worthy, Mighty God.

The Apostle Paul writes in II Corinthians 5:20, **“Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God.”**

We represent King Jesus! Furthermore, we have the Holy Spirit in us and are not left without armor or help. 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 states: **“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;”**

We are overcomers, and if God is for us, who can be against us?

It’s good to be informed, encouraged, and to enjoy fellowship. For those of us who attend solid Bible-teaching churches, we’re well fed and equipped. But what about Monday through Saturday? Are we using the knowledge, gifts, and talents God gave us to bless and minister to others?

We need discernment, we need to be obedient, and we need to be ready. Preach the truth that **“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Rom. 10:13).**

Romans 10:8-10 states: **“But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth**

confession is made unto salvation.”

Speak up, stand in faith, pray for wisdom, love your neighbors, and watch for our Blessed Hope. Even when things feel like they’re spinning out of control, the Lord of History has not lost His power, remains on the throne, and is faithful forever.

- David Fiorazo is an author, ordained pastor, host of Worldview Matters, and media contributor for Harbinger’s Daily and Freedom Project.

NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

☛ **HIP HOP KING UNDER INDICTMENT FOR HIS FILTHY LIFESTYLE** - Hip Hop music is notoriously filthy, and it is no surprise that the filthy lyrics are not mere innocent entertainment. A window into that world has been opened by a federal jury indictment of Sean “Diddy” Combs (also known as Puff Daddy and P. Diddy) for sex trafficking and prostitution. “The indictment painted an unsavory picture of Mr. Combs, 54, as an all-powerful sex fiend presiding over ‘Freak Offs’” (“Sean ‘Diddy,’” *The Washington Times*, Sept. 17, 2024). The details are too wicked to be repeated. A year ago, the hip-hop mogul was flying high and seemingly the apex of success, with a fortune estimated at \$1 billion, multiple awards, executive power, mansions, super cars, a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, everything a hip-hoper could dream of. Chicago Mayor Richard Daley named Oct. 13, 2006, “Diddy Day.” Appearing in Times Square, Combs was given the key to New York City. One of his hits was *“Can’t Nobody Hold Me Down,”* but it was a lie. Now his perverted lifestyle is on display before the world. He is also being sued by multiple persons and is likely facing decades of imprisonment and the loss of his financial fortune. All men should take heed and learn a lesson from Sean Diddy. Nothing is hidden from God. **“... be sure your sin will find you out” (Numbers 32:23).** Not only will sin be found out; it will be judged with the judgment of eternal death in the lake of fire. The only salvation is by repentance and faith in Jesus Christ and His sacrificial atonement. **“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil” (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).** Incidentally, last year, Combs said he believes that God is a woman...

☛ **WHAT, OH WHAT, HAS HAPPENED TO AMERICA?!** - What, oh what, has happened to America? Let God’s Word to ancient Israel answer:

“For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind” (Hosea 8:7).

“The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God” (Psalm 9:17).

“They soon forgot his works; they waited not for his counsel” (Psalm 106:13).

“A voice was heard upon the high places, weeping and supplications of the children of Israel: for they have perverted their way, and they have forgotten the LORD their God” (Jeremiah 3:21).

“This is thy lot, the portion of thy measures from me, saith the

LORD; because thou hast forgotten me, and trusted in falsehood” (Jeremiah 13:25).

“Because my people hath forgotten me, they have burned incense to vanity, and they have caused them to stumble in their ways from the ancient paths, to walk in paths, in a way not cast up; To make their land desolate” (Jeremiah 18:15-16).

“And I will visit upon her the days of Baalim, wherein she burned incense to them, and she decked herself with her earrings and her jewels, and she went after her lovers, and forgat me, saith the LORD” (Hosea 2:13).

☛ **ISRAEL’S PAGER BOMBS AND THE FUTURE** - Israel rigged her enemies’ pagers with explosives and set them off in groups, killing many and wounding thousands. Israel is clever and has technological genius, and she has used this to beat her enemies since the War of Independence of 1948. For its size, Israel’s military is the best in the world. But Israel can’t obtain peace no matter what she does. It is illusive. Every time it seems like there will be a workable peace plan, peace flees away. Israel’s enemies are like the hydra of Greek mythology, with heads that multiply when cut off. When she destroys Hamas, another will take its place. This is because Israel is not right with God. Israel is still in apostasy. She is back in the land to prepare unwittingly for the completion of Bible prophecy and the fulfillment of God’s covenants. She is helped by God, but only to a certain extent, only enough to do what she is there to do, which is to prepare for the rise of the Antichrist, the fulfillment of Daniel’s 70 Week prophecy (Daniel 9:27), and her own repentance and the New Covenant (Zechariah 12:10-13; 13:8-9; Jeremiah 31:27-34). The raging of the nations against God; the raging of the nations against Israel; Israel’s own present situation, all of this is the fulfillment of Bible prophecy, all of this is irrefutable evidence of the Bible’s divine inspiration. God’s redeemed people must awake out of carnal, worldly slumber and stop playing and start meditating in God’s Word day and night (Ps. 1) in order to have spiritual wisdom and insight into the times. It is time to build godly homes and raise up a godly seed (Malachi 2:15) and preach the gospel and greatly strengthen the New Testament churches, rather than while away the time on politics and vanities.

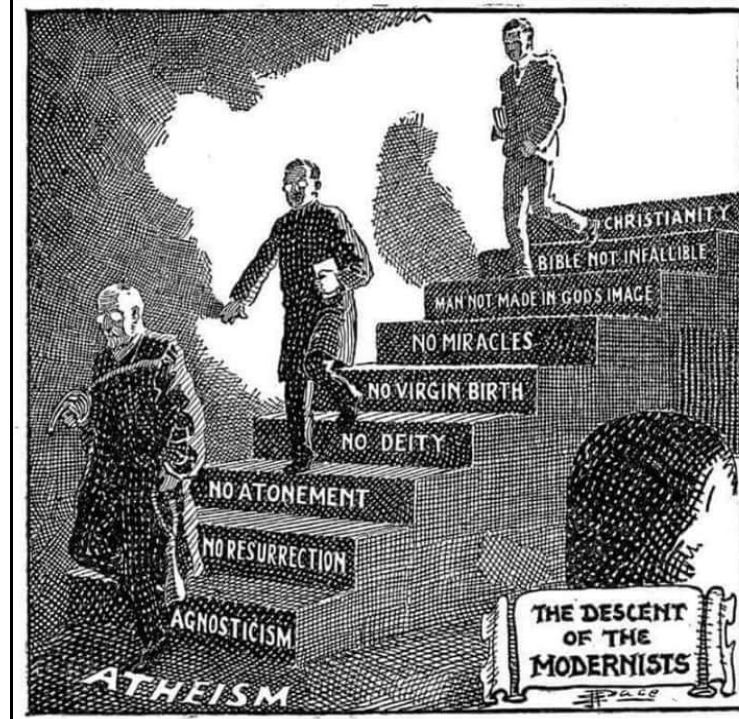
“Every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is. If any man’s work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire” (I Cor. 3:13-15).

☛ **CBS NEWS TELLS REPORTERS NOT TO REFER TO JERUSALEM AS BEING IN**

ISRAEL - The following is excerpted from “CBS News Tells Reporters,” Israel365News, Oct. 11, 2024:

“According to a recent report, Mark Memmott, CBS News’s senior director of standards and practices, emailed all of its employees in August, instructing them to ‘be careful with some terms when we talk or write about the news’ from Israel and Gaza. According to the report in The Free Press, the employees were instructed that when referring to Jerusalem, ‘Do not refer to it as being in Israel.’ It should be emphasized that this instruction was issued to thousands of journalists and reporters. ‘Yes, the U.S. embassy is there and the Trump administration recognized it as being Israel’s capital. But its status is disputed. The status of Jerusalem goes to the heart of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Israel regards Jerusalem as its eternal and undivided capital, while the Palestinians claim East Jerusalem—occupied by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war—as the capital of a future state.’ ... Jerusalem was unified in the 1967 Six-Day War and annexed in its entirety by the Israeli government under the Basic Law: Jerusalem, Capital of Israel passed by the Knesset on 30 July 1980. The US government has recognized Jerusalem as Israel’s capital under the Jerusalem Embassy Act passed by Congress in 1995.”

They say a little compromise won't hurt your faith. They say you dont have to take the Bible literally. Well, this is the outcome.



CULTURAL vs BELIEVING CHRISTIANITY

Elon Musk calls himself a cultural Christian, so does famous atheist Richard Dawkins.

This term - *cultural Christian* - means different things depending on who is using the term. For many years, those in evangelical and fundamentalist Christianity called cultural Christians those that were tied to the historic and more conservative standards associated with Christian behavior and choices—in particular dress and entertainment. To them, cultural Christians were true Christians, but Christians who were overly focused on living in a system of historically-derived and narrow rules of conduct.

For Musk and Dawkins—and probably for Donald Trump and many other politicians—cultural Christianity is something notably different. Dawkins describes it as follows:

“But there is a distinction between being a believing Christian and being a cultural Christian. I love hymns and Christmas carols and I feel at home in the Christian ethos. I believe that we are a Christian country [England] in that sense. It is true that the number of believing Christians is going down and I am happy with that. But I would not be happy if we lost all our cathedrals and our beautiful parish churches. I would think it would matter if we substituted any alternative religion. I think that would be truly dreadful. . . . If I had to choose between Christianity and Islam, I would choose Christianity every single time.”

The idea for both of these men is that the values and ethos of Christianity are good for both the success of the human race and the happiness of the individual and that the world needs to return to cultural Christianity as a matter of survival for the race.

A refreshing change?

There is a sense that this talk about cultural Christianity is a refreshing change. Sociologists and educational leaders have been declaring Christianity the scourge of the planet for decades. Now that we are living in a relativistic society based upon the ethos of secular humanism, we find that the race is literally committing suicide—and the philosopher-types like Jordan Petersen see it. The result of the LGBTQ tidal wave that has swept the free world is death, bodily destruction, and the inability or unwillingness of human beings to reproduce. Add elective abortion to that cauldron and you have a population crisis in most first-world countries.

China, Korea, Russia, and most European countries are not facing overpopulation, but a declining population that could lead to the near destruction of the race. The birthrate in South Korea for 2024 is projected to be .68 children per woman. *That is per woman for her life.* If that continues, the population will decline by a multiple of .34 per generation. Secular humanism produces a selfish culture that does not consider the welfare of the human race beyond its own lifespan. Christianity sees that as the essence of evil.

Sodom is the biblical example of where this thinking goes. The Sean Combs controversy today makes the biblical account of Sodom look tame.

So, a return to the family values, the mutual respect, and the moral values of Christianity would produce a culture that is more pleasant than a culture based upon other world religions.

Cultural Christianity is Not Enough.

The problem is that a return to a cultural, but unbelieving, Christianity is not enough. It is embedded within human beings’ selfish and carnal nature to prioritize selfish and present values over the more altruistic priorities of a future beyond our own lives. Theologians call this the sin nature. Some unbelieving people commit themselves, at times, to such sacrifices, but an entire population cannot sustain it over time.

Paul says that without real faith, selfish living is the only logical result:

“If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? ‘let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die’” (I Corinthians 15:32).

Believing Christianity is the only answer not only because it is true, but also because it teaches us to live for something beyond death because we will live beyond death. There is life after death. We not only will live with Christ for eternity, we will share eternity with all the believing generations that follow us. It is built on joy and hope and drives people not only to care about others but to take profound measures to lay the foundations for the prosperity of the race far beyond our present time.

Cultural Christianity can produce some positive results, but only if it is enforced by the many—or some authoritarian leader—upon the behavior of individuals. Individuals without accountability will generally feel free to enjoy the pleasures of the moment while demanding that the restrictions of the acknowledged ethic be enforced upon everyone else. Cultural but unbelieving Christianity produces Pharisees who impose moral values on others while exempting themselves. History is full of examples—the Pharisees, most monarchs, the opulent lives of communist leaders while imposing poverty on others, and even the examples of authoritarian governors in the U.S. imposing COVID-19 restrictions on their States while violating those same restrictions privately.

Believing Christianity not only provides hope beyond death, but also the supernatural presence of the Holy Spirit provides supernatural enabling (Galatians 5:16-23). Paul described the frustration of trying to live rightly and consistently without the enabling power of the Spirit through Jesus Christ:

“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

Embracing cultural Christianity without embracing believing Christianity—which is really embracing Christ Himself—is doomed to authoritarianism, hypocrisy, and failure. Is it better than giving ourselves over to the anarchy of secular humanism? Yes. But it will not bring true happiness and it will not save souls.

“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house” (Acts 16:31).

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JONATHAN CAHN: FALSE TEACHER

This is a warning to Christians about the dangerous teachings of Jonathan Cahn, who positions himself as a modern-day prophet and decoder of biblical mysteries. Despite numerous bold predictions about economic collapses and national disasters, Cahn has yet to provide a prophecy that has come true, demonstrating the falsehood of his claims.

Cahn predicted that the Shemitah year of 2015 would bring a significant financial “great shaking,” which did not occur. His books, filled with supposed “harbingers” and ominous forecasts following events like 9/11, have also failed to materialize any true prophetic insight. His frequent appearances on Jim Bakker’s show, known for doomsday predictions and survival product sales, further underscore the baselessness of his prophetic claims.

Adding to the evidence of his false teachings, Cahn’s prophetic claims have even reached the ranks of New York Times Best-Sellers, widely disseminating his dubious predictions. Up until the very last minute of the most recent Shemitah cycle, Cahn maintained that a global “shaking” was imminent. This prediction, like his others, proved false when the Shemitah ended without incident, demonstrating his lack of credibility and revealing his prophecies as nothing more than sensationalism.

Fans of Cahn might argue that he is not a prophet but merely an “interpreter” of biblical prophecy. However, Cahn has taken non-prophetic scriptures and misapplied them to current events, claiming divine insights that simply do not hold up under scrutiny.

In his book, [The Oracle: The Jubilean Mysteries Revealed](#), Cahn suggests that he alone possesses the knowledge to unlock ancient secrets supposedly pointing to modern figures and events,

including insinuations that Donald Trump is mentioned in the Bible.

His book pitch includes:

“Could an ancient prophecy and a mysterious ordinance given in a Middle Eastern desert over 3,000 years ago be determining the events of our day?”

“Could some of the most famous people of modern history and current events be secretly linked to this mystery—even a modern president of the United States?”

“Could this ancient revelation pinpoint the events of our times down to the year, month and day of their occurring?”

“Could a mysterious phenomenon be manifesting on the world stage on an exact timetable determined from ancient times?”

“Could these manifestations have altered—and now be altering—the course of world events?”

The Bible is clear about false prophets: *“When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him” (Deuteronomy 18:22).* Jonathan Cahn’s consistent inaccuracies and sensationalism are not just errors; they are indicative of a deeper disregard for the true prophetic spirit of the Scriptures.

In defending his failed prophecies, Cahn has even issued legal threats against critics, such as a laughable cease and desist letter, showcasing his unwillingness to face legitimate scrutiny and claiming that he is being falsely accused of being a false prophet. His actions contradict the humble and open-hearted approach that characterizes genuine biblical leadership.

Jonathan Cahn’s teachings, particularly his flawed interpretations and failed prophecies, should serve as a red flag for anyone considering listening to him. They reflect a broader issue within certain circles of Christianity that elevates sensationalism over sound doctrine. Christians are urged to rely on the full counsel of God’s Word, rather than the speculative and sensational interpretations offered by false teachers like Cahn.

Jonathan Cahn has demonstrated a consistent pattern of misleading his audience with predictions that fail to materialize, coupled with a defensive posture against criticism. It is vital for believers to remain vigilant and discerning, grounding themselves in Scripture and rejecting those who distort its truths for personal gain or sensationalism. ■

