



*“Blow ye the trumpet in Zion,
and sound an alarm in my holy
mountain: let all the inhabitants
of the land tremble: for the day
of the LORD cometh, for it is
nigh at hand;” Joel 2:1*

July 2013

Living as Good Samaritans

The testimony of the true follower of Christ might well be something like this: The world's pleasures and the world's treasures henceforth have no appeal for me. I reckon myself crucified to the world and the world crucified to me. But the multitudes that were so dear to Christ shall not be less dear to me. If I cannot prevent their moral suicide, I shall at least baptize them with my human tears. I want no blessing that I cannot share. I seek no spirituality that I must win at the cost of forgetting that men and women are lost and without hope.

If in spite of all I can do they will sin against light and bring upon themselves the displeasure of a holy God, then I must not let them go their sad way unwept. I scorn a happiness that I must purchase with ignorance. I reject a heaven that I must enter by shutting my eyes to the sufferings of my fellow men. I choose a broken heart rather than any happiness that ignores the tragedy of human life and human death.

Though I, through the grace of God in Christ, no longer lie under Adam's sin, I would still feel a bond of compassion for all of Adam's tragic race, and I am determined that I shall go down to the grave or up into God's heaven mourning for the lost and the perishing. And thus and thus will I do as God enables me. Amen

A.W. Tozer (1897–1963)

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Sound the Trumpet!

- Section 1 -

CLIMAX OF THE CONFLICT OF THE AGES

When God created the heaven and the earth, it was the beginning of something that did not exist before. It was the beginning of our earth, our universe, material physical things and the beginning of beings, other than God. Prior to the beginning of all of these new things that God created there was only God, nothing else.

If you believe the first verse of the Bible, you will have no trouble believing everything else God says in the rest of His Word. You will have no problem believing Exodus 20:11, *“For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is”*. You will believe that everything, other than God Himself, was made by God in six literal 24 hour days, as God says in His Word.

Among the persons God created was the most powerful and most beautiful being of all of God's creation, a being called Lucifer. Lucifer means “Shining One”; he was created to be “The anointed cherub that covereth” (Ezekiel 28:14). In that exalted position, he evidently hovered over the throne of God, guarding the Holiness of God. He dwelt closer to God than any other. In his close proximity to God he reflected God's glory throughout heaven, hence his name, Lucifer, “Shining One”.

As Lucifer beheld the Glory of God at close range, he saw how the angels worshipped Him and how he ruled over all of creation. In that situation as he beheld God's Glory and Majesty, an evil desire came into his heart, the first sin to enter God's creation. He desired to be like God and have His glory and majesty and to be worshipped in the place of God.

We read about that situation in Isa. 14:14, *“I will be like the most High”*. He desired to be like God, to replace God.” He stated, *“I will exalt my throne above the stars (angels) of God.”* In that moment the conflict of the ages was born. Though God was the ruler of creation there was now one who aspired to replace Him, war had broken out.

Satan had made his boast, that he could

and would rule the Kingdom in place of God. God in His sovereignty allows this war to go on, that it might fully run its course, to prove to all of creation that Lucifer's boast was false. To prove he could not rule the Kingdom nor be worshipped as God is worshipped.

Satan proceeded to convince Adam to join him in his rebellion against God. Every man and woman of Adam's seed has entered into that war as enemies of God, *“Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be”* (Romans 8:7).

One Every man and woman now faces two possibilities: is to carry on that war to the grave and spend eternity in the lake of fire with Satan and his fallen angels.

Two is to surrender unconditionally to the demands of God. Jesus said, *“I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish”* (Luke 13:3). *“That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life”* (John 3:15).

That is the gospel message and those that receive and obey that message will be translated into God's Kingdom and change sides in this conflict of the ages, *“Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son”* (Colossians 1:13).

This war between God and Satan has been raging for some 6,000 years.

The present moral free-fall is so rapid that it cannot be very long until the world plunges into the Day of the Lord judgement. The speed and momentum of the signs of the times indicates that the time left for this present society is short. The Day of the Lord is near at hand.

The Bible contains the record of the warfare and we see the evidence of it all around us in the world today. Scripture tells us that this war will come to a dramatic, decisive conclusion. God's Word tells us that Satan will make one last great attempt to defeat God. Satan will make one last great attempt to defeat God. Satan actually seems to believe that he can defeat God.

At this very hour we are seeing the stage being set for the climax of this war. We are watching as nations, politicians, leaders, judges, the media and men and women in general are defying God and rebelling against His Word. This has always been the situation in the world but we are right now seeing this rebellion coming to a climax.

David described this hour in Psalm 2:1-3, "Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us." We are now witnessing men and women throwing off all of God's constraints.

God's program for glorifying His name in this world is to call out of this world system men and women who will respond to Him in obedience and faith. Through the lives of these lovers of God our Lord works to glorify His name in the world. Satan has mimicked God and seeks to use men to carry out his nefarious plans in this world. He works in the hearts of unbelieving men and women, filling their hearts and minds with his evil concepts and desires. He uses them to spread evil and fight against God, denying and attacking

God's Word and attacking the people of God.

Our present world has actively and aggressively set about to defy every command of God to mankind.

The homosexual agenda is a reversal of God's instructions to men concerning His intention for the human race. A news item revealed that the Pentagon recently toasted gays in the military, with a top adviser to President Obama declaring the country is "safer" now that they may serve openly in the ranks. In the meanwhile Christians in the US military are under attack and being threatened with court martial for sharing their faith with their fellow soldiers.

It seems that the major issue in the world today is the promotion of the homosexual agenda. Everywhere we look this agenda is being driven with great enthusiasm and aggressiveness. There is a demand for approval on every sinful choice men may make. The only thing not tolerated is intolerance of evil.

The US Supreme Court has just issued a ruling that will open America to the legalizing of same sex marriage.

Listen to the response of Rabbi Yoel Schoenfeld who is the Rabbi of the Young Israel of Kew Garden Hills in Queens, New York. He told Arutz Sheva, the decision Wednesday by the U.S. Supreme Court striking down key parts of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), paving the way for greater acceptance of gay marriage, was a major step backwards for humanity that goes all the way back to the Biblical Balaam, whose donkey spoke to him.

"This is a generation as foolish and as silly as Balaam was," Rabbi Schoenfeld told Arutz Sheva, "When a donkey speaks to you, you don't get into a conversation with it. You are supposed to take note that something extraordinary is happening." Often, people see "wondrous" things, but just go about their business without taking note.

That is the attitude that Jews needed to take on the Supreme Court decision. "To live in a world of fantasy where two people of the same gender can be wed ignores the thousands of years that man has lived with a traditional marriage. The Supreme Court decided that anyone who believes that is bigoted," Rabbi Schoenfeld said. The decision, he said, was a "wake-up call"

for Jews and others who had faith in the traditional definition of marriage, that something was seriously askew today.

With the striking down of DOMA, a 1996 law that prevented gay couples from receiving nearly 1,000 benefits even if the state they lived in recognized their marriage, shows that "the world is upside down," Rabbi Schoenfeld said. "It's hard to understand how intelligent people like judges could make such a decision. In a way, however, the decision was a reassuring one for Jews. "Our sages say that before the coming of the Messiah the world will see many strange things happening. Let us hope that this will be the final 'detour' off the path before the Messiah arrives."

It seems that the Lord is beginning to open the eyes of some Jews as to the lateness of the hour we are living in. Ultimately those awakened Jews will recognize their Messiah and realize that they crucified Him and they will be restored to a wonderful relationship with Him. What a glorious day that will be for Israel.

Rabbi Schoenfeld has referred to the Messianic Old Testament signs of the coming of Messiah. These are signs which refer to the second coming of Christ. In Matthew 24 Jesus gave us some beginning signs which would precede the rapture of the Church.

The first sign Jesus gave is found in verse 5, "For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many."

There have always been men proclaiming false Christ's but never has there been anything like we see today. Everywhere you look there are false Christ's being proclaimed, it is unprecedented. It is not only the Mormons, Catholics, Jehovah's Witnesses and the cults, but also in evangelicalism today it is hard to find the true message and the true gospel of Christ being proclaimed. Just as in Josiah's day, the Word of God, the truth was lost in the Temple. Today the true Jesus is lost amid the presentation of a multitude of false Christ's; false Christ's who are a perversion of the biblical Jesus. We have the social gospel and the gospel of easy-believism. Multitudes are being deceived by this flood of false teaching.

Over and above this, we now have the false Christ of the New Spirituality. They are promoting the idea that Christ is

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within everyone. When they talk about Christ consciousness, they are teaching that God is within everyone and that through contemplative meditation you can come to know this Christ. In fact you can become God yourself. The problem is that waiting in the silence is a technique of the eastern mystics which opens the individual to demon spirits who pose as Christ.

The whole of Christianity is being swept into this error. Evangelicals are also being swept into this as well. There is hardly a Bible college, Seminary or Christian organization that has not entered into this apostasy along with many churches. Beyond that, secular society is becoming involved in Christ consciousness through the new age movement which introduces the same false Christ.

Verse five is being fulfilled in an amazing dramatic way, in a way never seen through the entire church age. This is clear evidence the rapture of the Church is near at hand.

Our Lord gave **the second beginning sign** in verse 6, *“And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.”* Wars and rumours of wars speak again of this hour in an unusual way.

The Syrian civil war has developed into Sunni – Shiite war. This Muslim war is spreading to Lebanon, Iraq and is threatening to involve Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States, pitting Iran, Syria and Hezbollah against them. The whole Mideast seems to about to be engulfed in flames of war.

Syria continues to threaten war with Israel on the Golan Heights.

At any moment all of the Arab States could unify by an attack on Israel.

Egypt is threatening war with Ethiopia over rights to the waters of the Nile River. Egypt is also on the verge of a destructive civil war and disintegration.

China has used its economic success to build up their military. As a result they are becoming aggressive and are threatening war on many fronts. They are threatening Japan, the Philippines, India and Taiwan. India and Pakistan are also in danger of war breaking out at any moment. North Korea and South Korea are also in real danger of war.

Russia is rebuilding her military and is again belligerent on the world scene.

Iran has apparently been conceded the nuclear bomb and is advancing their

objective of subduing the Sunni States of Saudi Arabia, Iraq and the Gulf States.

On the continent of Africa the drums of war are beating.

There have never been so many wars and rumours of wars as we are seeing today.

In verse 7 the Lord gives several more signs which He calls the beginning signs. *“...There shall be famines, and pestilence and earthquakes in divers places.”*

Drought and storms threaten the world's food supply. The world's reserves of food are low and the potential for famines is a real danger.

Pestilence refers to pandemic diseases.

The threat of such pandemics is growing daily as new viruses are appearing. Some of these viruses are apparently untreatable and extremely difficult to deal with and some have an unprecedented high death rate. There have recently been several conferences to deal with these threats. We have been warned of the dangers of millions perishing in these potential outbreaks. The number of major earthquakes has escalated exponentially along with unprecedented volcanic eruptions and storms.

These are the beginning signs Jesus talked about. The problem is that men's hearts and minds are not open to what God is saying to them. *“He answered and said unto them, when it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather today: for the sky is red and lowering. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?”* (Matthew 16:2-3). We have a generation today who are incredibly wise in their own eyes but blind to what God is trying to say to them.

In Luke 21:28 we read, *“And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.”* Today we are looking up as we see these beginning signs unfolding.

We are reminded of what Paul said in 2 Timothy 3:13, *“But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.”* That prophecy is also being fulfilled in our day as we witness evil men murder millions of babies in their mother's wombs. What could possibly be more

evil and more ungrateful, especially after they were allowed to be born into the world and not murdered before they were born? Only hardened wicked hearts could commit such evil acts. Over one billion babies have been brutally murdered world-wide in the last fifty years. This is the generation of evil men Paul talked about.

Our schools have become centers for the promotion of the LBG T agenda. Some schools have adopted a policy which allows students to use whatever washroom that suits their feelings about their gender. Some high schools freely distribute condoms to students putting their seal of approval on immorality and urging kids to go ahead and do it.

Our world has now declared open war against God and His Word. All restraints are being removed, our society has collapsed morally and is about to collapse literally. The great tribulation period awaits the sound of the trumpet and the catching away of the body of Christ. We are living in an awesome moment, a terrifying time. We need to glean out the corners of the fields while we still have time. The world is a sinking ship, we can't save the ship but we can lead some of the passengers to safety in Christ.

Jesus gave other signs that indicate that His coming is near at hand. In Luke 17:26 He said, *“And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.”* The major characteristic of Noah's day was violence that filled the earth. *“The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence”* (Genesis 6:11).

Today violence is again filling the earth indicating the nearness of His coming. Violence fills the TV screens of every home in the land; movies are filled with

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the most gruesome violence imaginable, video games involve extreme violence that makes the players participants in the most atrocious murders possible. Our streets are filled with violence and the daily news shows terrorists slaughtering dozens and sometimes hundreds of people every day. I think it is safe to say that our society is the most violent society that has ever lived on the earth.

Our Lord used Lot's day as another illustration of the time that would immediately precede His coming. "Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot...." (Luke 17:28). The sin that the Sodomites were guilty of was homosexuality and it brought the judgment of God down upon them. The world had never seen anything like the flood of homosexuality until we have in this hour.

Homosexuality is an attack on God's Word and on God's stated plan for the family. This agenda is leading a massive rebellion against God. When the Supreme Court recently ruled in favour of gay marriage they rang the bells in National Cathedral in Washington for 45 minutes. That is symbolic of the wide support and enthusiasm for the homosexual agenda.

It has always amazed me at the wide support for this agenda and I have wondered why? Why is it that somewhere around 3% of the

population can absolutely overwhelm the whole of society on this issue?

I have concluded that there are at least two reasons.

First - this is Satan's attack on God's Word and God's program which is accelerating now as the final assault on God by Satan unfolds. All through the church age there have been many who have held a deep seated antagonism toward God and His Word. In dark days this antipathy boils to the surface and expresses itself in attacks on God, on His Word and His people. We are now witnessing the climax.

Second - it seems obvious that there are a large number of people, including many in the media and others in high places who are driving this agenda, people who are not necessarily homosexuals themselves. They are using this agenda to bring down the establishment. The process of bringing in a new world order requires the destruction of the old. This process did not begin with Obama, it started long before he came on the scene and he is just a tool in the hands of the real powers behind the scenes. Nor is it limited to the Democratic Party, many Republicans are indicating that the Republican Party is also being co-opted by this agenda. There are many ominous indications that a major move is in the offing regarding the agenda of the new world order.

Whatever is driving this agenda, it is a clear indication that Christ's coming is near at hand.

Further evidence of the darkness of the hour was revealed by an American Senator who has expressed anger over the fact that US tax dollars are used to support foreign countries where Christians are killed for blasphemy against Islam and where those who convert to Christianity are also put to death.

The same Senator went on to say, "There is a war on Christianity, not just from liberal elites here at home, but worldwide." We know that 150,000 Christians are martyred each year for their faith in Christ.

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"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:15-16). Art Sadler

A GREAT TRANSITION

In the last sixty years we have seen the dedicated, faithful Church of Jesus Christ transition into almost total apostasy. I have heard many explanations for this amazing turn of events but I believe that scripture reveals clearly the real reason for this tragic situation, a reason that no one seems to want to deal with. The root cause is the abandonment of separation from the world. I believe it has caused the Lord to withdraw His power and blessing from His people. This change has basically been the transition from the Philadelphian era to the present era of Laodicea.

The single issue that caused the Lord to withdraw His power and blessing from Israel was the loss of separation. This was a constantly reoccurring problem for Israel. Every time Israel mingled with the heathen nations around they

ended up worshipping their gods and brought the chastening and judgment of God upon them. Instead of God fighting Israel's battles He fought against them.

The Lord sent the flood to separate the godly from the ungodly.

God called the patriarchs to be separate from the people around them. They dwelt in tents signifying that they were strangers and pilgrims in this world and just passing through. "By faith he (Abraham) sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles (tents) with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise.....These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that

they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth" (Hebrews 11:9, 13).

We have a perfect example of separation in the life of Moses. "By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible" (Hebrews 11:24-27). That separation was the basis on which God blessed Moses and used him so mightily to accomplish His purposes with Israel.

All down through the church age believers were martyred for essentially

one reason, they were non-conformists; they separated. If you join with the world they will accept you, but if you separate from them they will hate you and persecute you.

This issue of separation is foundational to God's dealings with His people in the Old Testament and with the church saints in the New Testament. Separation is fundamental to authentic to Christianity.

Every time Israel violated this principal, God withdrew His blessing, provision and power from them.

We have a classic example of this in the life of Jacob. We read in Genesis 34:1-2, that when Jacob came to Shechem that he, "...pitched his tent before the city. And he bought as parcel of land." Jacob violated his separation as he pitched his tent toward Shechem, and it brought disaster into his life, and he led his family to violate their separation. We read, "And Dinah the daughter of Leah, which she bare unto Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land. And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her, and lay with her, and defiled her." Jacob and his family paid a very high price for the abandonment of his separation.

This is an unalterable law of scripture, when God's people violate the principal of separation, disaster always follows. God withdraws His blessing and protection and allows defeat to come in the lives of His people. Sometimes the judgment is immediate and sometimes it is delayed but it always follows.

Of course we realize that there are other issues that cause believers to fail to live in victory, but lack of separation is the major issue. There is only room for one elephant in a house tent. If a second one comes in the other has to go out. There is no room for God and the world in your life, one has to go.

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (1 John 2:15). John clearly states that you can't have the Father and the world at the same time.

The Father said, "Be ye holy for I am holy," a life separate from that which is unholy is a prerequisite for fellowship with the Father.

If the world comes into your life the Father will withdraw His hand and you are on your own, powerless before the

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onslaughts of the adversary of your soul.

Remember lot pitched his tent toward Sodom and it ended in total disaster for lot and his family. When a believer abandons his or her separation it not only brings the judgment of God on his life but it affects others around him.

Solomon abandoned his separation and he brought terrible consequences on himself and the whole nation.

I suggest to you that it is very clear that the catastrophe that has happened to Evangelicalism is the direct result of her abandonment of separation that began in 1948.

New Evangelicalism was born in 1948 and it was based on three propositions.

1. A determination to reject biblical separation.
2. A determination to be found acceptable to the world.
3. A determination to add the social gospel to the scriptural gospel.

The social gospel seeks to better man's condition in the world, as opposed to the saving of the soul. "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" (Mark 8:36).

This is a denial of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The motive of the social gospel is really to gain acceptance by the world.

The following is a statement by the founder of New Evangelicalism, Harold Ockenga. "Neo-evangelicalism was born in 1948 in connection with a convocation address which I gave in the Civic Auditorium in Pasadena. While reaffirming the theological view of fundamentalism, this address repudiated its ecclesiology and its social theory. The ringing call for a **repudiation of separatism** and a

summons to social involvement received a hearty response from many evangelicals... It differed from fundamentalism in its repudiation of separatism and its determination to engage itself in the theological dialogue of the day. It had a new emphasis upon the application of the gospel to the sociological, political, and economic areas of life."

This is a total departure from the biblical command to separate from the world and from apostasy. A simple definition of a New Evangelical is one who refuses to separate from the world and from apostasy.

Prior to that time there were no grey areas in the body of Christ. Everyone understood what it meant to be a true follower of Christ. Believers did not go to the theater, they did not smoke or drink, they dressed modestly, and although they understood that they were not under the law, they honoured the Lord's Day. Their entertainment was not the entertainment of the world and they did not enter into relationships with unbelievers, nor did they associate with Bible denying liberals. Though some may have at times fallen short of the standard, everyone knew what the standard was and they were committed to it.

In such an environment God blessed His people. They lived for the most part in victory, souls were saved and believers reproduced after their kind. They were Philadelphian in nature and they were despised by the world. They were not rich in this world's goods, but they had the blessing of God upon their lives, their families and their churches.

Remember that our Saviour went to the cross not only to save our souls but to deliver us from this present evil world. "Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father" (Galatians 1:4). That is deliverance from the contaminating, destructive influence of the world.

If you go on walking in association with this sensual, Christ rejecting society, you have missed the whole point of salvation; for you Christ died in vain.

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what

agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty” (2 Corinthians 6:14-18). What could possibly be clearer, separation is a command, not an option.

“If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you” (John 15:19). Jesus said plainly, “I have chosen you out of the world.” The new evangelical will never accept that and will defy Christ on this issue. Separation is the foundation stone of Christianity but New Evangelicals rebel against separation and will not tolerate any thought of it.

If you say I'll just be an un-separated carnal Christian and I'll be in heaven at the last, you are playing Russian roulette with your soul.

Today you cannot tell the difference between the worldly person and the New Evangelical. These so-called believers dress just as shamefully as the people of the world. Hollywood movies and vile TV are standard fare. Social drinking is accepted by many and the corrupt music styles of the world are the music of New Evangelicals. The music of the bar and the rock concert is the music of many churches. Separation is not only rejected, it is scoffed at.

Ian Kurylyk in his book entitled, “Dressed to Kill” points out that there is a correlation between the immodest dress by women and immorality in society in general, and among the people of God in particular. He states that in many cases, wearing blue jeans is like wearing blue paint.

Job said, “I have made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?” Job is simply saying that through the eye gate the temptation to lustful thoughts enter in. He made a pledge not to look upon a woman who would create such a problem. Job may have had a problem in Sodom but in our streets today he would have to wear a blindfold. God forbid that Christian women would be such a problem.

I emphasize that our real problem is not with the unsaved but rather with believers. We as God's people need to get in line with God and His Word; it is we believers who need to change. The need of unregenerate individuals is salvation first and then change. We are not here to change the world, but to bring individuals to Christ. In the darkness the believer should shine brightest.

Is it any wonder that the church is powerless; both to live in victory and to see genuine salvation taking place.

I believe that the Lord has removed the candlestick of an overwhelming number of evangelical churches.

One survey indicated that at least 50% of American pastors view pornography (mainly on the internet) on a regular basis. These estimates may be very conservative when we consider how many are too ashamed to admit their addiction. This is the fruit of lack of separation from the world and all it stands for. Surely the Spirit has abandoned these pastors and removed the candlesticks from their churches.

When separation is abandoned the Spirit is grieved and the individual is left powerless before the flesh nature. The conclusion is then made that the Word of God does not work and there is a looking away from the Word of God for something new. They have failed to obey God's Word and appropriate the promises of God. They come to believe that the old ways do not work. So they turn to church growth methods, they entertain the sheep rather than feeding them. They turn to Contemplative Meditation and they are caught up with the social gospel and are swallowed up by apostasy.

Is there any hope for the individual believer? I believe that the basic problem has been the abandonment of separation. At the risk of being overly repetitive, I insist that the major issue in the experience of God's people is

“Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father” Galatians 1:4

separation from the world. It is on almost every page of scripture. “*Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God” (James 4:4). “And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness” (1 John 5:19).*

I can hear the cries of legalism and liberty. Believer, be honest before God and His Word and separate from the world and the worldly. If you do, the price you will pay will be very high, it will cost you the world, but you will be in the place where God can and will bless you.

If you fail to separate it may cost you your soul. Do not count on the hope that carnal Christians will be received into heaven. (See Matthew 7:20-23).

We are not confusing the gospel; we are not adding works to it, we are not talking about a works salvation. “*Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace” (Galatians 5:4).* If you add anything to salvation by grace through faith, you place yourself beyond the place where the grace of God can reach you.

However Paul said, “*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17).* Genuine salvation will produce a changed life; if a changed life is not evident then salvation has not taken place. Paul emphasized this in Ephesians 2:8-10, “*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”*

If the blessing of God and the joy of the Lord is to be regained, there must be a return to biblical separation from world. “*If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full” (John 15:10-11).*

If you are not living a separated life you are a Laodicean/New Evangelical.

Art Sadlier

A WORLD IN TURMOIL

The war in Syria is turning into a Sunni Shiite war which has the potential to become a global Muslim war. It has the potential to become the mother of all religious wars.

Nasrallah, on the one hand, and Qaradawi, on the other, have transformed Syria into the arena of a religious war whose guidelines and goals are set by global Muslim authorities.

It has opened the floodgates for violent jihad to surge out of Syria and infect nations with sizeable Shiite populations, such as Iraq, Bahrain, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Pakistan.

Muslim nations with large Sunni majorities, including those outside the region such as Turkey, may easily be sucked into the fever of religious zeal engulfing Muslim communities.

When these Muslim firebrands come to the inevitable conclusion that enough is enough, it seems the only way restore Muslim unity will be to come together against Israel. I personally believe all of this unrest in the Mideast is headed in that direction.

It has been suggested repeatedly that all of the manipulation by the forces that really control the West are bent on a major war to destabilize the world. These same forces are said to be plotting to bring down the American dollar as a part of this same agenda.

An item in the news this week caught my eye in this regard, it said, "Rapidly rising interest rates could take down the entire global financial system?" We read daily of the likelihood of a worldwide economic collapse.

Listen to Doug Hagmann of Canada Free Press.

"Legalizing same-sex sexual activity and marriage is but one of numerous attacks against America from within. Along with the Balkanization of America through the passage of amnesty to illegal aliens, the Communist-Marxist Progressives have set us on an irreversible path to the destruction of our national sovereignty and moral heritage for the purposes of the larger goal of a single global system of governance and finance."

Hagmann continues, "America has become a captured operation. Forced

acceptance of same-sex unions is part of a larger plan that was outlined and detailed nearly a century ago by Antonio Gramsci, a well-known Marxist. Through his theory of cultural hegemony, a method for a Marxist takeover of a capitalist nation like the United States was only possible from within. A key component to this takeover was - and continues to be - radically changing the culture and moral sensitivities of our country. Destroy traditional and sacred moral values based on Judeo-Christian principles and replace them with immoral and un-Godly laws and evil disguised as tolerance.

America is being broken down to prevent it from standing in the way of the globalist agenda. The same thing has been taking place in Europe and now in the Mideast the so called Arab spring is another part of the same agenda. It is like a structure made of Lego pieces, it is taken apart so that the pieces can be used to make something different. Art Sadlier

In the News

Israel - US Secretary of State John Kerry has been pushing hard to restart the peace talks even though the majority of the Israeli's and Palestinians believe the two state solution is dead.

It seems that Netanyahu, knowing this fact is trying to gain favour in the US and the EU with his apparent willingness to make concessions to the Palestinians and restart the talks. This would take the pressure off Israel.

He has put Abbas in a bad light by revealing his unwillingness to return to the talks. Now it is reported by Debkafile that Abbas has announced his change of position and his new willingness to return to the talks.

Debkafile has suggested that Abbas is playing games with the intention of going through the motions and then breaking off the talks and appealing to the UN to grant him a state within the pre- 1967 borders. If he is turned down by the UN he intends to resign and turn the whole situation over to the UN to handle believing that the UN

will then act on behalf of the Palestinians to grant them the state they desire.

Debkafile has reported that Kerry, who is onto Abbas's scheme, has cautioned him to stop playing games, install a functioning government in Ramallah and get down to serious talks with the Israelis.

Debkafile sources reveal that Kerry confided to Netanyahu that far from dropping his preconditions for talks, Abbas now wants advance concessions in the form of a declaration by the Israeli prime minister publicly accepting a Palestinian state based on the pre-1967 war boundaries, with minor adjustments. He is also demanding that Israel open the doors of its jails and free Palestinian security prisoners incarcerated 20 years or more - i.e., since before the 1993 Oslo Peace Framework Accords.

Both Netanyahu and Kerry are apparently very concerned about Abbas's intention to appeal to the UN. This could put pressure on Netanyahu to make major concessions. However it seems that any break through is unlikely. The

Palestinians and their Arab backers really do not want peace; no amount of concessions would suffice; their self-declared intention to destroy Israel has not changed. They are playing games and awaiting the strategic moment to attack.

Iran – The Iranians have now apparently concluded that there will not be an attack on their nuclear facilities and they are now concentrating on their program for regional hegemony. They already have Syria and Lebanon in tow. This could escalate the Sunni – Shiite tensions as the conflict in Syria spreads. The scenario seems to be preparation for Iran to draw the region together to unite under Russia’s leadership for the war of Ezekiel 38-39.

Egypt – Though Morsi has been deposed, the Islamists’ have vowed to carry on the fight. This would seem to indicate the further disintegration of Egypt. As of July 7, reports indicate that at least 36 Islamists have been killed with hundreds wounded. A renewed struggle is in the offing with the inevitable economic, political and societal breakdown.

All of the Mideast countries and peoples are mentioned with regards to the end times but the scriptures are strangely silent about Egypt. Egypt has the largest army in the Mideast, so it is strange that they are not to be involved in the end time wars.

There is a very interesting prophecy in Isaiah 19:2. *“And I will set the Egyptians against the Egyptians: and they shall fight every one against his brother, and every one against his neighbour; city against city, and kingdom against kingdom.”* This is an interesting verse in the light of today’s events. This verse and its context refer to Egypt’s history when disunity and strife that put an end to Egypt’s greatness. Today we may be seeing an end time further fulfilment of that prophecy.

As we have said, the Brotherhood is threatening to fight against the new government. We perhaps will see Egypt reduced to ashes in the coming days.

It never rains but it pours, in another turn of events Egypt now has trouble in the Sinai. Two Egyptian officers were killed Friday night defending government house in El Arish at the end of a day of battles between Egyptian forces and Salafist gunmen. The gunmen continued to shoot up military positions and vehicles in various parts of the northern Sinai town. From early morning, armed Salafists staged attacks on Egyptian security forces in Sinai, causing a number of casualties.

They fired rocket-propelled grenades at army checkpoints guarding El Arish airport near the Gaza Strip and Israeli border. Another attack targeted a police station in Rafah south of Gaza, close to the local headquarters of Egyptian

military intelligence. The Egyptian army has imposed a blackout on the attacks. They are believed to have been more extensive than reported and entailed substantial casualties.

This situation is another confirmation of Bible prophecy.

America – Obama had carefully crafted his Mideast Agenda. He boldly set about to tear down the established Arab governments and to have them replaced with radical Islamist Sunni regimes. His plan was apparently to form a Sunni Alliance with Libya, Egypt, Jordan, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States. This alliance would be pro-American and if Israel could be offered on the Muslim altar, the whole situation would be in Obama’s back pocket, so he had hoped.

The Muslim Brotherhood would be a factor in this agenda even though they are despised and feared by the members of this alliance. Through this alliance, Syria and Hezbollah would be held in check.

This week with the fall of the Morsi/Brotherhood government in Egypt, Obama’s plans were totally destroyed. This week in Egypt there is an anti-American spirit not seen in over fifty years. Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States are now totally disillusioned with Obama. America’s credibility and standing in the Mideast has never been lower and Russia is ecstatic at their good fortune as the door to the Mideast is now opening to them again.

Because the Egyptian generals have turned out the Brotherhood, Obama has threatened to cancel the 1.3 billion dollars in aid to Egypt. In defiance of America, the Saudi’s and the Gulf States have promised to replace it. It is unfathomable as to why Obama has supported the most radical Islamist group in the Mideast, the Muslim Brotherhood. This group is known to have easy access to the Whitehouse. This week he urged the Egyptian Generals to go easy on the Brotherhood. This support of the Brotherhood has alienated Obama from almost all of Sunni States.

The claim that the Morsi and the Islamists were a democratic government and worthy of US support is a demonstration of total ignorance of the situation. One election does not make a democratic institution, Hitler, Ahmadinejad, Hugo Chavez and many communist leaders were democratically elected.

Syria – Despite the commitment of the West to send arms to the Syrian rebels, it seems as if Assad is now about to gain the upper hand against the rebels. The battle for Homs has begun with overwhelming force coming against the rebels. This is another defeat for American foreign policy leaving Obama on the sidelines in the whole Mideast.

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Genuine salvation will produce a changed life; if a changed life is not evident then salvation has not taken place.
