

## FOLLY and The Cure

by Richard Frates  
(Easley, South Carolina)

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**Publisher:** Church of God, Bismarck, Darwin & Laura Lee, **Editor:** Laura Lee, **Assistant Editor:** Darwin Lee We do not necessarily agree with all contributors, or their works submitted and printed in this newsletter. It is up to you to get out your Bible and see whether these things are true. Iron sharpens Iron

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## Articles

### FOLLY and The Cure by Richard Frates (Easley, South Carolina)

Folly Honored ends in Madness. Proverbs 26:1 "Like snow in summer or rain in harvest: Honor is not fitting for a fool." Proverbs 26:8 "Like tying a stone in a sling is the giving of honor to a fool." How true that is: America's Congress, UK's Parliament and Judges are giving honor to the - folly of fools - and planting folly in education, entertainment, government agencies, religion, and the world. The stone is the Folly: Media is the Sling! Principle: "Do Not hate your neighbor in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor frankly and you will Not share in his guilt" Leviticus 19:17. Speaking Truth Drives out Folly!

The best medicine for a fool in his folly is: Laugh at, Ridicule and Condemn the folly of his words, instead of giving him honor. Imagine that - medicine - given to the first Judge or fool in America's Congress or UK's Parliament, who suggested making abortion legal. Arguing women need the freedom to be promiscuous and then kill the child if being a mother interferes with her plans. That would also free men to be promiscuous and abandon the woman and child without accountability. If his fellow Lawmakers or Judges gave him the cure for Folly: Condemn the bloody slaughter of innocents and Ridicule the folly of his words - instead of honoring his folly: Abortion would Not be legal - and millions of - innocent lives - would have been saved. When abortion is not an option: The result would be, for most men and women: Caution and Responsibility and Faithfulness in relationships.

If the First Fool - who suggested making same sex marriage legal in America or the UK was given the same medicine: Laughed at and Ridiculed the folly of his words - Same sex marriage would Not be legal in America, the UK, and many other nations - today. And the nation would not be cursed by God for embracing folly from Hell - instead of wisdom from above. Matthew 19:4-5 "The Creator made the male and female. For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife.

Folly from Washington: Only black can be Racially offended: And only white can be racially guilty: The foolish "Uncivil - Civil Rights Law - is Legal Black Racism! Can a black man violate the "Civil Rights" of a black man or white man? No! Fools in congress - Surrendered Racial Equality: To Appease Devil Media and Pander for black votes. The wisdom of: Color Blind Justice - All considered the Same Race in Court, no one is to be rewarded or condemned based on race - escapes Fools; "wisdom is too high for a fool" Proverbs 24:7. Today the - Collective intellect - of Congress or Parliament and Judges is FOLLY.

That Evil Seed Blossomed: That folly Honored - Inspired more Fools in Congress to consider - Since Only black can be Legally Racially Offended. Let's establish law that gives Only Sexual Perverts - Special Rights - to be - Legally Sexually Offended - accuse and sue for millions If their sexual perversion is Not honored when they Flaunt their Sin. And call it "The Equality Act."

Establishing: Only Sexual Pervert - Equality Act Victims: And only those who believe God or disapprove openly "Equality Act" Guilty. Folly Honored - ends in - Depravity Honored. Give Fools their medicine: Ridicule and Condemn the folly of their words. Will the wisdom of, personal sexual preferences - kept PRIVATE - and Not Allowed in Court ever impress Judges or Lawmakers? Devil Media is tying Folly in a sling, tossing it in the air and Fools Shower it with Honor, Proverbs 26:8. Why such great Folly among Lawmakers and Judges today? Fools are fearful and easily intimidated by: What other Fools think!

Proverbs 18:2 The Collective Intellect of Lawmakers Today: "A fool finds no pleasure in understanding but delighted in airing his own opinion." Proverbs 26:3 "A whip for a horse, a halter for a donkey, and rod for the back of a fool." The wise: Debating a fool, is like debating a donkey and assuming the donkey has wisdom - Which one is the fool? Fools as Judges and politicians in power are dangerous! Proverbs 17:12 "Better to meet a bear robbed of her cubs than a fool in his folly." Truth and Light: Is a stranger among Lawmakers - today; but Folly and Darkness is at home! Proverbs 17:16 - Money in the hands of political fools increases folly. Devils made Non-Discrimination Laws: To Discriminate against and Attack those who believe God.

Proverbs 7:11 - Folly is loud, demanding, and defiant and is never satisfied. Appeasing hate and placating the demands

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of, Always Accusing Fools, is a bottomless pit. Ecclesiastes 10:12:13 "The beginning of a fools' words is folly: At the end they are wicked madness." Psalm 14:1 "The fool says in his heart there is no God." Honor for what God proclaimed as evil fills the hearts of the godless. Those who believe there is no God have Foolishly embraced Death because it is obvious, our bodies will die. Fools hate wisdom: Proverbs 8:36 "All those who hate wisdom love death. "Proverbs 12:15 "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes." The way of the wise is right in the eyes of God.

Fools Debate the Devil's Children: Instead of calling on them to "Repent." Some who call themselves Christian leaders, or Rabbis and expert in scripture are debating the Devil in public. Inviting those who - parade their sexual perversion - to debate them on radio and tv programs. That is giving Honor to the Devil. Giving the Devil's children a platform to justify, excuse their depravity and accuse those who believe God of evil for Not Honoring what they do is Folly-Unlimited. Congress and Parliament: Relish Debating Fools who Parade their Folly: Resulting in Lawmakers becoming Fools and Depravity flowing their mouths.

Proverbs 26:4-5 "Do Not Answer a fool according to his folly, or you will be like him yourself." That means: Do Not give honor to the folly of his words by debating them. Verse 5 "Answer a fool according to his folly, or he will be wise in his own eyes." In other words: Give him his medicine. The Cure for Fools - Laugh at, Ridicule and Condemn the folly of his words. Proverbs 23:9 "Do Not debate a fool "he will scorn the wisdom of your words."

Transgender is a Fraud: A - Mocking - of God's Creation of male and female! Why does America's Fraud President Biden - believe - Dr Frankenstein can make a man into a woman? Bidens White House is flooded with LGBT-Queer as can be Depravity. His health Official Delusional Dr Levine - is a man who - Pretends being as a woman. Yet Devil Media and all Bidens cabinet treat - Dr Delusional Levine - as if He was a woman. Which ones are Mentally Deranged? Ecclesiastes 10:13 The folly of fools honored "ends in wicked madness." Educators, desire to appease the States happily imposed Vile Sexual Depravity on our children! Devil Midis Drives: America's Congress and UK's Parliament as if they were - Dumb Mules - to embrace Limitless Folly!

Pride and Folly are Brothers: Pride will Not allow fools to Abandon their Folly. That is why Repentance is crucial. Brothers and Sisters: Repent. Repentance is Medicine for the heart - and a door that leads to lasting wisdom and peace. Repentance will drive Folly out of you spirit. The responsibility of believers in God: Expose the folly of fools - call on sinners to Repent. Warn them of God's Judgment and share the message of God's salvation from sin and death. Psalm 103:12 "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us."

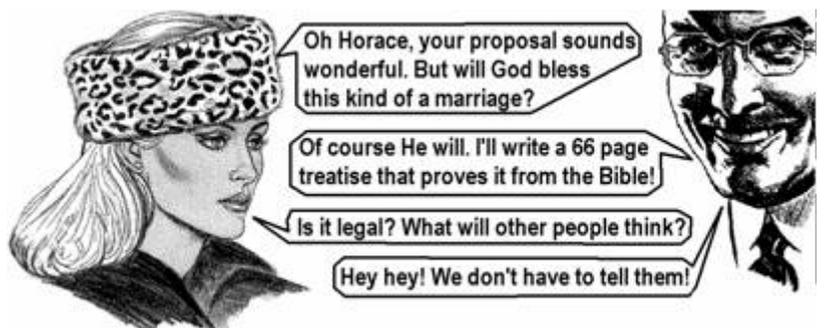
Judgment Day is the day of your death: You will Not remember dead. God reads your heart: If honor for what is evil is found - Judgment Day will condemn you! John 5:28-29 All the dead will be judged. Those who have done good will rise to the "resurrection of life. Those who have done evil to the "resurrection of Damnation." Praise God: Our Father in heaven paid our debt of sin. Jesus Christ Crucified is Light that shines beyond the Grave.

## Are Polygamous Marriages Authorized by Scripture?

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There are those within the Christian community who claim that polygamous marriages are authorized — even commanded — by scripture. But does scripture really support that assertion? Or has scripture been misapplied to allow men to do what they want to do with women? The truth is important because the spiritual health of our sisters, and our brothers, is at stake.

To understand the truth, we have to go back to the beginning—to the Garden of Eden. In the Garden we find that God paraded the animals two by two in front of Adam so that he could name them. But God had an ulterior motive in having Adam name the animals.



Sometimes, because of the way scriptures have been laid out, it is easy to miss a point. Notice the context of the creation

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of Eve found in Genesis 2:18-22:

“And the Lord God said, **‘It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.’** Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. So, Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. **But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.**

“And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. “ (NKJV throughout.)

God paraded the animals in front of Adam because they were mated up, and it drove home to Adam at the same time that something was missing for him. After that realization, God then put Adam into a coma, performed a surgical removal of a rib, and from that rib fashioned Eve, the woman.

What happened next was particularly important. Scripture says that “He brought her to the man.” God, the Creator of the woman, her “father,” presented her to the man, who was to become her husband. Viewed in this way, it is easy to see that this was the first wedding, after which Adam proclaimed Eve to be “bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh.”

It is worthy of note that God created marriage by bringing Adam and Eve together for the first marriage. Further, He did not present Adam with a Bridgette, a Carole, a Maria, and a Cindy to go with Eve. God created and presented only Eve to Adam. God did not create a polygamous marriage.

To have a better understanding of what marriage is, we need to understand what happened in the Garden. What happened was what is known as a “covenant.” That word is **not used here** to describe this marriage, but it is used in Malachi 2:14 to describe all marriages. Understanding the meaning of a covenant allows us to see that the creation of a covenant is what transpired in Eden.

The Hebrew word for “covenant” is “bereth.” It means a *“covenant, alliance, pledge between men; treaty, alliance, league (man to man); constitution, ordinance (monarch to subjects); agreement, pledge (man to man); alliance (of friendship); alliance (of marriage); between God and man; alliance (of friendship); covenant (divine ordinance with signs or pledges).”*

From the definition above, we note that a covenant can be an alliance of marriage relating to God and men. What appeared to be a marriage in Eden was actually a covenant between God, Adam, and Eve. It was a sacred, or holy, contract between three, not two, lives.

There is an important aspect of a covenant that is overlooked by those who argue in favor of polygamous marriages. A covenant is unchangeable. Even God does not change the terms of a covenant once it is created. If God is involved in a marriage (and there is no marriage covenant without God), then a covenant is formed between the three of them. It is not possible for the partners to lawfully change the terms of that covenant. Any attempt to change those terms would violate that covenant and be a sin against the other parties to that covenant. Notice Jacob’s and Laban’s marriage covenant called upon God as a witness. Even though Laban coaxed Jacob into accepting two of his daughters instead of just Rachel, whom Jacob wanted, their contract ruled out any additional wives:

And Laban said, “This heap is a witness between you and me this day.” Therefore its name was called Galeed, also Mizpah, because he said, “May the LORD watch between you and me when we are absent one from another. If you afflict my daughters, or if you take other wives besides my daughters, although no man is with us — see, God is witness between you and me! ... The God of Abraham, the God of Nahor, and the God of their father judge between us.” And Jacob swore by the Fear of his father Isaac. (Gen 31:48-50, 53).

The would-be polygamist would ask “Where is the sin?” If one covenants with God and God performs His part (and He always does), and then one wants to change the terms of the covenant, it can only be because they have put another god before the One True God with Whom he or she has covenanted.

In order for a polygamous marriage to be legal the man and woman would have to appear before God, and to be in agreement before God that the man could take other women in marriage—**before** the covenant is finalized. Without the

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satisfaction of this condition, polygamy can never be legal in God’s eyes.

In the past, the custom of polygamous marriage was acknowledged. Even the early church, as found in the scriptures, had polygamous marriages within the Church. But, such a marriage prevented a man from being a “bishop” (overseer) or “elder” (1Tim 3:2; Tit 1:6).

Today, it would be hard to find a woman who would agree to polygamy in advance of marriage, assuming that the woman understood the God-inspired nature of marriage. And what woman would want to be the second wife?

Some women have been convinced by men that God intended men to have multiple wives. But those women have been manipulated by another’s interpretation of scripture at odds with the truth of marriage as found in Genesis.

To expose that error, we must examine the scriptures to which others appeal as support for polygamous marriages. To understand those scriptures, we must understand that scripture does not always define matters as black and white, good, or evil. There are those things which God commands (keep the Sabbath), those things which God forbids (idolatry, adultery) and those things God allows, but does not command. This third realm is where polygamy lies.

### **Polygamy Allowed, Not Commanded in O. T.**

What this means is that while God may allow polygamy, He nowhere commands polygamy. This is where polygamists go “off base.” A scripture used to support polygamy is found in Exodus 21:7-11.

“And if a man sells his daughter to be a female slave, she shall not go out as the male slaves do. If she does not please her master, who has betrothed her to himself, then he shall let her be redeemed. He shall have no right to sell her to a foreign people, since he has dealt deceitfully with her. And if he has betrothed her to his son, he shall deal with her according to the custom of daughters. **If he takes another wife, he shall not diminish her food, her clothing, and her marriage rights.** And if he does not do these three for her, then she shall go out free, without paying money” (Ex 21:17-11).

The reading of that verse produces only one sure fact. If a man takes more than the first wife then he can’t diminish the rights of the first wife. This scripture does not order or condone a second wife or polygamy. Neither does it define polygamy as sin, in and of itself. Polygamists point to David and Solomon as scriptural examples of polygamy, but neither command or even recommend it.

### **Church Leaders Could Not Be Polygamists**

It is clear that polygamy also existed in the early church. One can understand that point by extension because the conditions for setting a man as either an elder or a deacon was that he be the husband of one wife. In short, he could not be practicing polygamy.

“Neither shall he [the king] multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away; nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself” (Deut 17:17).

Now the **overseer** must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife (1Tim 3:2).

Let **deacons** be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach (1Tim 3:12),

An **elder** must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient (Titus 1:6, NIV).

How the overseers, elders, and deacons—in those Christian sects which promote polygamy—deal with the plain scriptures which prohibit a husband of more than one wife from being in those offices escapes this author.

At no point in David’s or Solomon’s history does God record a command for polygamous marriage. Abraham had only one wife. Isaac had only one wife. Jacob, who became Israel, wanted one wife but ended up with both Leah and Rachel because of Laban’s trickery.

There is a very important point to be gleaned from studying those polygamous situations; God never commanded polygamy. The difference between what men want and what God decreed is crucial to our understanding. Polygamy lies in a gray area

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where we must look to the surrounding circumstances to understand whether or not sin lies here.

For instance, today polygamy is not customary. Only women who have been subjected to scripture-twisting in support of a mandated-polygamy theology would agree to such a marriage. Moreover, although it is this author’s personal belief that neither the federal nor state constitutions in the United States authorize interference with the marriage covenants of its citizens, it is clear that every jurisdiction has attempted to interfere with marriage by outlawing polygamy.

#### **First Marriage Covenant Cannot be Violated**

Setting aside the law for now and incorporating the knowledge we already have about the marriage covenant, it becomes obviously incumbent upon the man to secure, in advance, the permission of the potential wife if he desires a polygamous marriage. He cannot wait until after the marriage to spring it on his wife. Moreover, she has to agree to the polygamous marriage before the covenant is struck with God, i.e., before the marriage covenant is entered into.

On top of that, the woman must be convinced by the truth, not a lie. It is a lie to say that God commands polygamous marriages. No scripture agrees with that statement. If the woman knows the truth, that the man desires a polygamous marriage, and if she is willing to give him that kind of marriage knowing that no law of God commands such a marriage, then they may freely enter into such a marriage covenant with God. Of course, there is still the alleged “law” to deal with, but that is a subject for a different article.

There is a reason God designed the marriage covenant the way that He did. If God had determined that man needed multiple “help mates” then He would have commanded polygamy—and would have made it clear to man that He commanded, it. God did not command polygamy. Man engaged in polygamy on his own. God determined that, as long as adultery is not involved, then certain rules needed to be created to protect that special wife—the first one.

We ought to have the mind of God in all things. God’s mind concerning marriage was the joining of the lives of three: God, the man, and the woman. God could easily have made more than one woman from the rib taken from Adam. He didn’t do that. Instead, He created the union of three as the standard.

**In conclusion**, we find that, while polygamy is condoned, it is nowhere commanded. Those men who demand a polygamous marriage after a first wife is taken are in fact sinning against God and against the wife. He sins because he desires to change the unchangeable, the covenant with God and his wife. He sins because he develops his desire as a god before the One True God. He sins against his wife because he wishes to change his covenant with his wife.

So, while polygamy is not sin in and of itself, practicing polygamy in a way that violates the covenant with the wife and God is sin, and sin is something of which we should repent when we see it. 📖

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## **America’s Reprehensible and Irresponsible Spending Addiction** (Copyright) by Richard Markland (London, Ohio)

If Americans were asked to give their opinions of the state of the economy, how each person has been impacted by the COVID-19 crisis would in all likelihood determine what answers are given.

Economic problems plaguing the country are not being reported truthfully. The mainstream media is not reporting the financial hardship Americans are facing. The loss of jobs, homes, vehicles, and other personal assets are barely given lip service. The number of permanent business closures nationwide is being completely overlooked. Why? It is a political hot potato that must be lied about and avoided at all costs because it reflects badly upon Washington and the nation’s governors who have been in shutdown mode.

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The unemployment figures are also falsely reported. The number of self-employed Americans who are unemployed are not included as well as people who do not qualify for unemployment benefits and those who are discouraged and no longer looking for work.

Americans are being fed a constant diet of stock market gains and losses, GDP quarterly figures, economic growth or the lack of and statistical jargon with no relevance whatsoever to the true condition of the US economy. It is a deceptive narrative portraying Wall Street as thriving while Main Street is striving to stay afloat.

How many Americans know how large the national debt is? How many Americans who do know are alarmed? Because the reported figure isn't directly impacting the American people, the estimated \$30 trillion price tag is simply viewed as the number thirty followed by twelve zeroes. While it is a staggering figure, far more staggering and mind boggling is the fact that it is far below the nation's actual indebtedness. When considering the money confiscated from Social Security, the behemoth size of the welfare system, Medicare, Medicaid and other government subsidies, the country is approaching \$100 trillion in accumulated debt. Paying the interest on the \$30 trillion, however, is all that's required.

Americans are in a state of delusion because the country's wealth is an illusion. The United States appears wealthy, but it is a debtor nation. Washington's addiction to spending is unsustainable and an economic timebomb that is going to lead to the economic ruin of every single American. It's not a matter of if, but when the economy collapses.

A bleak economic future is rejected by most Americans. If considered a remote possibility, many people reason, "It may occur in 50 to 100 years from now, but not in my lifetime." It is a pervasive mind set based on nothing more than wishful thinking.

Americans are blindly accepting the crimes of larceny, embezzlement, money laundering and extortion by leaders in Washington. The country is being bled dry by out-of-control criminal activity that will bankrupt the country and turn it into a third world nation, but as long as the American people are able to maintain their daily routines of being busy with busyness, it is Washington's problem.

### **Defying the Odds**

Why are leaders in Washington permitted to write checks that never bounce due to insufficient funds? If the American people are overdrawn on their checking accounts, they are penalized by their banks, and it becomes a crime if continued. It's a double standard without accountability and reeks of hypocrisy.

Because there are not immediate consequences for the uncontrolled spending spree in Washington, the abuse will never stop. Break the bank spending habits is an act of financial sabotage. The nation's economic future is being hijacked while the American people stand on the sidelines and play the role of mere bystanders with an attitude of "There's nothing I can do about what's happening." Sadly, the nation's leaders and the American people do not have the discernment and foresight to see where economic conditions are headed. Ezekiel 7:12-13- "The time is come, the day draws near (has arrived): let not the buyer rejoice, nor the seller mourn: for wrath (God's anger) is upon all the multitude (everyone) thereof. (13) For the seller shall not return to that which is sold (shall not return to their businesses), although they were yet alive: for the vision is touching (impacting) the whole multitude (every single person) thereof, which shall not return (will not be changed): neither shall any strengthen himself in the iniquity of his life (no one with unforgiven sins in their lives will recover.)"

### **A Worthless Currency**

The US dollar is mere notebook paper without the lines. A deluge of green ink has resulted in a balance sheet of deep red. The nation's printing presses are operating nonstop and creating fiat currency, flooding the market with greenbacks which has devalued the worth of the US dollar. It is nothing more than a sophisticated version of the medium of exchange used in a monopoly game.

### **The Danger of Hyperinflation**

America is looking at a future in which it will become a modern-day version of the Weimar Republic. Just as citizens of pre-World War II Germany had to use small wagons and wheelbarrows full of worthless currency to purchase commodities, the US dollar faces the same fate.

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With the American people already walking on an emotional razor's edge, what will be the reaction when a loaf of bread is \$5.00 one day, but quickly rises to \$10.00, \$15.00 and more per loaf until it's financially out of reach? It won't be just bread, if it is even available, but every commodity in the supermarket and beyond. Since the American people panic easily, it is a foregone conclusion that the coming chaos will only deepen the coming economic and social crisis.

### **A \$1.9 Trillion Boondoggle**

The \$1.9 trillion stimulus package is the worst piece of legislation ever approved in US history, according to Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (emphasis mine). The 628-page porkulus bill, averaging \$3 billion a page is a complicated hodge podge of ludicrous spending that the vast majority of Americas will never see. While being called an “American Relief Package” by President Biden, the \$400 billion in stimulus checks issued to Americans is not free money but must be paid back as well as the stimulus/package as a whole. The American taxpayer will soon find out there is no such thing as a free lunch.

Only \$600 million of the \$1.9 trillion is COVID related. It's a cash giveaway for teachers' unions, special interest groups and rewards governors for reprehensible spending that has crippled state economies. Washington's good old boys club of you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours continues to thrive.

By issuing the almost \$2 trillion stimulus package, the House, Senate and President Biden have hastened the day in which America will experience an economic depression, which will be a nightmare beyond comprehension and a financial earthquake felt around the world.

### **The Spending Dilemma Facing American Households**

Not only is the nation facing a dire financial future, but American household debt compounds the economic dangers ahead. It's a two-edged sword that is a real and viable threat to the nation.

Mortgage debt of \$10 trillion, student debt between \$1.5 trillion and \$2.5 trillion and credit card debt of \$500 billion is only a fraction of the overall debt plaguing Americans. Living paycheck to paycheck is a reality for millions of American households who are walking on a financial tightrope.

Warnings have been issued for decades that personal spending habits must be reigned in, but because needs do not take priority over wants, household budgets are stretched to the limit and hanging by a thread.

### **The Reason for Individual and National Debt**

God is not pleased with America's financial state, and he holds both the leaders and the American people accountable for its tragic economic condition. There are physical consequences for disobedience to God, nationally and individually. National and individual debt is as a result of America's poor spiritual condition. A spiritually healthy America would be a prosperous America, but due to the nation's tragic spiritual condition, the country is paying an economic price for disobedience. Leviticus 26:19-20- “And I will break the pride of your (economic) power...” (20) “And your (economic) strength shall be spent in vain...”

### **The American Condition According to the Bible**

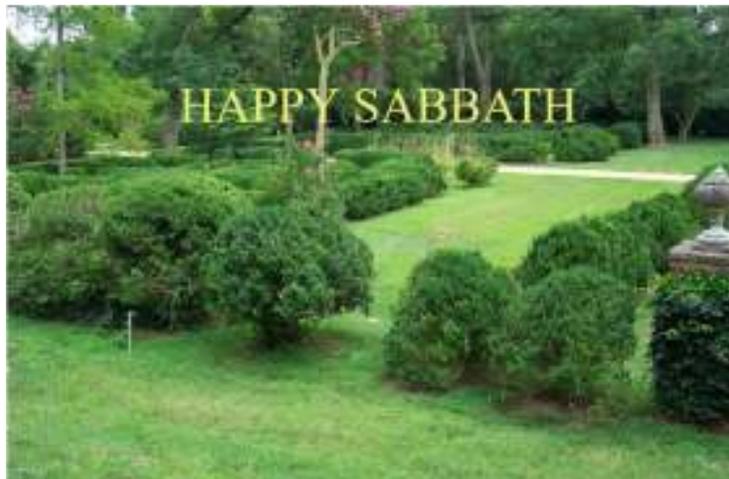
Isaiah 1:3-6- “The ox knows his owner, and the ass his master's crib; but Israel (the American, British descended peoples and the Jews) does not know, my people does not consider (does not recognize God's mercy), (4) Ah sinful nation (what a sinful nation they are), a people laden with iniquity, seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters; they have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward (turned their backs on him). (5) Why should you be stricken (why should you invite punishment) anymore? You will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. (6) From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrefying sores: they have not been closed neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.”

### **There Must Be National and Individual Repentance**

Isaiah 1:18-19- “Come now, and let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; thou they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. (19) If you be willing and obedient (have a heart of true repentance and obey), you shall eat the good of the land.”

## Encouraging Words

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### HOW IMPORTANT IS TRUST?

"Trust in Yahweh with all your heart...in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths." (Prv: 3:5)

"Delight yourself also in Yahweh; and He shall give you the *desires of your heart*. Commit your way to Yahweh; trust also in Him; and He *WILL* bring it to pass." (Psa. 37:4,5)

**THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT; NOT WHAT YOU DON'T WANT:** "...as he *THINKETH IN HIS HEART SO IS HE...*" (Prv.23: 7)

### SUCCESS OR FAILURE:

"The line between *failure and success* is so fine that we... are often on the line and do not know it. How many a man has thrown up his hands at a time when a little more **EFFORT**, a little more **PATIENCE** would have achieved **SUCCESS**. A little more **EFFORT**, and what seemed hopeless failure may turn to glorious **SUCCESS**." (Elbert Hubbard 1856 - 1915)

"Triumph often is nearest when defeat seems inescapable." (B. C. Forbes 1880 - 1954)

"Many of life's failures are men who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up." (Thomas Edison 1847 - 1941)

### COURAGE:

"Courage is fear holding on a minute longer." (George S. Patton 1885 - 1945)

"The lowest ebb *IS THE TURN OF THE TIDE*." (Henry W. Longfellow 1807-1882)

### QUITTERS NEVER WIN; WINNERS NEVER QUIT:

"**NEVER** ever, ever, ever, ever, quit!" (Winston Churchill 1874-1965)

"Most inventors try a few things and quit. I **NEVER QUIT** until I get it exactly the way I want it." (Thomas Edison 1847-1941)

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## How the Resurrection Changed Everything for Women

(Copyright) by Eddie Hyatt (Tulsa, Oklahoma)



During the forty days between His resurrection and ascension, Jesus appeared to different disciples at various times, and on one occasion appeared to over five hundred of His followers at once (I Cor. 15:3-8). The gospel writers, however, are very clear in noting that it was Mary Magdalene to whom He appeared *first* after His resurrection.

The importance which the Gospel writers attach to this fact indicate that it was no accidental occurrence. Jesus knew that actions speak louder than words and He purposely appeared first to Mary in order to make a clear statement about His estimation of women and their involvement in His kingdom.

We must remember that neither Jewish nor Roman courts of law in the 1<sup>st</sup> century would allow the testimony of a woman as evidence. The ingrained cultural prejudice toward women was also expressed in a prayer that Jewish men prayed that included thanks to God that he was not born a Gentile, a slave, or a woman.

By appearing *first* to Mary Magdalene, Jesus was cutting through all the disdain and prejudice of his male disciples toward his female disciples. He thereby declared His equal acceptance of women and confirmed their ministry by sending her forth as the first witness and preacher of the most important event in all of human history.

### The Apostle to the Apostles

When Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene, He gave her certain, specific instructions. Matthew 28:10 records His words to Mary: *Go and tell my brethren....* In other words, He sent her on a specific mission defined by the words, *Go and tell.*

Interestingly, the New Testament word *apostle* literally means "one who is sent" or "a sent one." Mary, therefore, was a "sent one" and as such received the first apostolic commission from the Lord after His resurrection.

Mary's apostolic commission was to go and tell the male disciples—the Twelve—that Jesus had risen. This raises the question as to why Jesus did not tell them Himself. Although He later appeared to the Twelve, He required that they first hear the news of His resurrection from the mouth of a woman. This is why that throughout history Mary has been called "the apostle to the apostles."

By appearing first to Mary and sending her on an apostolic commission to announce His resurrection to the male disciples, Jesus was making certain truths stunningly clear.

1. God values the testimony of women as much as men.
2. Women are not to be confined to the nursery and the kitchen.

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3. God-called women will teach men as well as other women and children.
4. Men need to be willing to hear the word of God from the mouth of a woman.

**Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth**

"But" some will ask, "what about Paul's admonition in I Corinthians 14:34 and I Timothy 2:12 for women to be silent?" First of all, anything that Paul said must be interpreted and understood in the light of what Jesus said and did, not the other way around. Jesus is Lord, not Paul!

Secondly, a doctrine should not be formulated without giving equal consideration to the many Scriptures that show women functioning in leadership roles. From Miriam, Deborah, and Huldah in the Old Testament, to Mary, Lydia, Phoebe, Priscilla, and a host of other women in the New Testament, there is overwhelming Biblical evidence of women functioning on every level of leadership that cannot be ignored.

Finally, it is more than likely that the restrictions of these two verses are related to local, cultural situations and are not universal edicts pertaining to the whole Church. These restrictions are, rather, on the same level as Paul's instructions concerning the wearing of veils (head coverings) in I Corinthians chapter 11 and his admonitions for believers to greet one another with a holy kiss (a handshake or hug will do just fine in most cases).

**To See True Revival, We Must Acknowledge the Gifts of Our Sisters**

We must remember that it is the risen Lord, not the church, that calls and assigns gifts and ministries. The authority to minister is rooted in one's possession of a divine call or gift. Ordination is simply the Church's recognition of that gift.

When John Wesley was challenged as to why he gave recognition to uneducated men and women preachers, he replied, "Because God owns them in the conversion of sinners, and who am I that I should withstand God."

Much of the Church has refused to recognize the gifts of its female members and has, thereby, violated Paul's command in I Thessalonians 5:19 *not to quench the Spirit*. As a result of this disobedience, many gifts have lain dormant while millions have perished without Christ and the Church has languished in defeat.

**It is Time for Action**

It is time for action! It is time for the church to obey God and recognize the gifts and callings in its female members. It is time for women to rise up and be obedient to the call of the risen Lord to "Go and tell."

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**Forty-three kings and then came disaster!**  
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**"We wrestle against wicked spirits in high places." ' Saul of Tarsus**

My subject today is the 43 kings of Israel and Israel-Judah, the big question being: "Does history repeat itself?"

SAUL ruled Israel for 40 years. David ruled for 40 years. Solomon for 40 years. Then the nation was divided literally in two. David's line came to rule ' loosely speaking ' the southern kingdom of Judah.

The northern ten tribes seceded ' over taxation ' and formed the House of Israel. Their first king set up not one but *two* golden calves. No matter the original intent, their little rebellion came to involve more spiritual nihilism (paganism) than "Independence." Of their 20 kings from 920 BC to 722 BC, Hoshea and Jehu were rated "Mostly bad" and the other 18 were rated just plain "BAD." The significance of 722 is the year the "North" was taken into captivity.

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As an exercise of history, there are all kinds of parallels one *might* draw between modern America and the Children of Israel. As for the "40 year" thing, it was exactly 40 years from "the summer of love" ' Woodstock ' and 2009, the inauguration of Barack Hussein Obama. Are we going into the Promised Land? Or back into the Wilderness? Or back into Pharaoh's Egypt? I hope not, but just asking.

As for those kings of Israel (united tribes), then Judah, plus the northern *House* of Israel, we need to talk about that. David was rated "Good", and his predecessor was rated "Mostly bad." Solomon the successor was rated "Mostly good," but it was mostly all downhill from there. Seven kings of Judah were rated "Good," one was rated "Mostly good," but 12 were rated just plain "BAD." [1] This gets interesting:

Having the 7 good kings helped Judah survive until 586 BC before *their captivity after the rule of Zedekiah ' the 43rd and final king* (20 kings of the "South," 20 kings of the North, plus the first 3 kings of the combined 12 tribes).

***There must be a lesson in there somewhere for America. Some people say, "All politicians are alike, so it doesn't matter who wins." But how can a Christian or any other religious person (or even atheist) possibly say "At this point in time, WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE ANYWAY?"***

I don't make predictions; I'm just saying. They say that history at least rhymes! What do you think? I'm just asking.

**Because it APPEARS that the world is going to Hell sans the handbasket.**

**P.S** My previous column was about Baltimore, baseball, and Babe Ruth. The only thing I'd like to *add* to it is that extremely progressive liberals aren't exactly excited about baseball. I've been wondering what the reasons are, and I think I KNOW:

- The word "OUT!" sounds *so exclusionary*.
- "Strike three" sounds *too judgmental!*
- Even Ted Williams failed to get a hit at least 60 percent of the time; that's not *fair!*
- *Ted who?*
- Pitchers are very deceitful; they are trying to *fool* the batter.
- Baseball jocks are domestic abusers, child abusers, bullies ' and they spit a lot.
- And baseball is *boring*.

*Compared to what? Soccer? They're crazy about soccer and soccer is B-O-R-I-N-G !* [and rhymes with "sock her"].

**PPS: At least Baltimore and the Middle East aren't "boring" since the Liberals took over, eh?**

[1] "The Adventure Bible; New International Version" from Zondervan Bible Publishers, Grand Rapids MI

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## Holy Days 2022

Passover – April 16, 2022 (Observed at Sunset the Evening Before)  
Unleavened Bread – April 16-22, 2022  
Pentecost – June 5, 2022  
Trumpets - September 26, 2022  
Atonement – October 5, 2022  
Tabernacles – October 10-16, 2022  
Last Great Day – October 17, 2022