

Loss of Focus

As a nation, it is so blatantly obvious that the foundation on which we were founded has definitely been cracked. Morals are all but gone and Isaiah 5:20 (Woe to those who call evil good and good evil; who put darkness for light and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!) has definitely come to fruition. Even more concerning is the condition of so-called churches. All of the “Kum-by-yah” mentality that has swept into modern day “Christianity” has lured everyone into a false sense of “holiness.” I’m not so much concerned with the “Sunday worshippers” as I am with those who profess to be one of God’s “elect”, those of us who have been called out. The reason isn’t very hard to figure out and it isn’t rocket science as we often mention. With all of the turmoil and chaos we are presently in, is it any wonder? We have ignored or completely forgotten Him and His Word and who we are in Him.

We so easily are *distracted* and *lose our focus on God and His Word* by the whirlwind and tempest all around us. **Mark 4:37-41**- “And a violent windstorm came up, and the waves were crashing into the ship so forcefully that it was rapidly filling up. Now He was at the stern sleeping on a cushion. And they aroused Him, and said to Him, “Master, don’t You care that we are perishing?” And after being awakened, He rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Silence! Be still.” And the

wind died, and there was a great calm. And He said to them, “Why are you so fearful? *Why do you not have **faith**?*” But they were afraid, and said to one another in great fear, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?” Faith, like the Word of God is vanishing from our churches.

Fear Mongers and Distractions

We are continually bombarded with a variety of statistical horrors to change our focus and put us in a state of panic. Each year we lose over an estimated 10,000 people to drunk driving crashes with that total reaching 11,654 in 2020. That’s one death every 45 minutes. Drug overdoses average over 90,000 per year with the death toll topping 100,306 in 2020. Mass shootings (Schools, churches and businesses) are definitely a major focus with 233 mass shootings this year alone as of June 1st. There have been more than 17,300 people killed due to gun violence in 2022. All of these statistics are all readily available on line.

Even more shocking is the number of unborn we slaughter every year in the name of “women’s rights.” According to the CDC and the Guttmacher Institute:

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- Total number of abortions in the U.S. 1973-2018: **61.8 million+**

- 186 abortions per 1,000 live births (according to the Centers for Disease Control)
 - U.S. Abortions in 2017: ~862,320 (Guttmacher Institute)
 - Abortions per day: 2362+ (GI)
 - Abortions per hour: 98+ (GI)
 - 1 abortion every 37 seconds (GI)
 - 13.5 abortions / 1000 women aged 15-44 in 2017 (GI)
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To the 61.8 million total recorded from 1973 through 2017, we can add an estimated 4 million to the sum bringing it up to over 65 million murdered babies. This puts the USA in the category of nearly matching the number of total people killed worldwide during World War 2 (estimated to be between 60 and 80 million).

We can almost make Hitler look like a Scoutmaster by comparison. Is it any wonder, God has us under judgment? It seems we get more perverse by the day.

Genesis 1:26-27- “And God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the fowl of heaven and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing

that crawls upon the earth.” And God created man in His *own* image, in the image of God He created him. *He created them male and female.*”

We have been trying to kill God since our eviction from the Garden of Eden.

We’ve removed Him from our schools so school shootings shouldn’t come as any surprise. He isn’t permitted in our government, although so many profess to be “Christian.” Nancy Pelosi was just excommunicated per se from receiving communion from the Catholic Church. Again, I find that somewhat humorous, for if they were preaching the truth and following God’s Commandments, she’d probably burst into flames anyway. Sorry...

We have hurricane season upon us, hyped up and whipped into a frenzy by news crews trying to sensationalize anything they can. The “could Be’s” and “possibly turn into” phrases will cause hemorrhages in the faint of heart and turns the nightly news into a supermarket tabloid.

In addition to all the incendiary topics listed above, it’s Pride Month! Oh joy, we can now celebrate all of the alphabet perversions and support those with the courage to stand fast in the face of God Almighty and profess their love of His abominations!!!

Leviticus 18:22- “You shall not lie with mankind as with womankind. It is an abomination *to God.*” Perhaps these perversions are part of the root of the issues within our nation? We know they are. **Leviticus 18:26-29-** “You shall therefore

keep My statutes and My judgments, and shall not commit *any* of these abominations, *neither* the native, nor any stranger that lives among you; For the men of the land who *were* before you have done all these abominations, and the land is defiled. *You shall not do these* so that the land may not spew you out also when you defile it, as it spewed out the nations that *were* before you; For whoever shall commit *any* of these abominations, even the souls who commit *them* shall be cut off from among their people.” Cross-dressers and transgenders are included.

Deuteronomy 22:5- “Anything that pertains to a man shall not be worn by a woman, neither shall a man put a woman’s garment on. For all that do so *are* abominable to the LORD your God.”

They have even perverted the Sign of God given to Noah, the rainbow, as their flag of “diversity.”

Genesis 9:12-16- “And God said, “This *is* the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you and every living creature with you, for everlasting generations: I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be *the* sign of *the* covenant between Me and the earth. And it shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud. And I will remember My covenant, which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh. And the rainbow shall be in the cloud.

And I will look upon it that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth.”

Ezekiel 1:28- “As the rainbow appears that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of His brightness all around. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And I saw. And I fell on my face, and I heard a voice of One speaking.”

Someday they will meet Him. I wonder how bold they will be then?

Will there be enough toilet paper? Oh, Heaven forbid! Gas is soaring out of control, over \$4.79 per gallon, next stop 5 bucks! Not to mention, Monkey Pox and Covid 19 and needing your 40th booster shot! Combine all this with the inept leadership in D.C. and China will be repossessing your homes, businesses and food right after the government seizes all of your assets and bank accounts! Wow! We should all just dig a hole and crawl in or maybe go hide in a cave? Only if we come out as Elijah did (**1 Kings 19:12**) and hear the voice of the Lord.

Psalms 83:1-5- “Keep not silent, O God; do not be quiet, and do not be still, O God, For lo, Your enemies are in an uproar; and those who hate You have lifted up their head. They take crafty counsel against Your people, and plot together against Your hidden ones. They have said, “Come, and let us cut them off from being a

nation, so that the name Israel may be remembered no more.” For with one heart they have plotted together; they have made a covenant against You—”

God is the only One we should fear. **Matthew 10:28**- “Do not be afraid of those who kill the body, but do not have power to destroy the life; rather, fear Him Who has the power to destroy both life and body in Gehenna.”

Called Out

So, are you frightened yet? I certainly hope not if you’ve been paying attention to our studies. None of these crises we’ve mentioned should come as any surprise.

The only real surprise is just how stupid people are and how easily they fall head long into the maelstrom of despair. We need to keep in mind God’s Words and promises.

Matthew 6:34- “Therefore, do not be anxious about tomorrow; for tomorrow shall take care of the *things* of itself. Sufficient for the day *is* the evil of that *day*.”

Hebrews 13:5-6- “*Do not allow the love of money to influence your behavior, but be satisfied with what you have; for He has said, “In no way will I ever leave you; no—I will never forsake you in any way.”* So then, let us boldly say, “*The Lord is my helper, and I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?*”

Psalm 34:7-9- “The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him and delivers them. O taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him. O fear the LORD, all you saints, for there is nothing lacking to those who fear Him.”

Matthew 6:26- “Observe the birds of heaven: they do not sow, neither do they reap, nor do they gather into granaries; and your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much better than they?”

No matter what is coming our way, we need not be overly concerned about it. We cannot change it by worrying. Satan will use anything at his disposal to distract you, to cause you NOT to draw close to God and for us to forget who we are in Him. A war we all fight daily.

The main point of mentioning all of this worrisome propaganda is for us to place proper focus on our calling. We have been called to come out from among them, to be separate.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18- “Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and lawlessness *have* in common? And what fellowship *does* light *have* with darkness? And what union *does* Christ *have* with Belial? Or what part *does* a believer *have* with an unbeliever? And what agreement *is there between* a temple of God and idols? For you are a temple of *the* living God, exactly as

God said: “I will dwell in them and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Therefore, come out from the midst of them and be separate,” says *the* Lord, “and touch not *the* unclean, and I will receive you; And I shall be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters,” says *the* Lord Almighty.” When we accept God’s calling, repent and are baptized, we leave the world behind. The enemy will continually harass us with our past and trip us up with “the future” *if* we let him.

1 Peter 2:9-11- “But you are a chosen stock, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for a possession *of God*, that you might proclaim His *excellent* virtues, Who *called you out of darkness* into His marvelous light; Who once *were* not a people, but now are *the* people of God; who had not received mercy, but now have received mercy. Beloved, I exhort *you*, as strangers and sojourners, to restrain yourselves from fleshly lusts which war against the soul;”

1 John 5:18-19- “We know that anyone who is begotten by God does not *practice* sin; for the one who has been begotten by God keeps himself *by the power of God*, and the wicked one does not touch him. We know that we are of God, and *that* the whole world lies in *the power of* the wicked one.”

We have been equipped with the knowledge of God’s Word and through His Spirit, we can have our faith increased to withstand whatever the enemy may throw at us.

1 John 2:15-20- “Do not love the world, nor the things *that are* in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. Because everything that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pretentious pride of physical life—is not from the Father, but is from the world. And the world and its lust is passing away, but the one who does the will of God abides forever. Little children, it is *the* last time; and just as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have risen up, by which we know that it is *the* last time. They went out from among us, but they were not of us because if they were of us, they would have remained with us; nevertheless, *they left* that they might be exposed *to show* that they all were not of us. But you have *the* anointing from the Holy One, and you have knowledge of all things *pertaining to salvation.*”

We are blessed to have been called out and set apart. But we must put forth our best efforts to remain separate from the things of this world. Avoid getting overcome by the devices of the enemy. Does this mean we ignore current events? Do we fail to prepare? *Certainly not!* God gives us the wisdom and discernment we need to overcome the things of the world that would otherwise beset us.

Matthew 10:16- “Behold, I am sending you forth as sheep in *the* midst of wolves. Therefore, be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.” We need not live in fear of

them. **John 16:33**- “These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you shall have tribulation. But be courageous! I have overcome the world.”

John 17:14-20- “I have given them Your words, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not pray that You would take them out of the world, but that You would keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in Your truth; Your Word is the truth. Even as You did send Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, so that they also may be sanctified in Your truth. I do not pray for these only, but also for those who shall believe in Me through their word;”

With the constant frenzy we face daily, it is easy to succumb to the tug and step back among the chaos. When we take our focus off of God and His Word we slip right into the confusion.

James 4:4- “*You* adulterers and adulteresses, don’t you know that the friendship of the world is enmity *with* God? Therefore, whoever desires to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

Revelation 18:4- “And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, “Come out of

her, My people, so that you do not take part in her sins, and that you do not receive of her plagues,”

The world and those of it do not comprehend the things of God, nor are we going to be popular among them.

1 Corinthians 2:14-16- “But *the* natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand *them* because they are spiritually discerned. However, the one who is spiritual discerns all things, but he himself is discerned by no one. For who has known *the* mind of *the* Lord? Who shall instruct Him? But we have *the* mind of Christ.” We will be in good company with Him Who the world hated first.

John 15:18-19- “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. However, because you are not of the world, but I have personally chosen you out of the world, the world hates you for this.”

We have our Savior Jesus Christ as our Intercessor with God the Father on our behalf and His joy in us. **John 17:11-13-** “And I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, those whom You have given Me, so that they may be one, even as We are one. When I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. I protected in

order that the Scriptures might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to those whom You have given Me, and not one of them has perished except the son of perdition, You; and these things I am speaking while yet in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in them.”

We have been delivered from death and sin through the Blood of Jesus Christ.

Colossians 1:13-15- “Who has personally rescued us from the power of darkness and has transferred *us* unto the kingdom of the Son of His love; In Whom we have redemption through His own blood, *even* the remission of sins; Who is *the* image of the invisible God, *the* firstborn of all creation;”

By the power of God through His Holy Spirit, we have discernment and can understand His Word and calling.

1 Corinthians 2:9-11- “But according as it is written, “The eye has not seen, nor *the* ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” But God has revealed *them* to us by His Spirit, for the Spirit searches all things—even the deep things of God. For who among men understands the things of man except *by* the spirit of man which *is* in him? In the same way also, the things of God no one understands except *by* the Spirit of God.”

So, when the storms of adversity arise, we can have the faith and promises of God given to us in His Word to face them. **Romans 12:2-3-** “Do not conform

yourselves to this world, but be transformed by the *renewing* of your mind in order that you may prove what is well pleasing and good, and the perfect will of God.

For I say through the grace that was given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think; but to think with sound-mindedness, as God has divided to each one a measure of faith.”

I hope this scriptural overload is taken to heart, commit it to memory. For in the vagueness of what lies ahead, we already know the outcome with clarity to those who remain faithful.

Colossians 3:1-6- “Therefore, if you have been raised together with Christ, *seek the things that are above*, where Christ is sitting at *the* right hand of God. Set your affection on the things that are above, and not on the things that are on the earth. For you have died, and your life has been hid together with Christ in God. When Christ, *Who is* our life, is manifested, then you also shall be manifested with Him in glory. Therefore, put to death your members which *are* on earth—sexual immorality, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil desires, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things, the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience,”

1 John 3:1-2- “Behold! What *glorious* love the Father has given to us, that we should be called the children of God! For this very reason, the world does not know us because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are the children of God,

and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be; but we know that when He is manifested, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him exactly as He is.”

As His children, we have been called out and set apart before we were born.

Ephesians 1:3-5- “Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *things* with Christ; According as He has personally chosen us for Himself before *the* foundation of *the* world in order that we might be holy and blameless before Him in love; Having predestinated us for sonship to Himself through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of His own will,”

Tomorrow, we celebrate Pentecost, the Feast of Weeks, the harvest of the first fruits. God gave us the gift of His Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Through His Spirit we can understand His will, His Word and our calling. Having this gift, we can have the confidence to stand fast in our faith and not fall back in the face of uncertain times. If all of those who profess to be “Christian” and even those of us in God’s Church, were doing exactly as His Word instructs us, would we be in such dire straits? If we would put **2 Chronicles 7:14** into practice, what would happen?

Whether the Chinese, alphabet perverts, Covid, or a toilet paper shortage confronts us, no threat, no danger, no catastrophe will ever be greater than our God who

called us. **Matthew 13:16**- “But blessed *are* your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear.”

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