



THE GOSPEL TRUMPET®

"Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet." Isaiah 58:1

THE ANCIENT LIE

PAGE 6



Editorial

“Real manhood has been hijacked. Can we really fathom this crisis? The father has been taken out of society.” We know that with deliberate and evil intent, the kings of the earth have orchestrated the emasculation of men—a crisis indeed! Begone you strong protectors and defenders in society!

Truly, how can these God-hating, vile kings subdue the nations when real men impede their evil agenda? They know that men are the first line of defence, and if they can destroy manliness, we all fall down. Just a glance over the social landscape is enough to see the ruin.

In this last hour of time, things are rapidly unfolding. And while we have been distracted with a supposed pandemic and a war overseas, our rights have been taken out from under us, as they condition us for further limitations and discomforts in the near future. We can already see a dark winter ahead for some Europeans. None of this has to do with either a virus or a war, by the way. At least, not the Ukraine war. It is a war against God. It is a war against His creation.

Not only are there some people who want to destroy men, they would also like to rid themselves of Almighty God, much preferring to take that role upon themselves. But, just as a woman cannot be a man, and a man cannot be a woman, no one can ever be God, but He Himself.

Yet, their desire to be gods speaks to the cry of the human heart for something beyond themselves; a need for a supernatural, change. Were their hearts not so blinded by Satan, they would know that this is found in the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ, even life forevermore.

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Do not think of all the things you are giving, but think instead on what you are holding back. Is it money, talents, or sacrificing your time?

NOTICE

Due to the kings of the earth disrupting the supply chain, we are experiencing difficulty obtaining paper. We encourage our readers to contact us at editor@thegospeltrumpet.com to request a digital copy of the *Gospel Trumpet* to ensure uninterrupted delivery in the event we are unable to print any issues for a period of time.

TESTIMONIES & LETTERS



Divine Healing

It is with awe and joy that I write this account of my experience of divine healing. For fifteen years or more, I have had a lump at the top of my spine, near my hairline at the back of my neck. This lump has been diagnosed as an out-of-place vertebra or as a calcium deposit. It rarely caused me any pain, but turning my head would yield a loud crackling sound audible only to me. Having tried chiropractic and massage treatments to no avail, including one painful (and, on reflection, probably dangerous) session with a therapist who seemed determined to “break down” what he perceived to be the calcium deposit, I had largely stopped paying it any attention.

I have always been a firm proponent of our inherent capacity for healing: I am confident in our immune system and an advocate for our bodies’ tremendous ability to use nutrients from God’s creation to heal ourselves. As I started along my pilgrim journey as a new Christian, I became certain of the strength of God’s perfect plan for our construction in His image. Similarly, I did not question that our Lord Jesus Christ and His disciples performed miracles of healing in the early morning time. But divine healing without Jesus being present in the flesh? That was shaky ground to me.

Then, as a result of a physical challenge that I was undertaking spanning several days, I was subjected to strident criticism over my execution of a particu-

lar skill. The criticism came from a definitive authority and was meant constructively, but it was still quite frustrating to be publicly corrected on something that I thought I knew. I could have chosen a path of petulant disengagement, but instead I respectfully accepted the correction and redoubled my efforts.

On Sunday, I enjoyed the service, fellowship and Bible study that is characteristic of our wonderful narrow way as saints in Zion.

Monday morning, I awoke to find the lump wildly reduced in size—almost imperceptible—and the crackling sound gone. I researched the bio-mechanics of the physical skill that I had been working on and discovered a direct relationship between spinal health and the correct performance of the actions.

Some might say that my experience wasn’t an act of divine healing, it was my body’s response to the specific activity. Of course, it’s the same thing! Although our fall from grace through original sin denies us access to eternal life in the physical world, we are nonetheless made in God’s image, and thus embody a perfect design that functions properly when presented with the correct conditions. Viewed thus, all we need is the spark of the Lord’s focused will to experience divine healing. What is tremendous to us is a mere trifle to Him.

My soul overflows with thanksgiving for our Lord’s grace, patience and loving-kindness. Amen! Sis. Jennifer Smith

God Bless Your Work!

Good morning Susan,

I am reading the July-August edition of “The Gospel Trumpet” and read the notice about your potential inability to obtain paper. Should you become unable to put out a paper version, please put me on your email list. I prefer the paper copy, however, because after reading it, we bring it to a local mission and it is made available for those people.

May God continue to bless your work!
Tami McGregor

Very Fascinating and Informative

Hello fellow Christians:

My name is David and I have been listening to your series on Revelation. I find it very fascinating and informative.

The understanding of the book of Revelation by the apostles who are doing these podcasts is amazing. I want to thank you for making it so easy to understand this book.

My question is in regards to the scripture that they referenced in Malachi 4: 1-3

It is interesting to see the spelling in verse 2 of the Sun, not the Son. Could you provide a little more context into this spelling.

I am wondering if it is in reference to verse 1 where it says “the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven.” Because an oven would be very hot like the sun.

Please help me to understand this a bit more. Thank you very much.

David Bennett

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THE BIBLE TEACHES:

Godly Sorrow and Repentance
Acts 3:19; 17:30, 2 Cor. 7:10

The New Birth—a Radical Conversion John 3:3-7

Freedom from Sin/A Holy Life
1 Jn. 5:18, Lk. 1:73-75, Tit. 2:11-12

Entire Sanctification—a Second Cleansing
1 Thess. 5:23, Act 15:8-9

Unity of God's People/One Church
John 17:21, Matt. 16:18

Divine Healing James 5:14-15, Isa. 53:5

Ordinances
Mt. 28:19-20, Jn. 13:14-15, 1 Cor. 11:23-26

Plain, Modest Dress
Dt. 22:5, 1 Tim. 2:9-10, 1 Cor. 11:14-15

Sanctity of Marriage
Mt. 19:5-6, Mk. 10:11-12, Lk. 16:18, Rom. 7:2-3

Non-Violence Luke 3:14; 6:27-29; 18:20

Restoration (Sounding 7th Trumpet)
Rev. 10:7; 11:15

Eternal Punishment or Reward Matt. 25:46

This definite, radical, anti-sectarian holiness paper is published in the name of the Lord for the edification of the church of God. Its mission is to point souls to full salvation through Christ and to expose the errors of spiritual Babylon (false religion). We desire this paper to be used as a sharp instrument in the hands of the Lord, breaking the spiritual silence in this time of restoration.

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NEWS MAINSTREAM MEDIA DOES NOT REPORT

Number of Permanently Disabled Americans Spiked After COVID Shots Rollout

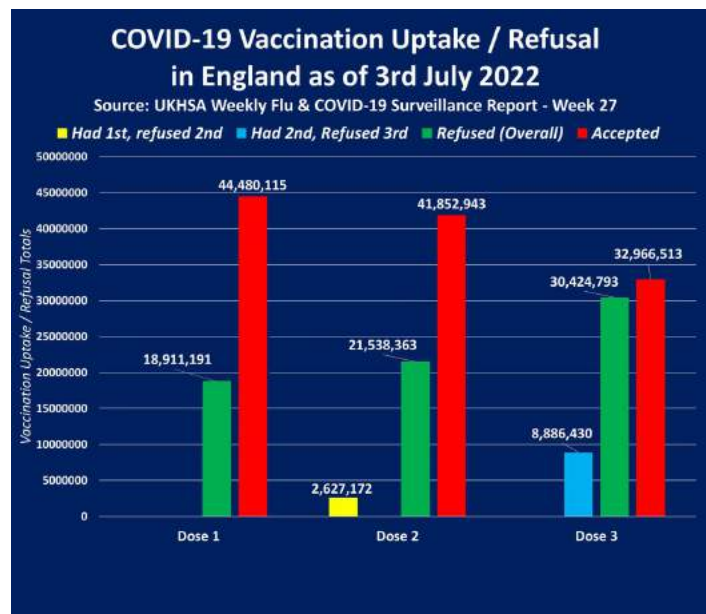
The number of Americans 16 years and older with a disability remained stable from 2016 to 2020, but jumped sharply in early 2021, coinciding with the rollout of COVID-19 injections, according to the analysis of latest available data.

VAERS reports 14,181 permanently disabled after COVID shots

(Only between 1% and 10% of adverse reactions are reported.)

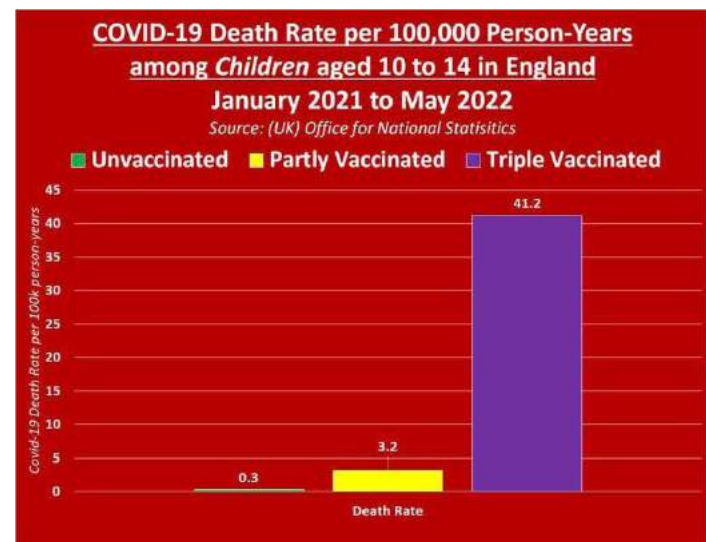
<https://childrenshealthdefense.org/defender/disabled-americans-covid-vaccine>

UK Government quietly published that 94% of COVID-19 deaths since April have been among the vaccinated, and a shocking 90% of those deaths were among the triple/quadruple jabbed.



Staggering Number of Deaths among Vaccinated Children

Source: (UK) Office for National Statistics



CRISIS! MANHOOD HAS BEEN HIJACKED

BRO. DAVID KAUFFMAN

“And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.”

Ezekiel 22:30

A greater catastrophe than a global viral pandemic is the destruction of true manhood and fathers. The world stage presents to us a very volatile and uncertain scene—economic, political, and social upheaval globally on an unprecedented scale. We are living in a world in crisis, a world with scarcely any real men left, a fatherless, hopeless world.

Society is paying the ugly toll of being unmanned and without true fathers. Young men are drifting along in drug abuse, sensuality, and crime; aimless, without purpose, and confused about their identity. They have become slaves to a system that has fed their lusts and stripped them of power and all manly virtues.

This awful reality compounds in magnitude as we realize the domino effect on society—women are confused about their role in society, and are now career driven, sexualized, and depressed.

Relationships are modeled after Hollywood and the porn industry, resulting in broken homes, depression, jealousy,

violence, overflowing foster care, and abortion clinics. Schools have become toxic and dangerous. Youth are aimless and suicidal.

We don't need more policies nor more science, universities, banks, or government control. What the world needs is a unified uprising of real men and fathers of every nation, tribe, and culture who are dedicated to truth, justice, and righteousness above prestige, social acceptance, and financial security. This would turn the tide of wickedness and tyranny that is sweeping the world.

Before men from all walks of life rise up, there must be the rising of a Moses, a saviour for all men to rally to; men who can project the image of true manhood.

Though we have been flooded with a deluge of false saviours, whether in the form of political leaders or super-

What the world needs is a unified uprising of real men and fathers of every nation, tribe, and culture who are dedicated to truth, justice, and righteousness above prestige, social acceptance, and financial security. This would turn the tide of wickedness and tyranny that is sweeping the world.

man warriors stalking the screen, there has been a sad lack of a true Moses in the world today, and it is not by accident.

Historically, the undermining and destruction of men has been the means

of bringing nations into subjugation and keeping them there. To thwart any potential father, leader, or deliverer arising from among the people, there have been strategic preemptive efforts made to keep the conditions such that none would arise. And if there was a man that broke through, he was quickly targeted and either eliminated or absorbed into the oppressive systems they were under. There are many examples of these atrocities in the Bible:

- The drowning of the Israelite male babies. Exodus 1:22.
- Making eunuchs of the goodliest young male Israelite captives and indoctrinating them with the language and ways of Babylon (Daniel 1:3-4).
- King Herod's killing of the infants. The murder of the males was an effort to preempt the rising of a deliverer. Matthew chapter 2.
- When they could not be killed, the rulers in power sought to control the men through slavery or, in the case of Daniel and his three friends, the king sought to buy them out by giving them prestige and position and incorporating them into his agenda.

We see these same tactics used again against such notable men as Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcom X, and Fred

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THE ANCIENT LIE



She fell for it. It was not true. It was not possible, but she was beguiled and believed the lie. Every generation has been suffering for her crime ever since. O Eve! She spread the lie, the deception—Adam joined her in the transgression. What woeful regret befell our primitive parents! O the deceitfulness of sin!

Satan's mission was accomplished that fateful day by first alienating the hearts of Adam and Eve from God. A seed of unbelief was planted. "For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." "After all," the foe insinuated, "was not God withholding good from them to serve His own interests?" For the first time, man had hard thoughts of God.

Consequently, in the mind of man, God was diminished, and, in the vain mind of man, he himself became exalted, imagining that he could be a god.

Since then, degenerate man has chafed against submission to their Creator. The god of this world having blinded their MINDS, man is his own sufficiency. See him building a tower to reach unto heaven. See him as "creator" chiselling gods out of wood and stone—gods of his own imagination; mute and dumb gods which he could control.

The apostle Paul, a personal witness of such, so aptly describes this folly and absurdity in his letter to the Romans:

Romans 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things...

25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

Fools indeed, who imagine themselves wise by crafting gods with their own human hands! All because "they did not like to retain God in their knowledge." Therefore, gods they would have of their own making; religion they would have, no matter how powerless. How many generations bore the curse of such man-made gods—gods with carnal attributes; gods who could not see—just as the men who imagined

them. O the pride of man!

The consequent fruit of such folly is the hurt and dishonour of man. "God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient." That which comes from the deceitful heart of fallen man is desperately wicked. Read Romans 1:24-28 to see the Holy Ghost commentary of what man has accomplished without God—the hurt of which has been expressed through the ages in the groans of the oppressed and heavy-laden.

The Ancient Lie

How true the proverb: "There is nothing new under the sun." Satan, a murderer from the beginning and the father of lies (John 8:44), is still employing the same ancient lie—"Ye shall be as gods."

Never more evident than in our day, as we have a veritable breeding ground for more lower-case gods than ever. As prophesied by the apostle Paul, the times are perilous. Why? Because "men shall be lovers of their own selves." Rebellious man is more than happy to live by his own self-devised laws, to decide the measure of his own morality, to have or have not his own spirituality.

Man has reached the height of "his glory," and it is under-whelming—

humanism at its best.

Yet, with their backs to God and snuffing at His laws, man marches on, hell-bent to his own destruction.

Isaiah 1:4-6 Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a 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...Ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.

From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores.

While proud, haughty man is now super-excelling in folly, madness has overtaken the land, and this, because they will not have the God of heaven to rule over them.

Playing God

See this mob with blinded minds staggering as drunken sots in the darkness. The unthinkable prevails, imagining that a man can be a woman, and a woman can be a man. Intent on “going against nature,” they are ensnaring many a victim with such vile propaganda. Can you hear their groaning?

“Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,” indeed. Living in the dark la-la land of witless dreamers, there is a wave of excitement that they now are on the verge of *upgrading humans to gods*. Merge the human body with modern technology and, *voila!* making a god has never been easier. Is not this the height of humanism? See them weary themselves chasing the wind.

One of this zany number, Yuval Noah Harari, a World Economic Forum advisor, hailed as a philosopher and an intellect, stated: “History began when humans invented god, and it will end when humans become gods.” “A hundred years from now it is quite likely that humans will disappear, and the earth will be populated by very different beings like cyborgs and A.I. [artificial intelligence],” He asserted that it is difficult to predict “what kind of emotional or mental life such entities will have.”

Harari has sold 20 million books, so it seems there is a lot of interest in becoming gods. May a book-burning be pending!

Another blinded dreamer, Klaus Schwab, in his book *The Fourth Industrial Revolution*, plans for a revolution “different in scale, scope, and complexity from any that have come before. Characterized by a range of new technologies that are fusing the physical, digital, and biological worlds, the developments are affecting all disciplines, economies, industries, and governments, and *even challenging ideas about what it means to be human.*”

And, recent breaking news—scientists are hopeful they can create human embryos for organ harvesting after a breakthrough with mice.

Playing God; ever playing God.

Toxic Religion

Added to this mix, we have the damage done by the two-horned Protestant beast that speaks as the dragon (Rev. 13:11). Having permeated the atmosphere with its neo-polytheism, you can choose a Jesus of your own liking, complete with your preferred doctrine, and, of course, a church of *your* choice. Do not judge. To each his own—are we

“Today [homo sapiens] stand on the verge of becoming a god, poised to acquire not only eternal youth, but also the divine abilities of creation and destruction.”

— Yuval Harari

not as gods?

This beast tricks even sincere souls into serving the god of their own imagination, little realizing they are “on a way that seems right but” ends in death (Proverbs 14:12).

What a great travesty! What religious confusion! What woeful mockery and powerless misrepresentation of the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ! Pure religion is made odious to reasonable people by men who would build their own tower to heaven.

God Is Not Mocked

Mr. Harari actually believes that: “Today [homo sapiens] stand on the verge of becoming a god, poised to acquire not only eternal youth, but also the divine abilities of creation and destruction.” Can you hear God laughing as He whets His sword and bends His bow (Psalm 7:12)?

“Be not deceived; God is not mocked”! Nor is He asleep or winking at the machinations of man.

Be forewarned, all lovers of self who will not have God to reign over them. God has a prophetic surprise ahead for you. Read of it in Revelation 20:9b. When God makes bare His arm, He will scatter the proud in the imagination of their hearts and put down the mighty from their seats (Luke 1:51-52).

“Put them in fear, O LORD: that the nations may know themselves to be but men.” Psalm 9:20. 📖 *Sis. S. Mutch*

CRISIS! MANHOOD HAS BEEN HIJACKED

Continued from Page 5

Hampton, to mention a few that are well known.

What many fail to realize is that at this time, there are few such men arising at all, because of a feat of social engineering that emasculates them, strips them of their power and blinds them to the call of being a real man and father. They are being redirected from their youth into a sensual, self-seeking, and purposeless life. If they do feel a sense of responsibility to society, they are given some cause to identify with and a race to run that is guided and controlled by the evil powers that be, and that goes nowhere in the end.

Real manhood has been hijacked. Can we really fathom this crisis? The father has been taken out of society.

The world desperately needs righteous men to gather and rise for revolution. The men desperately need righteous fathers of society to gather to. It will not come through political leaders.

But good news, dear friends! Our God and heavenly Father has raised up righteous men in this time with the same divine calling as men such as Noah, Moses, Peter, and Paul, despite the efforts of the devil to eliminate them! In the darkness, hope has arisen! May all good men hear the ancient call to stand in the gap, to make up the hedge, and to go for the land. May we all rally to our fathers who will show us the way. 📖

A Plea to Fathers

Scores of words down through the ages
Have been written upon pages.

Pen and poem, a father describing
Could never display his true inscribing.

A child's perception of God and man
Is built or broken by father's hand.

Children of men with joy or regret
Through father's life their identities get.

Wars and battles and times of peace
At father's word either swell or cease.

Time would fail me here and now
To tell the importance of what father's allow.

If, as mothers, there's one cry we can make
It's, "Turn to our children and their hearts take!"

Be your son's greatest hero, your daughter's first love,
Then turn them towards God and heaven above.

— Sis. Cassie Hayton

Obituary



SIS. MARLANA HALE departed peacefully from this life on August 21, 2022, at her home in Ontario, California, surrounded by her family, at the age of 78.

She was born again in October of 1972 and began in earnest to show herself approved by personal study, faithfulness in prayer, and holy application of her new-found faith. In January of 1988, the Lord called her and her husband out of all sect-Babel confusion to take a stand with the church of God. She was an early pioneer of this restoration movement and never drew back from following her Lord and Saviour.

Always a fervent Christian, she was also well-known for being a kind

and loving person. She loved being outdoors, gardening, spending time with family, digging into the family's genealogy, and helping souls find peace in the Saviour. She became a writer in her later years, writing two books, several songs, and poems. She traveled extensively for the work of the Lord. There was nothing more important to her than the gospel, and it can be truly said that she fought a good fight and finished her course, being filled with the sweetness of Christ, even in her bed of affliction.

While we rejoice that Sis. Marlana has triumphed and gained her eternal reward, she will be sorely missed.

ARMAGEDDON NEWS

REPORTED BY BRO. DANIEL EICHELBERGER



This present age! Full of perversions so desperate and absurd, they border on the farcical. Satan knows no shame. And people, who are made a little lower than he is, positively wallow in their own. Seemingly without realization. Definitely without compunction of conscience. They wish you didn't have one. But we do, and so we bring to you their beastly attempts to steal, kill, and destroy like their father the devil.

A Win for Free Speech in Mexico

Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) has announced a critical win for free speech after Autonomous University of Baja California ruled against sanctioning recent valedictorian Christian Cortez Pérez over a graduation speech defending traditional family values and the rights of the unborn.

The graduate faced backlash from professors for his heartfelt commencement comments. They pressed for his license in psychology to be withheld, the withdrawal of his merit award, and notification to be made to psychological associations throughout Mexico, letting them know of his comments and views. Upon review of the charges against him, the University Council stated that "the arguments presented by the aggrieved part are unfounded, as well as the sanctions requested, for which reason the appeal filed is dismissed."

According to ADF, "On account of widespread violations, international bodies repeatedly have called on Mexico to correct its stance on freedom of speech." One young man, at least, can pursue his career without having it canceled at the

outset by the woke, stark raving mad faculty of his university.

The Not So Golden State

The Beach Boys wished they all could be California Girls. In our day, this takes on a whole new meaning.

Recently signed into law by Governor Gavin Newsom, SB 107 is the latest attack upon the family by Democrats in the Golden State. Provisions in the law authorize California courts to assert emergency jurisdiction over and assume temporary custody of minors if they have been unable to obtain gender-affirming health care or mental health care in another state. It also prohibits California medical providers and insurers from releasing the health records of minors provided with such care, effectively inhibiting potential lawsuits from out-of-state parents or government entities who may seek redress in court over a child being treated against a parent's will.

This means your child could go to California, be put on puberty blockers or provided with some other type of gender-affirming procedures, without you ever being notified or told.

The Beach Boys could really be girls, and the California Girls could actually be boys, and we would never be the wiser. Mind blown.

Chip in and Face the Brave New World

It is not just the purview of the science fiction novel or movie any more. The future is now. Elon Musk's company Neuralink is actually working on implantable chips for one's brain. And a recent article by Kathleen Philips published by the

World Economic Forum gushes at the possibilities that augmented reality technology holds for human kind. We must just have the "right support and vision."

"The limits on implants are going to be set by ethical arguments rather than scientific capacity," she writes. "For example, should you implant a tracking chip in your child? There are solid, rational reasons for it, like safety. Would you actually do it? Is it a bridge too far?"

That one feels compelled to ask such questions is indicative of grave pathologies of mind and soul. For any to answer the first two questions in the affirmative is a mark of true insanity.

But Philips is nonplussed. "As scary as chip implants may sound, they form part of a natural evolution that wearables once underwent," she says. "Hearing aids and glasses no longer carry a stigma." (Brain chips and eyeglasses are similar things, you see.)

Philips assures us that in this brave new world of augmentation technology, ethics will advise us how far to go. Still not convinced? Let us hear one last word from her.

"If the idea of a chip in your body makes you cringe, consider all the pharmaceuticals you take without question."

I am old enough to know that this last quote hit someone among the readership square between the eyes.

Modern men think they are gods. They fly full in the face of the Almighty. But He shall have the last laugh. Their judgment will be sure. Final. Eternal. And it will be just. They will have earned every flame. 🗡️



Consecration

BRO. CHRISTIAN SAVAGE, SR.

necessary to sustain life is a direct gift from God. Therefore, it is only reasonable that everything

at the feet of God's chosen men. Moses decided how to best use the Israelites' donations. Imagine if the men of Israel had attempted to earmark their gifts for certain uses. "Now, Moses, I would like these earrings to be melted down and used to overlay the ark of the covenant. And since I donated so much, could you maybe make sure everyone knows that I paid for the mercy seat where God sits?" We find this thought laughable, and yet this is precisely how church-goers today behave themselves. Rather than tithes and offerings being given as free gifts to be used as God directs, they are used as leverage to direct the work of God as the giver feels it should go.

The issue of where to give is not the only one where a struggle is to be had. What should we give, and how much? Firstly, we must remember that the size of the gift is not what matters. Our heavenly Father already owns the cattle on a thousand hills. He has no need of your support. He is omnipotent! The giving of our resources is not even a repayment of any kind, because the gift we give God was his already. It is like a small child asking his father for money to buy him a gift. The father receives the present that already belongs to him, and is made happy, not because he was made richer by the gift, but because he knows that child made a sacrifice for him.

"If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple." Luke 14:26

Consecration. This word conjures up thoughts of dedication, sacrifice, and resolve. But as with many spiritual principles, the true, deep meaning has been lost in the business and confusion of this increasingly wicked world. What does it mean to be "sold out" for the gospel? Is this merely an intellectual exercise in which we attempt to hypothesize what the Lord may require of us? Or are there practical, physical applications of this often professed, but much less commonly possessed, quality?

When one studies the history of the devout people of God, from Creation to today, there is a theme that consistently presents itself. True saints have always possessed the realization that nothing belongs to them. In fact, even the very air

should be used for the furtherance of the work of the Lord. This is made evident by such historical figures as the children of Israel when they brought of their riches to Moses to build the tabernacle (Exodus 36), Hannah giving Samuel to Eli (1 Samuel 1), the widow woman that gave her last meal to Elijah (1 Kings 17), or the early Christians laying their things at the apostles' feet (Acts 4). This concept would be met with little resistance from most professed Christians of today. However, the discrepancy would arise where the rubber meets the road, in the practical administration of the giving.

In all the examples used in the previous paragraph, and in many more examples in the scriptures besides, there is one glaring commonality. Every time there was a great move of God, the required resources were given by the people, and given to someone. Not simply held in reserve "in case God needs it," not even used as the giver saw fit. The offerings were laid

We should give until it hurts. Giving out of an abundance, while keeping plenty in reserve, is no sacrifice. We are reminded of the Pharisees making a great show of giving large amounts of money in the temple, while the poor widow gave her last two mites. The widow's offering made no noticeable difference in the work of the Lord. It likely was not enough to fill one lamp with oil. And yet, Jesus praised her offering and told His disciples that she gave more than all the others. She gave until it hurt. She was prepared to starve to death as long as she did her part for God. May our faces burn in shame as we carefully consider our budgets, making sure that our needs and wants are all provided for, and then giving the little remainder to the offering box, providing that there even is any left.

Consider the rich young ruler that came to Jesus, inquiring how to obtain eternal life. Jesus began with a list of things that he knew the young man was measured up in. "Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother. And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up. Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me. And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich"(Luke 18:20b – 23).

Just like this man, many times we start by giving the things that are easier for us. We justify our lack of giving in some area by attempting to compensate in another. Doubtless this ruler felt he was a good man. He had likely had opportunity to commit adultery, to steal, to kill, to dishonor his parents. And he had "sacrificed" these things for God. But the Lord kept prodding until he hit upon the one thing that this man loved, and the young man is in eternal torment today for his unwillingness to give to God what was already rightfully His.

Oh, reader, ask yourself, what is your "one thing"? Do not think of all the things you are giving, but think instead on what you are holding back. It may be that God is asking you to preach or sing or He may require you to fill some more unnoticed and seemingly menial place in the body. Perhaps you, too, need to sell all that you have and give to the poor. But do not give it to a place of your choosing. Instead, lay it at the feet of the men of God and allow them to distribute it as they see fit. Maybe you need to give of your time, rising earlier in the day or staying up late and sacrificing your beloved sleep to help someone in need. Whatever your one thing may be, give it up and follow the voice of our dear Saviour as He says, "come, follow me."

"The world has yet to see what God can do with a man fully consecrated to him. By God's help, I aim to be that man." D.L. Moody

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To reverence the impersonal creation instead of the personal God who created us is a perversion designed for escaping moral accountability to the Creator. God indicts those who worship the creation instead of its Creator (Rom 1:18-23); and warns of the corruption of morals and behavior which results.

— *Dave Hunt*

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