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We continue our series with Scripture which asks and answers a question: "Can a maid forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire? yet my people have forgotten me days without number" (Jeremiah 2:32).

It is unmistakable and irrefutable that a nation has lost its moral compass when a person can go to bed one night, biologically and anatomically as a man, then awaken the next morning and deem themselves to be woman. I am bewildered that anyone can change their gender by mere words alone.

One of the great perils of this matter is that these people are civilly protected by our government; and, not only that, our government demands we recognize their perversity, falsehoods, and mendacities.

Lately, a handful of college professors lost their teaching positions because they refused to call a biological and anatomical girl by male pronouns like he or him.

Such perversity will ultimately destroy any nation.

Some months ago while debating the Equality Act, Congressman Jerry Nadler, Democrat-N.Y., declared: "What any religious tradition ascribes as God's will is of no concern to this Congress." In other words, Congressman Nadler insinuated: <u>Forget what the Bible, the Word</u> of God, declares concerning gender; it matters not to this Congress.

From a Christian perspective, I will not consent to their outlandish mendacities and fallacies. The reason I will not submit to their fallacy is because I am not a liar and neither am I delusional. I will not be coerced into submitting to their lies! As a devout Christian, I have a

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godly conscience and therefore I will not capitulate or surrender to their evil demands! My Holy Spirit-filled conscience demands righteousness.

Regrettably, today's liberals seek to change our school curriculum, which includes homosexual marriage, racism, the sexualization of schoolchildren, and the ridicule of traditional values.

It is a sad day in America when all traditional values have utterly expired. We were forewarned by the prophet Isaiah such a day would come: *"Woe unto them that call evil* good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" (Isaiah 5:20).

Once a nation removes righteousness from its conscience, that nation fills with distortion and every perversion. Isaiah warned: *"Woe unto them that draw iniquity with cords of vanity, and sin as it were with a cart rope"* (Isaiah 5:18).

Just as the rope maker can lengthen his rope, so is America lengthening her sins and wickedness every day! By the cart loads, America is transgressing Jehovah.

May I ask: *Has America become reprobate?* The apostle Paul stated: *"And even as they did not like to retain* [possess] *God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind* [a mind devoid of judgment], to do those things which *are not convenient* [becoming]" (Romans 1:28).

Fundamentally, today's Christianity is defined by liberals as a neurosis and therefore many are said to be controlled by a phobia of some form. The word **"phobia"** in Greek

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is *phobos*, (#5401, *Strong's Exhaustive Bible Commentary*) and it means: *to be afraid*.

I am not afraid of the many things the government falsely accuses me of. I do not fear homosexuality, neither am I xenophobic, Islamophobic, or racist. But according to the skewed minds of many politicians and even some religious leaders, I am accused of many fears.

Admittedly, I recognize myself as a "deplorable"; placed in a basket like many others. Good biblical examples are Moses, who was placed in a basket and into the Nile River; and the apostle Paul, who was let down in a basket outside the Damascus city wall. And, of course, there was Jesus, born of a virgin and placed in a feeding trough.

Without a doubt I cast my lot with the deplorable during this nefarious hour. This is exactly what it means to suffer for righteousness sake. Today our government believes it can cure whatever phobia or sickness that ails the redeemed. This is why they are called *reeducation classes*; the which have pervaded the entire military and almost every government alphabet agency. They now call it "woke"!

The truth is, the only cure for sin and the diseased soul is the blood of the Lamb; and praise God it does cure everything!

We read: "For the life of the flesh is in the <u>blood</u>: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the <u>blood</u> that maketh an atonement [reconciliation, restoration to favor] for the soul (Leviticus 17:1, 11).

On the subject of the blood of the

Lamb, let me continue: "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh [redeemed] by the <u>blood</u> of Christ" (Ephesians 2:13).

Also we read: "In whom we have redemption [are ransomed] through his <u>blood</u>, even the forgiveness of sins" (Colossians 1:14).

John the Beloved, digs deeper: "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the <u>blood</u> of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth [purifies] us from all sin" (1 John 1:7).

Look with me, please, at the last book of the Bible: "Unto him that loved us, and washed [bathed] us from our sins in his own <u>blood</u>" (Revelation 1:5).

And finally, during the time known as the Great Tribulation, we read: "And they overcame him by the <u>blood</u> of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony [record]; and they loved not their lives unto the death" (Revelation 12:11).

Dietrich Bonhoeffer stated: "<u>We</u> <u>will never be a victorious church</u> <u>until we see suffering as a divine</u> <u>gift</u>. Sadly, suffering as a divine gift in this generation is laughable! Suffering in this generation is when the donuts and lattes are gone or they have no phone signal.

The early church suffered greatly; but many church leaders today teach our Christian pilgrimage is a cakewalk and brings with it no suffering. The apostle Paul wrote: "... we must through much [great] tribulation enter into the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22).

The Greek word for tribulation is <u>thilpsis</u> (#2347 in *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*). It means: *afflicted, anguish, burdensome, persecution, or trouble.* To believe anything less is heresy. To have your socalled "*best life now*" willfully negates affliction, anguish, burdens, persecution, and trouble.

I chose to cast my lot with the

Word of God. According to Scripture, no man can enter the kingdom of God without a measure of sufferings in their pilgrimage. Jesus warned: "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation [suffering or affliction]: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

The word "tribulation" is used the same throughout the entirety of the New Testament. The apostle Paul warned Timothy: "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution [given to suffering]. But evil men and seducers [imposters] shall wax [grow] worse and worse [more evil], deceiving, and being deceived [more seduced]" (2 Timothy 3:12-13).

Today's church will be utterly deceived if they embrace the fallacy that there will be no tribulation in their pilgrimage. Our faith, as we approach the end and the appearing of Christ, will be put on trial:

"That the trial [test of acceptability] of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried [examined] with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus *Christ* [the apostles only taught one second coming of Christ]: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ve rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end [the goal or termination] of your faith, even the salvation [safety] of *your souls*" (1 Peter 1:7-9).

Just like today, the early church had few Christian representatives in its government to help them: the courts never gave them fair hearings or hardly bothered to protect them. Therefore, there was great persecution, intimidation, deprivation, and many times even death.

Today's church should expect nothing less than the early church. The early church persevered. The greater the persecution the greater the church grew.

Today, every church leader should prepare their people for what is coming. Whether we believe it or not, we are witnessing an end-time slow-motion replay of Socialism, Communism, and Fascism.

It seems the greater the persecution today, the greater the waning in the church, the body of Christ. However, I believe the word of God. There will be a great deluge, freshet, and flood concerning the outpouring of the Holy Ghost in these last days.

Don't allow the spirit of the age to distract your service for our Lord Jesus. The Lord God of Abraham rewards those who remain faithful until the end and the end will be at His Second Advent.

I have prayed fervently over 43 years to be a part of the end-time harvest. There is only one harvest; not multiple harvests! If there is only one harvest, then how is it possible to have multiple comings of Christ? Christians would be well served to re-study the parable of the "Wheat and Tares" and the "Large Net" found in Matthew Chapter 13.

Don't allow anyone to misinterpret the Scriptures to you. You have His Word: immerse in it daily.

Do not neglect your prayer life at this time. Those prayers are needed for the end-time incense for the Altar of God (**Revelation 5:8**). Furthermore, if we fail to pray, America could be in total captivity in the not too distant future. The survival of America is now in the hands of the church, His body.

We are humbled and blessed by your generous love and support. You enable us to reach more souls as every week new listeners and viewers are responding to the ministry.

Serving With You,

David W. Lankford Pastor / Evangelist