

Our Blessed Future in America

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. . . Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:3-10).

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven” (5:11).

“All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved . . . do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell” (10:22, 26).

We’re not here in this life to enjoy heaven on earth. Nor to live as if we’re in paradise. We’re not here to pursue a life of peace, prosperity, security and ease. And my deep concern is, that’s what most American evangelicals are doing. If that’s what we’re doing with God’s gift of life, we’re under judgment. But God loves His people, and He wants them to be pure and holy. So He disciplines those He loves, even though the discipline can be grievous. Therefore it makes sense to anticipate that something unexpected and radical is coming to America, and soon. I’m referring to persecution for following Christ. The America we’ve loved and the soft life with all its freedoms that we’ve cherished is being taken away from us. And what we’ll have instead is suffering and loss, sent by God to perfect us.

Our nation is very rapidly undergoing unstoppable and irreversible transformation. It had been (foolishly) deliberately “secular,” but no longer. It is now rapidly becoming overtly *anti*-theistic. What’s going on is like a tsunami rolling over our country: In the name of “equity” or “woke” ideology, every institution in America is gradually but inexorably coming under the control of radical, atheistic activists. They lust for total power, for total control of all of America. They are working diligently to see it transformed into their (modified Marxist/atheist) ideal, and they are achieving astonishing success. They despise America as it has been and want its traditions annihilated, including its biblical values and its Christian religion. So far, they have invaded every institution, but not all of them have yet been fully co-opted. They still have some work to do. The next thing to come will probably be loyalty oaths, requiring an oath of loyalty to “equity” or “woke” ideology, or nothing that is sought, services or goods, will be provided or sold. Loyalty oaths are already being tried out on certain platforms, and they are powerfully effective. Christians who refuse to take such oaths are going to find themselves isolated, marginalized, even destitute—if not reviled as evil.

Marxism, in whatever its current expression, is Satanic. And Satan despises Christianity, and he wants, no, *needs* to see it disappear from earth—or at least, for now anyway, from the Western world. Christians in America (and England, Canada and Australia as well) are the primary targets of Satan’s hatred. My argument is, God is allowing this to happen in order to purify His people and to set the world stage for the fulfillment of end-time events.

This Sunday School lesson therefore is necessary to help us be ready for the coming onslaught. It may be local and sporadic, or it may be nation-wide and organized, even violent, but it is certainly coming. We are soon going to be the “poor in spirit,” “those who mourn,” and the “meek” that Jesus referred to in His Sermon on the Mount. If we’re not ready, we’ll be blown away by the ferocity of what’s coming. Never mind prayer for revival in the desperate hope of retaining the idolatrous comforts and pleasures we’ve been experiencing. Such prayer is not only in vain but contrary to God’s will. Every indicator points to the compelling likelihood that what’s going on is God’s doing. If we can’t see that God is right now doing something huge in our nation, our eyes simply are blinded. A judgment of God is the most plausible explanation of all that’s going on, and it has good biblical rationale. So, what to do?

First, let’s think about what NOT to do. 1. We don’t want to appeal to politics to abort the transformation. Forget elections and candidates! Forget letters to our Congressmen and forget the whole “democratic” process. Persecution of Christians right now seems to be God’s will; it’s His discipline, so let’s embrace it.

2. We absolutely are NOT going to compromise in order to avoid persecution. Many in the Church have already foolishly adopted woke’s ungodliness in order to appear loving and tolerant, or for acceptance by the world. Such compromises—indeed, *all* compromises—are demonic. (See 2 Corinthians 6:15.)

3. NO GUNS. If any of us have guns, let's get rid of them now so there's not even the temptation to use them in the future. We're going to love our enemies, not shoot them dead or even *threaten* to shoot them dead. So, no guns. We should never have bought them in the first place.

4. Don't hoard. Not food, or gold, or money, or fuel, or whatever. If we're going to be deprived of essentials, let's right now commit to the fact that we're going to suffer. Jesus suffered, and He said, "Follow Me." Paul suffered, and he said, "imitate me." We're not in the millennial Kingdom; in this era, the Church Age, believers must adopt a theology of weakness, one that willingly embraces suffering.

5. Don't be critical of what they're doing to us, but instead be forgiving. We are not going to mock or hate the "woke" people; we'll pray rather that God will have mercy on them. God will judge our persecutors in His time and in His way (see 2 Thess 1:3ff). Justice is His responsibility. Our responsibility is to show grace.

Now, what do we want to do? 1. We need to be mentally prepared for this, and there's no better way to do that than by reading Richard Wurmbrand's, *Tortured for Christ*. (If you've already read it, read it again.) Marxists rolled over Eastern Europe after WWII, and the believers there responded with extraordinary faith in Christ. We can learn much from them. We also should reflect deeply on Paul's 2 Corinthians letter.

2. We need to identify with Jesus, the Suffering Servant of God. We also are to be God's servants, Christ-like in character, extending the Servant-work of Christ into all the world. So we need to be serving and suffering. (See Matthew 10:17ff.) We should start to learn to love our enemies now, and we can best prepare for that by sharing the Gospel in public. All of us are able to give out Gospel tracts on the sidewalks. We need to practice loving others with God's love, regardless of our circumstances, so that serving becomes our life, our nature.

3. We're going to need to help each other. So we should commit now to start praying for one another. And we'll need to be in communication with each other to know how to help materially as needed. That will require a loving spirit, which can only come from the Holy Spirit thru prayer. We need to develop a strong awareness of God's presence to be able to endure persecution, and prayer does that.

4. Let's accept that our standard of living may be severely restricted. We will suffer losses. And that's OK. What they cannot take from us is our hope of eternal life and blessing in Christ – and that's the most important thing there is. We may suffer humiliation. Christ suffered horrible humiliation, so we can too (see John 15:20). We may even have to yield up our lives in martyrdom. It's unlikely, but possible. Let's learn now to rejoice greatly in Christ our Savior so that when the time comes to suffer loss, we're prepared to endure it, and we can be at peace.

5. We ought to begin now to pray for our persecuted brethren in other countries of the world. We need to know who is suffering and where, so that the fact of persecution becomes real to us. We may need their prayers for us some day. The Christian organization, Voice of the Martyrs, is very helpful for this.

6. I suggest that churches abandon membership and destroy all lists of members' names. Anyone's name on a church website certainly should be removed. We won't be able to hide from persecutors, but we don't need to freely divulge or broadcast to them who and where we are.

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It is God's will that we reflect God, His holiness and His love, for example. But over the decades I often wondered about Paul's statement in 2 Timothy 3:12, "**As many as live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.**" I now understand. We haven't been persecuted in America all this time because we haven't been living godly lives. We've been pursuing personal pleasures, comforts, leisure and happiness instead of God's revealed will. So now, as our nation undergoes radical change and the easy, peaceful life is taken away from us, God will see to it that we live godly—and experience persecution. "**Your faith is growing more and more and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing [because of] all the persecutions and trials you are enduring**" (2 Thess 1:3-4)). In the Spirit and with unshakable trust in God, let's all say, "Bring it on!"