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The Law of the Bystander

The American Empire is now dead, and the vultures are circling in to pick the bones clean.

The question I will seek to answer in this message is WHY is the Empire now dead?

As I was struggling to choose the proper articles for the January issue of the Examiner, I noticed that January contains "Sanctity of Life Sunday." Over the years we have become an openly lawless society both inside outside of the church.

Here are excerpts from an article worth our attention. It is found at World Net Daily.

Quoting David Kupelian:

The secret to saving America

David Kupelian explores how to fight the good fight without losing your soul

...Summarizing America's current spiritual state, Los Angeles mega-pastor John MacArthur recently told Fox News' Laura Ingraham: "America's in a moral free fall. ... You murder the babies in the womb. If they survive the womb, you try to seduce them into transgender sexual deviation when they're young. If they survive that, you corrupt them with a godless education. If they survive that, you have divorce in the family. And if they grow to be adults, we drown them in a sea of pornography. This is a nation so far down in the sewer of immorality and wickedness that nothing surprises me."

MacArthur is right, of course. Which means even if Trump were miraculously to remain in office for another four years and continue to turbocharge the U.S. economy as he did previously, America would remain in a state of "moral free fall."

Indeed, no real and lasting recovery is possible for America without a genuine spiritual revival.

...

Christianity has historically grown during times of persecution, not only in numbers but in depth. America's coming days promise to be very tough ones, with much persecution directed toward those who dare speak the Truth. But if good people stand up for what is right, for their nation, for what is legal and proper and moral and good – and if they do it with faith in Almighty God that He may be glorified and His will ultimately triumph – they absolutely cannot lose.

End Quote

I will not give you the URL links to these quotes, but they will be in the notes posted at [sermonaudio.com/providence](https://www.wnd.com/2021/01/secret-saving-america/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=wnd-breaking&utm_campaign=breaking&utm_content=breaking&ats_es=76c88699640bf17c199c18ba90162de3)

https://www.wnd.com/2021/01/secret-saving-america/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=wnd-breaking&utm_campaign=breaking&utm_content=breaking&ats_es=76c88699640bf17c199c18ba90162de3

As Christians, we must realize that though Trump tried to stop the “moral free fall” with laws from the top down, and would have continued his efforts in a second term, the “moral free fall” can only be stopped with the everlasting Gospel of Christ; that is, conversion and transformation of individuals and of the nations through preaching, teaching and the obedient application of the Law-word of God.

Psalms 19: 7 The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. 8 The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. 9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

Three short points:

First, where there is no law of God, there can be not conversion.

Second, where there is no law of God, there can be no wisdom, and foolishness will prevail, as it does today.

Third, where there is no law of God, there can be no justice, and injustice must reign.

What we could call “Christian Antinomianism” has brought us to this present anti-Christian situation.

God has established an openly avowed Anti-Christ Harris-Biden administration to show that, according to Psalms 75:6 and Daniel 4:34 & 35, promotion comes **only from above**. He is the one who establishes even the wicked in authority, as all things happen according to His sovereign purpose and for His glory. Daniel’s stone, which is Jesus Christ, struck the image of man, 2000 years ago, and He is even now in the process of grinding man’s image to powder.

The truth of Jeremiah 17:5 has been preached for years. V. 5 is no longer theory, but reality:

Jeremiah 17:5 *Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD. Whether or not we think these OT warnings apply in the Gospel Age, it is obvious that God’s curse against a disobedient and gainsaying people is now openly upon us.*

Trust in the man, Trump is now as a vapor. Political movements have not given nor will they give life when the hearts of the Covenant people have departed from the Lord. Our only hope is a genuine turning to the Law of the Lord. How many times have we been told the true “secret of saving America” and then quoting **Hosea 4:6** as though it were a magic formula?

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children. 7 As they were increased, so they sinned against me: therefore will I change their glory into shame.

Here are some comments from the past concerning

Jamison Fauset Brown: **Lack of *knowledge*** of His Law, providences, governments of the world, holy nature, hatred of sin, power to punish sin, &c. If his people had known *knowledge*, they would have repented and avoided His wrath, Psalms 19:7-11. “Their ignorance was willful...”

Geneva: “the whole body of the people were weary with hearing the word of God.”

Albert Barnes “God marks the relation between sin and the punishment” by telling them that their lawlessness brought their punishment upon them. They have no one to blame but themselves.

Matthew Poole: why do they lack the *knowledge* that leads to repentance? “*Because thou:* the prophet now turns his words from the people to the priests among them.” Forgetting the *law of thy God* results in God forgetting the (Covenant) children.

That is to say, the religious leaders have not taught and did not teach the Law and its implications to the Covenant people; thus, the law could not work in their hearts and bring repentance and obedience.

Hoshea has been quoted many times over, yet with few exceptions, there has been no desire nor effort to teach, learn and follow the implications of the Law of God which, according to Proverbs 28:13 & 14, alone leads to repentance. Confession and repentance is **the secret to saving America**. (No law, no repentance and no salvation. The results of “Christian Antinomianism” are upon us!)

January and the Sanctity of Life Sunday brought to mind one of the major laws that has been ignored, and has led to self-destruction; that is, **The Law of the Bystander**

In 1984, President Ronald Reagan issued a proclamation that established a National "Sanctity of Life Day" in the United States. That day of remembrance of and commitment to protecting human life has been observed in churches throughout the country on the 3rd Sunday in January ever since. However, this year the 24th is closer to the “Roe v. Wade” decision.

We are members of the only Orthodox Reformed Church within an hour of us. It is a Presbyterian church maybe 30-35 min from us. Probably 50% of the group are Reformed

Baptist who are in the same situation. The closest Reformed Baptist church is probably two hours away.

The church is at least 90% homeschoolers who love children and have large families. Several parents work with the local Crisis Pregnancy Center. Our small congregation has at least three expectant mothers. Half of the congregation is made up of children who have been trained to sit quietly through the hour-long service.

The purpose of Sanctity of Life Sunday is to raise public awareness of the uncontrolled murder of children.

We shall first consider **Proverbs 24**, and then Psalms 50:16-2 as they present **The Law of the Bystander**.

WARNING: As we enter into a Harris-Biden administration, it may become costly to speak out against evil.

From the pulpit, it will be much safer to speak soft, pleasant, pietistic words – words that will sooth the people, avoid public censure from others, produce a good reputation in the community, and avoid the attention of a despotic government as they vigorously peruse their war against the God of Heaven, such as now takes place in China and even N Korea.

Isaiah tells us that the result of those smooth words over the past decades are what have brought the wrath of God against His church. We are now living in the results.

Isaiah 30:10 *Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits:*

In other words, obeying the **Law of the Bystander** could well bring persecution by the wicked upon those who are seeking to obey it.

FIRST:

Proverbs 24:10 *If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small. 11 If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain; 12 If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?*

In other words, we cannot ignore the evils around us, e.g., abortion, and continue on as though those evils do not exist. The law of the bystander falls under the eighth commandment, THOU SHALT NOT STEAL. That law requires us to sound the alarm when we see an evil taking place. 1 John 3:4 identifies sin as any violation of God's law. **Sanctity of Life Sunday** was and is meant to draw attention to those who are being delivered to death in the abortion mills.

Deuteronomy 22:1-4 shows us that God's law **works from the bottom up**.

1 Thou shalt not see thy brother's ox or his sheep go astray, and hide thyself from them: thou shalt in any case bring them again unto thy brother. 2 And if thy brother be not nigh unto thee, or if thou know him not, then thou shalt bring it unto thine own house, and it shall be with thee until thy brother seek after it, and thou shalt restore it to him again. 3 In like manner shalt thou do with his ass; and so shalt thou do with his raiment; and with all lost thing of thy brother's, which he hath lost, and thou hast found, shalt thou do likewise: thou mayest not hide thyself. 4 Thou shalt not see thy brother's ass or his ox fall down by the way, and hide thyself from them: thou shalt surely help him to lift them up again.

The law of the bystander requires one to help another's animal when that animal is lost or in distress. If God's law requires us to render proper care and warning about an animal belonging to friend or foe, how much more must we sound the alarm concerning evils like killing the unborn?

Abortion falls under *Thou shalt not commit murder*, and I assume everyone agrees with that assessment. However, we are considering abortion under *Thou shalt not steal*, which holds the bystanders accountable before God. We, as **bystanders**, are to raise the alarm and sound out God's word concerning the wickedness and evil that is going on around us.

Psalms 119:96 tells us that "*thy commandment is exceeding broad.*" **The law of the bystander is much broader** than just murder. It applies to any evil of which we are aware, such as theft of company tools, money or property. As a young man, I reported a theft to the authority, and I paid the price with my "friends" for the next year.

If we do not publicly speak and stand against evil, we are held equally culpable before God as is the perpetrator. Obviously, we will not be held guilty as those are who are doing the wickedness, but we will be held accountable by God.

Deuteronomy 22:24 *Then ye shall bring them both out unto the gate of that city, and ye shall stone them with stones that they die; the damsel, because she cried not, being in the city; and the man, because he hath humbled his neighbour's wife: so thou shalt put away evil from among you.*

V. 24 **tells us** that a woman assaulted in a city was presumed to have given her consent if she did not cry out. But if she was assaulted in the field, it was assumed that she cried out and no one heard her. In both cases, it was assumed that the bystander would have taken action to aid to the woman in distress.

It is not uncommon today to hear of **bystanders**, for whatever reason, ignoring one who is in distress. That bystander is just as guilty before God as is the one doing the violence: "I don't want to get involved" will not justify one before God.

What are we doing to aid those in the distress of abortion? Support of the **Crises Pregnancy Center** is a good means of aid.

God's law considers the non-interfering bystander worse than those who give a false witness. The false witness misrepresents the truth, but the non-interfering bystander becomes an accomplice to the crime by failing to do what he could to stop the evil.

SECOND:

Psalms 50:16 *but unto the wicked said God, What hast thou to do to declare mine ordinances, that thou shouldest take my covenant in thy mouth, 17 Seeing thou **hatest to be reformed**, and hast cast my words behind thee? 18 For when thou seest a thief, thou runnest with him, and thou art partaker with the adulterers. 19 Thou givest thy mouth to evil, and with they tongue thou forgest deceit. Thou sittest, and speakest against thy brother, and slanderest thy mother's sons. 21. These things hast thou done, and I held my tongue; therefore thou thoughtest that I was like thee: but I will reprove thee, and set them in order before thee. 22 O consider this ye that forget God, lest I tear you in pieces, and there be none that can deliver you. He that offereth praise, shall glorify me: and to him that disposeth his way aright, will I show the salvation of God.*

1) in v. 16, the Lord asks, "Why do you pretend to be my people and talk of my covenant, seeing that you are a *wicked hypocrite*? You say you are my people, yet you ignore the evil around you. You do not help the victims; you do not challenge the evildoers, nor do you take steps that are within your power at least to hinder the evil doer."

Over the years, this writer has found, by experience, that *Letters to the Editor* are surprisingly effective weapons against the evil activates in one's community. A well-written letter will normally get published. The *Letters to the Editor* are one of the most read section of the paper. However, there may be a price to pay for publicly standing against evil in high places.

How many claim to hold to Orthodox, Reformed Covenant theology yet they totally ignore the Law of the Covenant, the Ten Words and their broad implications. "But those are OT laws, and they do not apply in the age of grace."

2) in v. 17, the Lord told them that they *hatest to be reformed* (Geneva) *hatest instruction* (or reproof, KJV). Note how much stronger the Geneva is: ***reformed***, or changed by God's word, vs. ***instruction***, or simply to be instructed by God's word. **God's word calls for reformation** from sin to Him, and requires His people to do what they can against wickedness and for godliness. ***Reformed***, that is, changed from indifference to active concern.

Hatest to be reformed. That is, they hated to live according to God's law-word.

3) v. 18, is quoted by Paul in Romans 1:32, and shows that the law of the Lord identifies the inactive bystander with the doer of the wicked deed. Certainly, our meager voice will not stop wicked activities such as abortion, for only a return to God's command-word by God's people will do that. But we cannot remain silent nor inactive against wickedness, or we shall stand equally guilty before the Law. Peter, in his first epistle 3:15 tells us that at the very least, we must know God's law-word, and be ready always to give an answer in any matter at a moment's notice.

4) Paul applies the Law of the Bystander for the Gospel Age: Every Bible I have and all my commentaries give Romans 1:32 as the cross reference for v. 18:

Geneva: Romans 1:32 *Which men, though they knew the Law of God, how that they which commit such things are worthy of death, yet not only do the same, but also favor them that do them.*

What sharper condemnation can the Law speak to those who profess Christ yet they fail to **publicly speak** out against surrounding evils, abortion in this case, at every opportunity. (Again, I have found that *Letters to the Editor* are a very effective means to speak out against evil.) The Law clearly identifies religious leaders, pastors/elders/teachers, or average self-professed Christians who fail to make a lot of "noise" against surrounding evils, the Law identifies them **with the evil doers**. According to the Law of the Lord, the silence of those who profess Christ makes them equally as culpable as the guilty evil doer. Moreover, refusing to address and confront social evils from God's word delivers a "Christian" nation into the hands of the powers of darkness.

In **Romans 1:23**, Paul also applies **Proverbs 17:15**, *He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the LORD.*

Paul tells us that failure to publicly condemn the wicked means that we justify them, and reap our just reward from God.

In addition, **Proverbs 28:4** *They that forsake the law praise the wicked: but such as keep the law contend with them.*—**Contend can mean** things like physical war and verbal contending. **Righteous acts** and words in the face of evil also **contends** with the wicked.

This is a hard saying, but failure to *contend* with the wicked means that we have forsaken *the law* and we *praise the wicked*.

When I was pastor in Linden, a young lady in Lafayette became very upset over the evils in her community. She became angry enough to start a small tabloid. She was able to get enough sponsors to publish the paper. In it, she documented who, what, when and the circumstances around many wicked actives in Lafayette. Her biggest distress was that NO LOCAL pastor

would write articles addressing the evils from God's Law, so she came to me to write some articles.

We are now living the God-ordained results of decades of **self-professed average Christians or leaders**, either because they do not know Scripture, or because they fear what man might do to them, they have failed and are failing to teach the implications of God's law-word. They are failing to publicly address social evils from Scripture.

Pastor John MacArthur is setting a wonderful example of how the religious leaders should be reacting to the issues at hand.

The Law of the Lord clearly identifies those who remain silent as wicked hypocrites.

Notice that God is speaking to His Covenant people in Psalms 50 when He said: *but unto the wicked said God, What hast thou to do to declare mine ordinances, that thou shouldest take my covenant in thy mouth...* **That is**, they profess to be His covenant people, but remain silent against the wicked actions going on around them.

“But, Bro Need, you do not have to face the results of publicly speaking against evil from the pulpit. You speak now with pen and ink.”

Over the years as a pastor in IN and in WV, I have paid the price for speaking out against the surrounding evils. I have personally found that making a lot of public noise from Scripture about the wicked activities in one's community will gain the label of being a radical and one to be avoided. It also brought down the wrath of those in political power as I spoke publicly against their obvious misuse of their power, which is a long story in itself. For a pastor, the cost will show up in attendance, in the offering plate, and in public ridicule, for we live in a fallen world. Do we answer to the Law of the Lord, or to public opinion? Fear God or Fear man?

At the very least, we must speak out against evil at every opportunity. We must speak God's Word, and not ours. I tell folks, “Make God the ‘bad guy. Make the disagreement between the person and God.’”

Let us be reminded of some familiar and well-used passages. Both Ezekiel 3 & 33 are quite clear on the fact that God holds us responsible to speak out and warn the wicked at every opportunity:

33:8 When I shall say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt die the death, if thou dost not speak and admonish the wicked of his way, that wicked man shall die for his iniquity, but his blood will I require at thine hand.

On the positive side:

V. 9, *Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it, if he do not turn from his way, he shall die for his iniquity, but thou hast delivered thy soul.*

His blood, thy soul... How can these things be concerning the Covenant people? As fallen creatures, we cannot know nor understand these deep things of God. However, *blood* and *soul* imply serious accountability. King Lemuel, or Solomon, was told this by his mother:

Proverbs 31:8 *Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction.*

His mother told him that he had a responsibility to speak for those who could not speak for themselves. Is our responsibility any less?

5) Paul's warning:

1 Timothy 5:22 *Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins; keep thyself pure.*

The Law forbids hastily placing unproven men into teaching position. Violation of this Law has serious results for the church and for society in general. (Note that it must be the Law of the Lord, and NOT the law of men that qualifies men for their position in His service.) When and if we see violation and do not speak out, we become partakers with them in their evil.

Deuteronomy 19:19 — *Then shall ye do unto him, as he had thought to have done unto his brother: so shalt thou put the evil away from among you.*

The law implies that the silent, inactive bystander is under the same penalty as the one who committing the violation of the Law. “But the **law of the bystander** is Old Testament. We are New Testament Christians, and are no longer responsible to the laws and precepts under the old covenant.”

First, the Law pronounces curses against those who try to divide up God's word into various dispensations: Deuteronomy 4:2, Proverbs 30:6, Revelation 22:18, 19. **Second**, our Lord spoke to those who sought to justify their inaction:

Luke 10:29 *But he willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, Who is then my neighbor? 30 And Jesus answered, and said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, and they robbed him of his raiment, and wounded him and departed, leaving him half dead. 31 Now so it fell out, that there came down a certain Priest that same way, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32 And likewise also a Levite, when he was come near to the place, went and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. 33 Then a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came near unto him and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, 34 And went to him, and bound up his wounds and poured in oil and wine, and put him on*

his own beast, and brought him to an Inn, and made provision for him 35 And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him. Take care of him and whatsoever thou shalt see more when I come again, I will recompense thee. 36 Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbor unto him that fell among the thieves? 37 And he said, He that showed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

Christ summed the law of the bystander in the above parable of the Good Samaritan. In His condemnation of the religious leaders, He clearly condemned those who in this **Gospel Age** ignore or do not take appropriate action when possible, or do not clearly and publicly speak against the surrounding wickedness.

Paul also applied the Old Testament law of the Bystander in Romans 1:23.

The secret to saving America is NOT a secret:

Ecclesiastes 12:13 ¶ *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. 14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.*

Romans 14:12 *So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.*

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There is no hope other than repent and obey the law-word of God.

Let us pray. Our Lord and our God we give thanks unto you for your word and the great promises to those who trust in Jesus Christ and His victory over sin and death. We pray for the grace and faith to overcome the fear of man, and take a righteous stand against the surrounding wickedness. Might we use the sword of the spirit to overcome those who are making war against your kingdom on earth. Strengthen us by your might, and make us more than conquerors through Christ who love us and gave himself for us, in whose name we pray. Amen

Let me close with this word:

Deuteronomy 21:18 *If a man have a stubborn and rebellious son, which will not obey the voice of his father, or the voice of his mother, and that, when they have chastened him, will not hearken unto them: 19 Then shall his father and his mother lay hold on him, and bring him out unto the elders of his city, and unto the gate of his place; 20 And they shall say unto the elders of his city, This our son is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton,*

and a drunkard. 21 And all the men of his city shall stone him with stones, that he die: so shalt thou put evil away from among you; and all Israel shall hear, and fear.

This law that is exceed broad, but we will only consider one point.

Normally, it took 2 or 3 witnesses and a judicial inquiry for the death penalty to be applied. Yet here, only the parents' word was required: it is assumed that the situation was as the parents said, or they would not have brought him to the elders. In this law, we see that there is a limitation upon the power of the family—the family cannot take the life of a child, though it could be seek blood-vengeance.

Man's law says that it is the "legal" right for parents to take the life of their child, which is forbidden by God's law. It is significant that those who are against capital punishment are for abortion:

Ps 94:21 *They gather themselves together against the soul of the righteous, and condemn the innocent blood.*

The wicked condemn the innocent and free the guilty, *e.g.*, the US poured multiplied billions of dollars into Communist China, and now we are surprised that China used those billions to conquer America as they purchased the 2020 election. David said, "*As saith the proverb of the ancients, Wickedness proceedeth from the wicked...*" (1 Sa 24:13) It is impossible for the wicked to think straight, or to think or do other than wickedness.

In the surrounding pagan cultures of Old Testament days, including Rome, the father had the state's authority to kill his own children. God forbid that practice. But most importantly, the family here in Deuteronomy 21:18 is required to side with God's law against their own flesh and blood. If the parents refused to bring the complaint against their *stubborn and rebellious* son, they were guilty of condoning or participating in his crimes.

By God requiring family justice against the son and heir, then it was obvious that justice is required against daughters, family members and surrounding neighbors. Self-professed Christian parents, even pastors and elders, failure to enforce the Law concerning their children is a reason God's hand is so heavy against the church. Christians refuse to side with God's word against the ungodly, particularly their own children. They have made the ungodly their gods.

We are now moving into what may be a very lengthy period of living with the results of Christian neglect of surrounding evils, and standing by with little or no comment. The results of our failure to publicly speak out against evil are not going to be pleasant.

My dad, a Baptist lay pastor, determined to be so detached that he refused to even read the newspaper. He did not want to even know about the surrounding evil. I did not pay attention until I became friends with a lady member of the Birch Society after I got out of the service.

Though our attention turns to the plague of abortion in January, our neglect of the surrounding evils has caused God's face to turn against our beloved nation. We must know what God's word says about the evils around us, and seek opportunities to speak God's word of condemnation in due season

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