

Endnotes— *The Veneer of Civilization*

1.

It isn't obvious threats to world peace or even to human survival that reveal the end of the age is near: obvious threats have existed since the Roman Empire was the co-equal to the Chinese Empire two millennia ago—and the threat of human extinction has existed since Parthians defeated Roman legions using biological warfare [the Plague] that they didn't fully understand nearly two millennia ago. Certainly since the nuclear age began nearly seventy years ago, the reality of human extinction has been upon civilized societies. But the marker indicating the end of this present age is at hand is the spiritual state of humanity, and the spiritual health of the world is not good.

President Obama will shortly deliver a *State of the Union* address to joint sessions of the United States House of Representatives and Senate. He will declare that America is sound and that the state of this nation's health is good and improving under his administration ... he is so spiritually blind and fiscally ignorant that he will probably believe what he says. But the state of America's health is not good. The glow of the stock market is akin to the almost translucent glow the skin of a person takes on immediately before the person dies of cancer. The unbridgeable political divide in the United States is indicative of an international moral divide that cannot be reconciled nor negotiated away, a divide that is most easily seen in the issue of gay rights ... can Islam accept open homosexuality? No it cannot. And neither can faithful Christians or Jews. Only secular humanists can accept a man openly laying with another man as he would with a woman. And while a truce existed between moralists and the amoral in the United States for decades, that unacknowledged truce was broken by President Obama, an ideologue dedicated to Marxist values and willing to govern by fiat; willing to ignore the U.S. Constitution with what he calls its *negative rights*. However, before Christian moralists harshly condemn President Obama for promoting a secular agenda, these Christian moralists need to realize that what Obama is now doing politically Christians moralists have done theologically for centuries through declaring, *Christians are saved by grace, with grace alone being sufficient for salvation*.

What is grace? It is not unmerited pardon as often taught; for if it were, there would be no basis for judgment, no basis for distinguishing *sheep* from *goats*, the righteous from the unrighteous when judgments are revealed in the resurrection. Plus, are Christians truly saved by grace when Paul wrote, "What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of

the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?” (Rom 6:15–16). Elsewhere, Paul wrote, “For God shows no partiality. For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified” (Rom 2:11–13), and, “So, if a man who is uncircumcised keeps the precepts of the law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision? Then he who is physically uncircumcised but keeps the law will condemn you who have the written code and circumcision but break the law. For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, [en/in] spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God” (vv. 26–29).

Grace is the garment of Christ (Gal 3:27), the garment of Christ Jesus’ righteousness. And a Christian puts on this garment of righteousness when the person strives to live as Jesus lived, strives to walk in this world as Jesus—an observant Jew—walked, strives to imitate the Apostle Paul as Paul imitated Christ Jesus, strives to imitate the 1st-Century Church in Judea. Hence, the Christian who strives instead to live as a pious Gentile, a moral Greek, does not put on the garment of Christ Jesus’ righteousness and is not under grace, regardless of how many *hail Marys* are uttered. And pious Greeks will appear before God in the great White Throne Judgment, not the resurrection of firstfruits, and most likely will be well received when their judgments are made: they are not today under judgment for they are not born of spirit and do not have a living inner self ... the great White Throne Judgment doesn’t occur inside of time and space (Rev 20:11); so it will not be fleshly human persons that are then judged, but the inner selves of these human persons who must give an account and receive just recompense for what the inner self caused the fleshly body to do when the person was humanly alive.

Christians—all Christians—have the written code and know what the Law declares, but the vast majority of Christians refuse to believe that the Law pertains to them; i.e., to their inner selves. The majority of Christendom insist that they—in a manner analogous to the President ruling by decree as if he were already a dictator—are not under the Law but are free to do what they deem “good”; hence they are Christian moralists that actually do good physical works ... they work to prevent abortions, the premeditated murder of the unborn; yet they support the Adversary in his attempt to *abort* unborn sons of God. For what was it that Paul declared: *all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law!* Are Christians under the Law or not under the Law? Does it matter; for *God shows no partiality*. The person who transgresses the Law will perish either without the Law or under the Law. So by the Christian moralist teaching his or her offspring that Christians are not under the Law, which includes the Sabbath commandment, does not this Christian moralist cause the spiritual abortion of his or her offspring before the moralist’s son or daughter is born of spirit as a son of God? Does not this Christian moralist encourage his or

her offspring to conduct secular transactions on the Sabbath and then attempt to enter into the presence of God on the day after the Sabbath? Yes, this is exactly what the moralist does. And how does this differ from President Obama making recess appointments to the National Labor Relations Board when the Senate is in session?

If the Christian moralist cannot make the connection between what he or she does spiritually and what President Obama does politically, the moralist stands on a floor of spiritual veneer, and thinks the floor is sound ... *the state of Christianity is sound*. No it's not. You lie to yourself and to others: the state of Christianity is dismal at best. The greater Christian Church is about as far from God as the Church can get. The remainder of the world is, however, even farther from God but, except for Islam and Judaism, doesn't claim to see spiritually or understand the mysteries of the God of Abraham. And because greater Christendom claims to see spiritual things when it cannot see even its own sinful ways, it is not under grace: greater Christendom does not strive to walk in this world as Jesus walked, but remains content to walk as a Greek, a pork eater and a spiritual milk drinker, a combination certain to cause spiritual indigestion.

In President Obama and his appreciation of the U.S. Constitution; in Eric Holder's Justice Department; in the NSA's gathering of electronic signals—the secular shadow of greater Christendom's appreciation of the Law can be seen ... did I say that incorrectly? No. The President's disregard for the constitutional limits on his authority to govern is great, exceeded though by greater Christendom's disregard for the Law.

The state of Christendom is not sound, is not good. The veneer on which Christendom stands is rotten and really will not even support the weight of a mouse ...

Using a term I heard the author Robert Stone use in a twilight discussion at University of Alaska's Midnight Sun Writer's Conference in 1981, *the veneer of civilization* is thin and easily penetrated by the boot heels of dictators, these dictators usually democratically elected in semi-rigged elections. Even in the United States of America, we have *voter cows* milked by community organizers/agitators, with segments of the population voting to keep their handouts coming. Just before the 2008 election, Alaska's longtime Senator Ted Stevens was brought to trial on bogus charges, convicted days before the election, and narrowly lost his reelection bid—only to have his conviction overturned and all charges dismissed shortly after the election ... his vote against the Affordable Healthcare Act [Obamacare] would have been enough to prevent the passage of this monstrosity that will effectively end the American democratic experiment; for no nation can long endure the amount of debt the United States has already accumulated and no nation can endure for even a short while the burden that Obamacare has placed upon a citizenry that has been against the bill from its inception. It is for reason that police forces across America have been *militarized* and now look as if they intend to wage war against the half of the electorate that consistently refuses to go along with President Obama's progressive agenda that is really Marxism with a smile.

The *vener of civilization* is thin and will not withstand a march of jackboots into the long spiritual night that began at Calvary. The *vener of civilization* will not withstand a uniformed *Homeland Security* police force, this Federal police force supported by NSA surveillance of all Americans, with *free speech* having political and ethical boundaries that soon cannot be crossed without the speaker being interned for the speaker poses a real threat to the police state being implemented under the sleepy eyes of a dozing nation—

The veneer on which greater Christendom stands is no thicker theologically—

But it isn't the development of a police state in the United States of America that is a "sign" disclosing that the end of the age is near and the *vener of civilization* has rotted away: it is sexuality of the world, not that sex is evil—far be that from true—but sexual intercourse of all kinds outside of marriage is an abomination to God and discloses how far from God humanity has journeyed. And when humanity can get no farther from God and begins a turn back to God, the midnight hour of the one long spiritual night that began at Calvary will be upon humanity.

Do abominations come in varying degrees or shades? Is a man having sexual intercourse with another man worse than, say, a woman having oral sex with another woman, or worse than an unmarried man having sexual intercourse with an unmarried woman? Or are all sexual relationships outside of marriage equally offensive to God?

Some will deny that God exists and will continue to do what they are presently doing, following the course of beasts the flesh of which is meat in meat markets, yellow-tagged for it has been in the meat case too long and must be sold today or thrown out—it's marked down 40% and it's still not selling, such is the fiscal state of Americans after paying their out-of-pocket deductibles for affordable healthcare. About such folk, what Paul wrote can be applied:

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For His invisible attributes, namely, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks to Him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. Therefore *God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.* For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another,

men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Though they know God's decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them. (Rom 1:18–32 emphasis added)

God gave the unrighteous debased minds that cause a man to lay with a man as he would with a woman. God did that. The gay man who claims he was born the way he is can truly “blame” God for being the way he is, doing what is contrary to nature, being filled unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice—for being a GLAD *Kool-Aid* drinker. But to blame God becomes an acknowledgment that humanity knew God and did not honor Him as God, but instead worshiped the creature and the creation rather than the Creator. And in worshiping the creature, the person who once knew God is reduced to being “meat” sold in the shambles; is reduced to being a creature him or herself.

A casting director's *cattle call* becomes just that, a cattle call; a calling of the herd.

So, is one abomination before God the same as another? Will continued committing of any abomination cause God to give to the person a debased mind? Consider what Ezekiel wrote:

And I said to their children in the wilderness, Do not walk in the statutes of your fathers, nor keep their rules, nor defile yourselves with their idols. I am [YHWH] your God; walk in my statutes, and be careful to obey my rules, and keep my Sabbaths holy that they may be a sign between me and you, that you may know that I am [YHWH] your God. But the children rebelled against me. They did not walk in my statutes and were not careful to obey my rules, by which, if a person does them, he shall live; they profaned my Sabbaths. Then I said I would pour out my wrath upon them and spend my anger against them in the wilderness. But I withheld my hand and acted for the sake of my name, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations, in whose sight I had brought them out. Moreover, I swore to them in the wilderness that I would scatter them among the nations and disperse them through the countries, because they had not obeyed my rules, but had rejected my statutes and profaned my Sabbaths, and their eyes were set on their fathers' idols. Moreover, *I gave them statutes that were not good and rules by which they could not have life, and I defiled them through their very gifts in their offering up all their firstborn, that I might devastate them. I did it that they might know that I am [YHWH].* (Ezek 20:18–26 emphasis added)

Consider what Paul wrote,

Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. Therefore *God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.* (2 Thess 2:1–12)

God sends rebellious endtime Christians the delusion from which they cannot repent; God defiled ancient Israel. God gave to those who knew Him but did not worship Him as God debased minds. Why would God do such things? To make apparent the chasm between righteousness and unrighteousness. Once a person steps across the line separating good from evil, God doesn't permit the person to step many times across this chasm; hence, Adam and Eve were driven from the Garden of Eden and not permitted to return.

Is it all right for a young couple to cohabit without being married, but not okay for a gay man to live with another gay man? Before God, what is the difference between fornication and bestiality? To a human person, weighed down with sin and sinking deep into the *vener of civilization*, there is great difference. Few people would condone a man having sexual intercourse with a sheep, but most see nothing wrong with their son or daughter shacking up with a young person of the opposite gender—and seeing no wrong in fornication discloses how far this endtime culture has journeyed away from God.

This is a subject to which I will return as faith stands on its feet and engages in combat with all enemies of righteousness.

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