

## The DEFENDER— May 2025

“ . . . defending the faith once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3)

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IN DEFENSE OF TRUTH radio broadcast  
and the Cub Hill Bible Presbyterian Church.



### FROM THE DIRECTOR'S Desk: Dancing With the Devil

In March of 2013, Jorge Mario Bergoglio became the 266<sup>th</sup> pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church, taking the name of Pope Francis. One year later, the Transversal Dialogue Project, known as DIALOP, began working on a new definition of the relationship between Marxists and Christians in Europe, with Francis being one of the major players. The same Francis who claimed to be, as pope, the vicar, or representative of Christ on earth. Is it not obvious that we have a major contradiction here? Full disclosure, I have occasionally been accused of Catholic bashing. I prefer to see it as following the Apostle Paul's advice in Romans 16:17—"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them." With that said, I'll present the evidence and you can decide.

Before looking into Pope Francis' heretical dogma, let's take a look at Marxism's thoughts on Christianity. At its best, Christianity to Marx and his disciples is a coping mechanism of the oppressed under-classes. At worst, it was something that was false, superstitious, reactionary, and must be destroyed. Pope Francis may not have been a card carrying Marxist, but he certainly seemed to have an affinity for its ideology. He promoted a gospel that can't save and merged Christianity with worldviews that hate Christ. He was a darling of the ecumenical movement as evidenced by his syncretic attempts at finding common ground between Roman Catholicism and Marxism, aka the Dialop Transversal project.

In a meeting at the Vatican in January of last year Pope Francis called for cooperation between Christians and Marxists as a way to achieve greater dialogue and help in the search for the common good. The meeting attendees were seeking to bridge Catholic social teaching and Marxist theory. The pontiff encouraged the others not to back off or give up, and not to stop dreaming of a better world. Is that the message Christ would give? Why would the vicar of Christ promote social justice over forgiveness of sin, justification, and righteousness. We who follow Christ know this world's days are numbered. Our job is not to re-arrange the deck chairs on a sinking ship but rather to offer salvation to as many dying souls as possible. And salvation is found in one name only: Jesus the Christ. So why is Francis offering those in need of that Catholic social teaching and Marxist theory? Who did he really represent?

It's not my place to judge anyone's soul. I'm just a fruit inspector. And I didn't see any Christocentric fruit coming out of the Vatican these last 12 years. Unless Pope Francis repented of his blasphemous and heretical talk, I wouldn't expect to see him in heaven. Instead of "Well done, good and faithful servant," the words ringing in Francis' ears throughout eternity may well be "Depart from Me, I never knew you." Let those with ears to hear, hear the Word of God.

Rev. David R. Lewis

## **America's Christian Heritage**

### **Part I – Initial Historical Evidence**

**By Robert Luthardt, Sr.**

Of the many influences that shaped the United States of America into a wholly distinct and exceptional nation, none is more fundamental and enduring than that derived from the Bible. Deep Christian beliefs stemming from the Old and New Testaments were the foremost stimuli in the hearts of the settlers of America (1607-1774). The exhibition of their bravery and faith was demonstrative of a people guided by the Holy Spirit and enlightened with God's very words from scripture. "The shared belief of these freedom-seeking Christians set the foundation of an unsinkable spirit of nationhood, firmly instilled in them and handed to generations yet unborn" (President Ronald Reagan 1983).

Biblical knowledge also formed the basis of the "Founder's beliefs" (1774-1789) that our "unalienable rights" come FROM God, not from government. Second in importance to educated English Christians was their knowledge of the English Constitution and system of law and rights of Englishmen wherever they lived. They claimed birthrights from the Magna Carta (1215) to their Bill of Rights (1689). What the Settlers brought to America, the Founders incorporated into the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution with its own Bill of Rights. Many of America's Founders also knew verbatim America's Magna Carta – The Mayflower Compact.

Many of America's most recognized National leaders, including most Presidents, have acknowledged publicly the beneficial influence of God's words in the Bible, upon the collective American spirit – the spirit that birthed and nurtured American exceptionalism. Long ago, President Andrew Jackson said of our Biblical heritage, "The rock on which our republic rests."

Today, America is again facing challenges and dangers as great as those faced by our Founders. We need God's Providential blessings more than technology and armaments. With the nation in great distress and war, President Abraham Lincoln said of the Bible, "... the best gift God has ever given ... but for it, we could not know right from wrong."

The only man deservedly called, "The Father of Our Country," George Washington said in his first Inaugural Address (1789), "It would be improper to omit ... fervent supplications to that Almighty Being who rules the universe ... we ought to be persuaded that the propitious smiles of heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right which heaven itself has ordained." He found those eternal rules in his Bible.

Upon Washington's departure from public service, he gave a Farewell Address (1796) wherein he warned Americans to "never undermine Christianity or morality which are indispensable supports for America's political prosperity."

Do the foregoing quotations establish a foundation of an American exceptionalism? Are these beliefs that which caused thousands to abandon their homes for America? – many risking their lives. There is one undeniable certainty: the right to worship without fear, with an uncoerced conscience, was the foremost single impetus for the settling of wilderness America – a direct outgrowth of well-understood Biblical Christianity.

Americans do well to remember Washington's words since so many have been lulled to sleep with prosperity, sports, and entertainment, becoming idle and indifferent so that malignant social and political dangers from radical secularism to murderous Islam stand ready to fill any gap left by a compromised Christianity and a deserted patriotism. The first antitoxin for this malady is prayer, then to restore education to its proper place. Real history teaches what happens in Christian nations that forget God. Germany and Russia were subverted into deadly socialist nightmares where millions were murdered.

Our fourth President and a key Founding Father, James Madison noted, "nations are most likely to fall from within through ever encroaching usurpation of power (witness the Deep State machinations in the FBI). By the 1770's, Colonial America began to experience an increasing loss of freedom by unconstitutional acts of a Parliament 3,000 miles away and a King indifferent to the pleadings of his loyal American subjects.

Benjamin Franklin, one of America's most beloved Founders warned, "Those, who would give up essential liberty [for] temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety." A twentieth century English leader perhaps borrowed from Franklin. He said, "If you will not fight when you can win, you may have to fight when winning is in doubt. If you still hesitate, you may be forced to fight when you cannot win since it is better to fight and die as a free people than to live as slaves" (Winston Churchill during World War II).

America is plagued in our universities with radical left-wing secularist professors and the purveyors of "revisionist history." They turn out their clones into various "NEWS" organizations where they manufacture their brand of yellow journalism now known better as "fake news." These professorial polluters of children's minds have unleashed upon us maniacal masked Marxists called "Antifa" who riot, smash windows, and set fires.

When our community activist President Obama declared in Europe that America was not a Christian nation, he forgot he also said that, "Americans cling to their guns and their Bibles." Nearly all other Presidents publicly acknowledged that America's greatness was and is a direct result of Christianity. They, like our Founders also did, "Cling to their guns and Bibles and the God who grants 'unalienable rights.'" So, if we are living on a "borrowed legacy," it is comforting to know the legacy is still there. Our origins, though despised and ignored by some university professors, are unchanged and we are still "one nation under God" where children are free to recite these words and, God willing, they always will.

The late Senator John McCain was severely castigated during his run for President (2007) when he said America was founded on Christian principles. He was criticized by

Ira Forman of the National Jewish Democratic Council, but Jewish conservative columnist Don Feder countered with, “Nowhere does the Constitution say there is a wall of separation of church and state.” What Forman forgot is that non-factual revisionist history does poorly in the presence of confirmed facts and verifiable history.

Rabbi Daniel Lapin, an orthodox Jewish teacher and leader defended the concept of a Christian America. Rabbi Lapin pointed to the protection given to Jewish people in the United States of America. The Rabbi reported, “No nation has provided the same haven of tranquility and prosperity for Jews as has the United States AND this is NOT in spite of America being Christian; it is BECAUSE of it. You might say America’s Bible belt is the Jewish Community’s “safety belt.” Rabbi Lapin warned that the safety of all Americans, not just Jews, is put at risk when Christian Faith is attacked in universities and undermined in straying seminaries.

For those who chafe at the fact that America began as a Christian nation just need to look at real history. In the 1970’s, “The Encyclopedia Britannica” produced a set of columns called “The Annals of America” which contains writings from American history. These provide indisputable facts that America had a Christian beginning, especially the writings of America’s Founders, in their own words. God and the Christian Faith AND the Bible are that which founded America.

Why did Christian nations such as Germany and Russia abandon their national faith for the nightmare of socialism and fall into such misery, but America has not? It may be for no other reason than our support of Israel and our judicious dealings with Jewish Americans. Our Bible tells us of God’s word to Abraham, “I will bless them that bless thee and curse them that curse thee” (Gen. 12:3). God raised up Gentiles to bless Israel such as Cyrus of Persia, Hiram of Lebanon, and others to bless Israel. When God, in 1948, fulfilled His ancient promises and prophecies to return Israel to the land promised them, President Harry S. Truman was the first national leader to recognize their right to their homeland.

God providentially prepared a haven in wilderness America for persecuted English Christians who settled first in 1607 Virginia, then in Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1620. Thousands followed, all carrying their Bibles and they based their lives and their laws and doctrines upon its precepts.

Our present form of governance still rests upon our Founding Documents that clearly acknowledge God which for the Settlers was the Mayflower Compact and the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution with the Bill of Rights for the Founders. Christianity had a commanding role in the spirit of our nation from 1607 to 1789 because the people demanded it and God blessed it.

As America’s greatest general and President George Washington said, “Christianity and morality are indispensable to our prosperity.” May the Spirit of God raise up Christian prayer warriors to humbly seek His continued blessing upon America. Keep looking up.

## **An Examination of John 12:32**

**By Joseph Burghauer**

**“And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me” (KJV)**

“If I be lifted up from the earth” refers to our Lord’s Crucifixion. We read in verse 33, “This He said, signifying what death He should die.” John 3:14 teaches this: “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up.” John 3:14 refers to the account of Israel’s judgment recorded in Numbers 21:4-9. To punish the grumbling Israelites, God killed many of them by sending fiery serpents. Many who were still alive asked Moses to pray for relief. God answered his prayer with the instruction that Moses was to have a bronze serpent made and to raise it on a pole. Those who had been bitten by the snakes were healed only if they looked up to the bronze serpent. Christ would be raised on a wooden cross to die to rescue His people from eternal death only as they look to Him alone. (John 3:16).

Many modern translations use the word “when” instead of “if” in our verse. This gives a better sense of the certainty of His Crucifixion. And in the KJV, John 3:14 includes the phrase “even so must the Son of Man be lifted up.” His Crucifixion was certain to happen to fulfill numerous Old Testament prophecies not only of His sacrificial death for us, but also that His execution would be by crucifixion and not by another way such as by stoning. His stoning was attempted (John 8:59; 10:31). Psalm 22:16 states, “they pierced My hands and My feet.” This certainly describes crucifixion. Galatians 3:13 reads: “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for It is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree” (Deuteronomy 21:22-23). Deuteronomy 21:21 tells of death by stoning. The Savior’s Crucifixion fulfilled being “hung on a tree”.

The Greek word translated “draw” in our verse means “drag”. The same Greek word is used in John 6:44: “No man can come to Me, except the Father Which hath sent Me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.” This word translated as “draw” is also used in John 18:10 as Peter “drew” his sword. It is found in John 21:6 to describe a heavy net full of fish the disciples “were not able to draw” to shore. It is also used in Acts 16:19 of Paul and Silas as angry men “caught” them and “drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers.” In these verses, drawing describes something or someone that is not invited nor gently guided to the desired location but is forcibly pulled. Many modern translations have the word “haul” in John 21:6 and “dragged” in Acts 16:19, but they retain the word “draw” in John 6:44 and John 12:32. These translations would be more helpful if they were consistent and used “drag” in our verse and in John 6:44.

So the phrase “will draw” (He does not say “may draw”) means that Christ will not just try to woo or persuade people to trust in Him alone for eternal life; He will not fail to give them eternal life: “...for He shall save His people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:21). Two of many passages of God’s irresistible grace are Romans 8:28-30 and Ephesians 2:1-10. We do not believe that the Bible teaches that God’s grace enables individuals to come to Christ but does not guarantee that they will do so. This is against the clear teaching of John 6:37-44.

This drawing is not God dragging us against our will; it is His forcibly giving His elect the desire and the ability to come to Christ according to His will: Deuteronomy 30:6; Psalm 65:4; 110:3; Isaiah 44:3; Jeremiah 31:33; Ezekiel 11:19; 36:26,27; John 1:13; Acts 13:48; 22:1-16; Romans 5:5; Ephesians 2:4,5; Philippians 2:13. The Westminster Confession of Faith helpfully explains this in Chapter 7.3, as God "...promising to give unto all those that are ordained unto eternal life His Holy Spirit, to make them willing and able to believe." Chapter 10.1 adds, "...effectually drawing them to Jesus Christ: yet so, as they come most freely, being made willing by His grace." This "drawing" is effective; it will not be resisted because He makes us willing.

In addition to the "drawing" being misinterpreted, the phrase "all men" is usually misunderstood. Many say that everyone who has ever lived will in some sense by a gracious act of God be 'nudged' and given the 'ability' to come to Him in faith. One may choose to resist this 'prevenient grace', they claim, but everyone is given the same grace and opportunity to believe. We reject this claim, as we understand that God must "drag" spiritually dead sinners to Himself. We also understand that we must look at our verse in context to understand the meaning of "all men" as well as how the phrase is used in the rest of the Bible. John 12:20-22 tells of Greeks (Gentiles) who came to worship with the Jews at the Passover feast. These Gentiles asked to see Jesus. When our Lord said "all men" in our verse, He was, we believe, referring to both Jews and Gentiles. One passage that supports our view is Romans 3:28-30.

We conclude by looking at the first two and last two words in our verse to see how it teaches the Deity of Christ— that He is fully God: "And I" and "unto Me": "And I...will draw all men..." We read in John 6:44 that the Father "draws" those who come to Christ; yet in John 12:32, we read that Christ also draws them. John 10:30: "I and My Father are One." The Father and the Son are two distinct persons of the one being of God, so they (as well as the Holy Spirit) all participate as the Triune God in all His Works. "...unto Me" also tells of His Deity. Moses and the rest of the godly prophets and servants of God always point sinners to God Himself, not to themselves. Christ said He "will draw all men unto Me" because, as John 14:6 states, "...no man cometh to the Father, but by Me." In John 17:1, Jesus said, "Father, the hour is come; glorify Thy Son, that Thy Son also may glorify Thee." Since God states in Isaiah 42:8, "...My glory I will not give to another...", Christ must be God. In our verse He concludes that after His certain substitutionary death for our sins by His crucifixion, He will draw His people from all nations and tribes unto Himself (Revelation 7:9) because He is God. We only come to Him because the Triune God "draws" (drags) us to Him, by giving us the desire and ability to believe.

Do you believe that you are a sinner who has broken God's Laws and that the Lord Jesus Christ lived a Righteous Life in your place and died to pay for your sins? If you have not yet done so, please realize that your sins are against God, and trust in Christ alone to pay for them. If you look to Christ alone it is because He chose you and drew you to come to Him without fail.

In Isaiah 45: 22, the Triune God commands: "Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else."

A Child's Prayer  
I want to see Jesus!

By Linda Tyson, CHBPC

Dear Jesus although I'm very small and hardly know You much at all,  
I hope that You will hear my prayer, because in my heart I know You care.

Please open my eyes so I can see the words in the Bible You have for me.  
Give me ears to always hear my mom and dad who teach me here.

So please Lord Jesus remember me. Open my heart, You have the key.  
Give me your love that is so true and to be in heaven forever with You!

This poem is dedicated to little Polly.

She came into church and said "I want to see Jesus, I want to see Jesus."  
She was 3 years old when Jesus took her home. May we teach our children about  
Jesus when they are very young, because God does not promise us tomorrow!



*Our mission through the broadcast of In Defense of Truth and the publication of The Defender newsletter is to earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3). Our vision today is just as strong as it was back in 1963 when Dr. John Dekker began this outreach. We pray that you will continue to stand with us as we hold true to God's holy Word.*

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**WRITE TO US!**

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**Upcoming Events!**

If you are in or around the Baltimore area, we'd love to have you join us for these upcoming events!

Adult & Children's Sunday School	10:15 am
Sunday Morning Worship & Children's Church	11:00 am
Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study	12:30 pm
Wednesday Evening Bible Study	7:00 pm
Bonfire (Friday, May 2nd)	7:00 pm