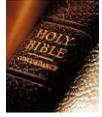


## The DEFENDER— February 2026

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

A monthly publication of the  
IN DEFENSE OF TRUTH radio broadcast  
and the Cub Hill Bible Presbyterian Church.



### FROM THE DIRECTOR'S Desk: 9 Months

Nine months. That's how long we have. The time it takes a pro-life mother to carry her child full term and give birth. That's how long we have. The time it takes a major league baseball season to run its course, from Spring Training through the playoffs and the World Series. That's how long we have. To get out the word to apathetic Christians that the quarter millennium mark of our country's life may finally be the end of One Nation Under God. As President Reagan once said, "A nation no longer under God will be a nation gone under."

Nine months from now it will be November—otherwise known in political circles as the mid-terms. That's how long we have to convince all those "sleepy" Christians that President Trump deserves our continued support. If he doesn't get it, our nation is in danger of losing one or both Houses of Congress to the Democrats. President Trump was given a mandate in 2024 to change the course the Progressives had set us on. And so far, the pace he's keeping is phenomenal. I've only been around since President Truman, but I can't imagine a harder working man in the oval office. He gets things done. Quickly.

For starters he enforced Immigration law, which led to a trickle of illegals crossing our borders—92% lower than the peak under the Biden Administration. Mr. Trump also ended the transgender madness, recognizing only two sexes: male and female, which are not interchangeable. He also ended diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in federal hiring and promotion processes. In addition, the president also dismantled the Department of Education, returning public education to the states. Another major move has been tariffs. Just the threat of them has resolved wars and collected over \$200 billion in new tariff revenue. There have been many more, but a lot were accomplished through Executive Order, which can be overturned by the next president. Why haven't they been codified into law? 77 million people voted for President Trump in 2024. That's known as a mandate. But what about the 40 million Evangelical Christians who did **NOT** vote in the election? Don't they know what's at stake? King Solomon knew 3000 years ago (Proverbs 29:2). "When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked rule, the people mourn." Maybe they don't care. Or maybe they're following the wolves in sheep's clothing who are seeking approval among the cultural elites. The people in the pews are at fault, but the so-called Christian leaders will be accountable. Instead of tearing down altars in high places they are selling out to the god of this world and taking the carnal Christians with them.

God's will be done. On earth as it is in heaven. His sovereign plan will not be thwarted. Whether we get the blessing of that or not is up to us. We have nine months to decide.

Rev. David R. Lewis

**PROPHECY: OUR PEARL OF GREAT PRICE  
PART III – THE FUTURE: GOD’S RULES OR MAN’S?**

**COMPILED BY ROBERT LUTHARDT, SR.**

The Bible is the World’s only “Holy Book” that even attempts to tell mankind the future and definitely the only one that succeeds. God’s infallible inerrant “Word” is nearly one-third composed of prophetic utterances that alert God’s called out children of His plans for this world in general and their own lives in particular – especially regarding our future homes in heaven.

God’s Prophets have said, “Behold, the former things are come to pass, and NEW THINGS, do I declare: Before they spring forth, I tell you of them ...” (Is. 42:9) and “I am the Lord ... there is none beside me ...” “I form the light and create darkness: I make PEACE AND CREATE EVIL: I the Lord do all these things” (Is. 45:5-7) and “Remember the former things of old: I am God ... Declaring the end from the Beginning and from ancient times the things ... NOT YET DONE ...” (that’s our future – Is. 46:9-10).

Where is the best place to begin to understand Biblical prophecy? Perhaps where God Himself started? If we are of Israel, God started with a Gentile who became the first Jew – Abraham. “Now the Lord said unto Abram, get thee out of thy country ... unto a land that I will show thee: And I will make thee a great nation ... make thy name great ... a blessing: and I will bless them THAT BLESSETH THEE, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall ALL FAMILIES of the earth be blessed (Gen. 12:1-3; 17:1-10, 15-16) and Sarah, a mother of nations ... is also not forgotten.”

As Gentiles, where do we begin? Especially in the current governance of the world that we live in at present. The Book of Daniel, most particularly in chapters 2 and 7, God established the political entities that hold rulership over us even now. More so He shows us His greater future rule, “... And in the days of these Kings of antiquity shall the God of heaven SET UP A KINGDOM, WHICH SHALL NEVER BE DESTROYED ... thou sawest that the STONE WAS CUT OUT OF THE MOUNTAIN WITHOUT HANDS, and that it brake ... the iron, the brass, the clay; the silver and the gold ... the Dream is certain, and ... sure” (Dan. 2:44-45).

In Revelation, chapter 17, we see the “... great whore that sitteth upon many waters ... [many nations] and I saw a woman [false religious system] sit upon a scarlet colored beast [ NEW WORLD ORDER] having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman ... having a golden cup ... full of abominations and filthiness ... drunken with the blood of the saints, and ... of the martyrs of Jesus ...” (17:1-6). “And the angel said (vs. 7) ... The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sitteth ...” (vs. 9) “the woman ... is that great city, which reigneth over the Kings of the earth (vs. 18).” During the Middle Ages that city could only be Rome. She sponsored the murder of thousands of Christ’s followers during the Inquisition. What we see in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Europe is a reviving of that old empire of Iron and the rise of the symbolic “Ten Kings” who are defeated by the “LAMB,” for He is LORD OF LORDS, and King of Kings.” We will want to be of those who with HIM ARE CALLED AND CHOSEN, AND faithful (vs. 14) and not those whom God uses, “to FULLILL HIS WILL TO GIVE THEIR KINGDOMS ... UNTO THE BEAST ...” (17:17).

Also, Paul spoke of the “Mystery” whereby we shall all BE CHANGED from our corruptible mortal bodies into immortality (1 Cor. 15:53-54) and our victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (vs. 57). In the Old Testament dispensation, believers tended to confuse the first and second coming of Jesus Christ. Paul wrote to the Thessalonians to assure them that the believers who recently died would not miss

Heaven: “For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with ... we which are alive ... shall not prevent (go ahead of) them which are asleep.” For the Lord Himself shall descend FROM HEAVEN with a shout ... with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we ... shall be “caught up” together with them in “THE CLOUDS,” to meet the “LORD IN THE AIR”: and so shall we ever be with the LORD (1 Thes. 4:13-18).

When we are “CAUGHT UP” to be in heaven with the Lord, the church goes up from earth to heaven. When the Lord returns with His Bride, we descend from heaven to earth; the Lord will stand on the Mount of Olives (Zech. 14:14).

Our Lord commanded His disciples and us to WATCH for His Coming, “... Watch; therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour wherein the SON OF MAN cometh” (Mark 13:33). “Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth ...” (Rev. 16:15). This watching is for every believer for every day because we will not know the day nor the hour of Christ’s return for His Bride. “But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels in heaven, but my Father only” (Matt. 24:36, 15:13).

We are told of a coming horrendous war against Israel from Gog of the Land of Magog that comes from the “NORTH PARTS” ... a great company, and a mighty army ... as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the “LATTER DAYS,” and ... “that the heathen may know me, when I shall be SANCTIFIED IN THEE O GOG, Before their eyes ...” (Ez. 38:15-16). “Thus saith the Lord God; ... when Gog shall come against the land of Israel ... in that day there shall be a great SHAKING IN THE LAND OF ISRAEL ... All the men ... upon the face of the earth, shall shake at my presence, and the mountains shall be thrown DOWN ... every wall shall fall ... every man’s sword shall be against HIS BROTHER ... I will rain upon him ... great hailstones, fire, and brimstone ... I will be known in the EYES OF MANY NATIONS ... I Am THE LORD” (Ez. 38:15-23).

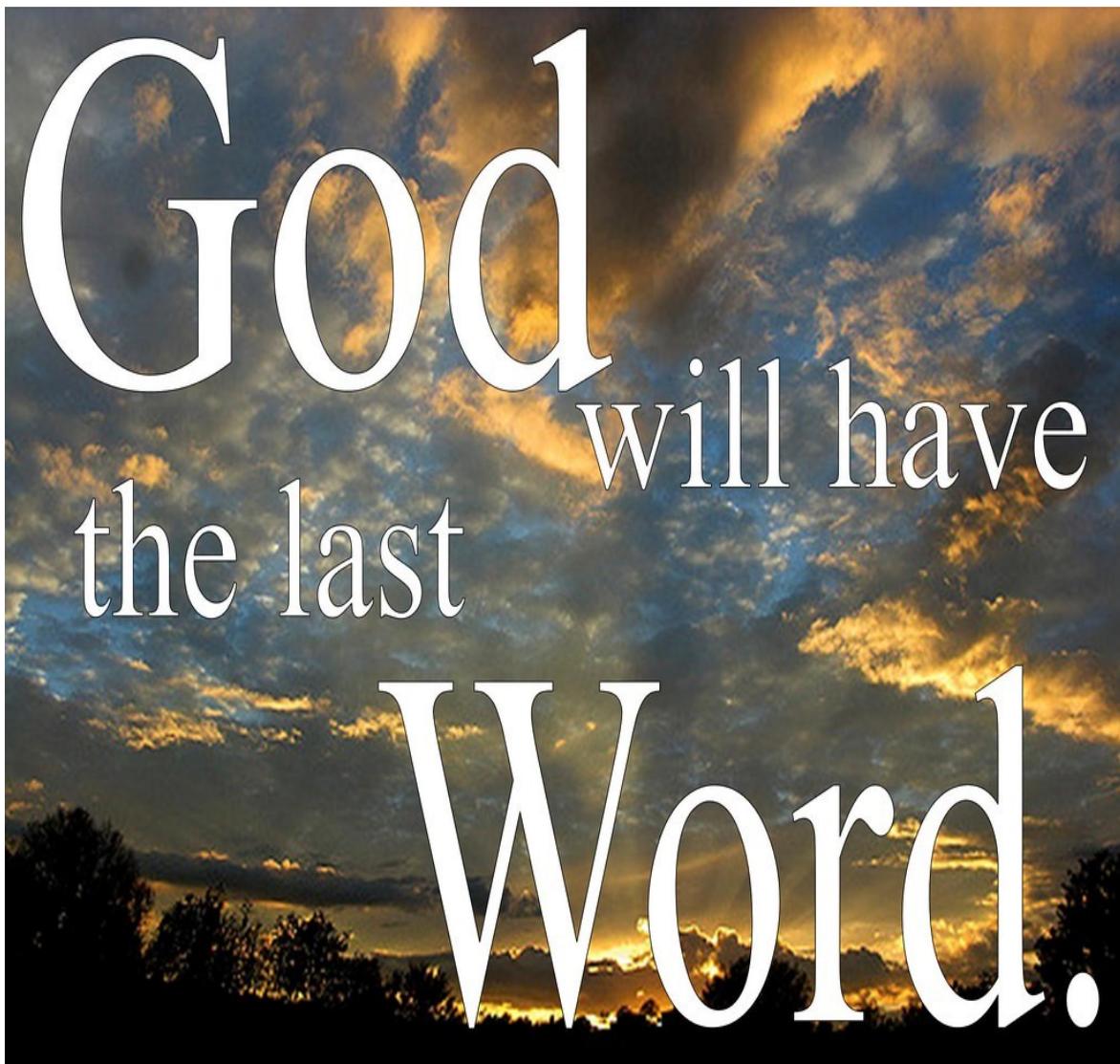
The Lord will turn back Gog with great destruction ... “I am against thee oh Gog ... of Meshech and Tubal, and I will ... leave but the sixth part of thee, and will cause thee to come up from the North Parts and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel ... I will smite thy bow ... thine arrows to fall ... THOU SHALT FALL UPON THE MOUNTAINS OF ISRAEL ... I will give thee unto the ravenous birds ... and to the beasts ... to be devoured ... I will SEND A FIRE ON MAGOG ... I am the Lord ... the heathen shall know that I AM THE LORD, THE HOLY ONE IN ISRAEL” (Ez. 39:1-8).

Ezekiel concludes, “Behold, it is come ... the day whereof I HAVE SPOKEN ... And they that dwell in the cities of Israel shall ... set on fire and burn the weapons ... shields and bucklers, the bows and arrows ... And burn them with fire SEVEN YEARS ... I will give Gog a place there of graves ... there shall they bury Gog ... seven months shall the house of Israel be burying them” (Ez. 39:8-13) “And I will set MY GLORY AMONG THE HEATHEN, and all ... shall see my judgment ... So, the house of Israel SHALL KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD THEIR GOD, from that day and forward ... Now will I ... have mercy upon the whole house of Israel” (Ez. 39:21-25).

“David my servant shall be King over them, and ... shall be their Prince for EVER ... I will make ... an everlasting covenant with them ... and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for EVERMORE ... and the heathen shall know that I THE LORD do sanctify Israel ... for evermore” (Ez. 38:24-28).

Beyond the revealed will and Word of God, we do not know the world's nor our own future, near (in time) or far off; but God, living and true, absolutely knows. God knows the end from the beginning (Is. 46:10; Matt. 24:33-36) and the heavenly plans for everyone who truly LOVES HIM (1 Cor. 2:9; Rom. 11:5).

Keep looking up (Luke 21:28).



**Matthew 5:48:** “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father Which is in heaven is perfect.”

## **We Must Be Perfect**

**By Joseph Burghauer**

Our verse is part of The Sermon on the Mount, which begins in Matthew chapter 5. In verses 1-2, we read: “And seeing the multitudes, He went up into a mountain: and when He was set, His disciples came unto Him: And He opened His mouth, and taught them...” So, His Sermon seems to be primarily directed to His disciples (followers), and not just the Twelve Apostles. (Judas was one of the 12, but He was not regenerated.) Those He taught most likely included those whom God had regenerated (verses 13 and 14 refer to them as “the salt of the earth” and “the light of the world”), as well as those who were following Him temporarily (John 6:66), and unbelievers. In Matthew 5:48, our Lord refers to “your Father Which is in heaven.” As a result, some teach that only believers are being instructed to “Be ye therefore perfect.” John 8:44 and I John 3:8 refer to the devil being the spiritual father of those who oppose Christ and who practice sin. However, this may not be the understanding of “your Father” in Matthew 5:48. We read in Acts 17:28 that there is a sense in which all of mankind is “His offspring,” as He created all. The closing verses of Matthew chapter 7 indicate that the Sermon was also directed at unbelievers among the “people” who “were astonished.” So, Christ was primarily addressing believers, but He was speaking to a “multitude” of “people,” which included unbelievers (some of the elect may have been among these). (And, of course, everyone who reads the Sermon is included in His audience.) In Matthew 6:11, Christ states of His audience, “If ye then, being evil,” so even His followers are recognized as being evil.

The NKJV translation of the first part of Matthew 5:48 is: “Therefore you shall be perfect,” and the ESV has: “You therefore must be perfect.” These translations especially convey that our Lord is not giving us a command to be as good as we can be, but to be as perfect as God. This seemingly impossible (Mark 10:26-27) command is directed to believers, the elect, and all who hear or read this verse.

“Perfect” may mean “sincere and upright” (James 1:4). “Perfect” may mean “mature” or “complete” (I Corinthians 14:20; Ephesians 4:13; Philippians 3:15; Hebrews 5:14; I John 2:5). “Perfect” is used in Job 1:1 to describe Job as “perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.” Yet, in Job 40:4, Job answers God’s rebuke with, “Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer Thee? I will lay mine hand upon my mouth.” “Perfect” is used in Genesis 6:9 as Noah was said to be “a just man and perfect in his generations.” In Genesis 17:1 God told Abram, “I Am the Almighty God; walk before Me, and be thou perfect.” In Leviticus 19:2, God tells Moses to say to Israel, “Ye shall be holy: for I the Lord your God am holy.” Likewise, in Deuteronomy 18:13, God commands Israel, “Thou shalt be perfect with the Lord thy God.” We know that neither Noah, Job, Abraham, nor the nation of Israel were without sin. This fact does not negate God’s command to be as perfect as Himself. We also understand that those described as “perfect” had the Righteousness of Christ imputed to them.

It is helpful in interpreting Matthew 5:48 to be mindful of the law and gospel distinction. Matthew 5:48 is a statement of law, a moral requirement demanding obedience. The law reveals our sinfulness. The law does not provide for sinners to become perfect in this life by their own efforts.

Since we are commanded by our Lord in Matthew 5:48 to be as perfect as God, as in Leviticus 19:2, it most likely means moral perfection or to be without sin. The Scriptures tell us that, "there is none good but One, that is, God" (Mark 10:18). Only God is "good," let alone "perfect." We are further told in Mark 10:19 that keeping God's Law is the requirement for eternal life. Since our keeping of the Law must be perfect (Galatians 3:10; James 2:10), only Christ is able to perfectly keep the Law for us. Through trusting in Christ's obedient life and death alone for the salvation of sinners, we sinners can be declared "perfect," as we are given the forgiveness of our sins and given His Righteousness. 2 Peter 1:4 tells us that believers are "partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world." The Scriptures teach that believers are to be sinless (1 John 2:1), but they will never attain the state of sinless perfection in this life: Romans 7:15-20; Galatians 5:17; Philippians 3:12; 1 John 1:8-10. The Law (such as Matthew 5:48) shows us our sin and misery and leads the elect to Christ. The Law shows believers how they should think, speak, and act, and the Law convicts them of their remaining sin and their need to continue to be mindful that their righteousness is in Christ. God uses the Law as He sanctifies His people. We are only perfect as we have been declared righteous (justified) by God. God chooses those He justifies and sanctifies. The basis for this is the righteousness and death of His Son, and the means is His gift of faith alone (Romans 3:20-5:21; Ephesians 2:8-9). Believers are to strive to be more like our Savior. Our Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 19: Of the Law of God, point 6:

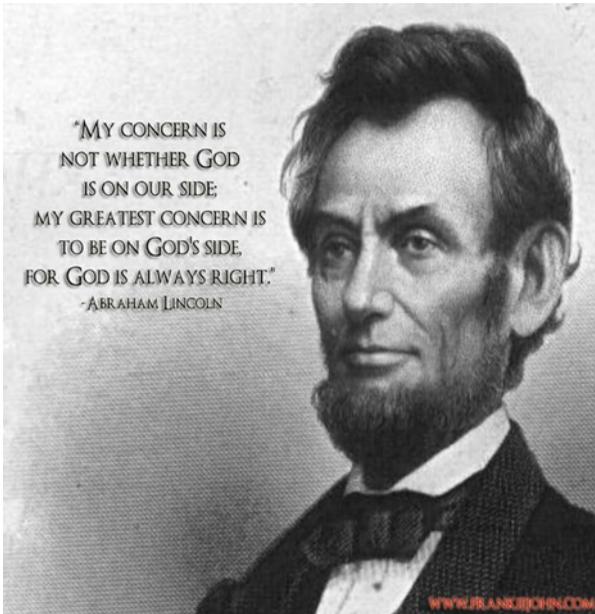
Although true believers be not under the law as a covenant of works, to be thereby justified or condemned, yet is it of great use to them, as well as to others; in that, as a rule of life, informing them of the will of God and their duty, it directs and binds them to walk accordingly; discovering also the sinful pollutions of their nature, hearts, and lives; so as, examining themselves thereby, they may come to further conviction of, humiliation for, and hatred against sin; together with a clearer sight of the need they have of Christ, and the perfection of His obedience... (Acts 13:39; Rom 6:14; 8:1; Gal 2:16; 3:13; 4:4-5; Psa 119:4-6; Rom 7:12, 22,25; 1 Cor 7:19; Gal 5:14,16,18-23; Rom 3:20; 7:7,9,14,24; James 1:23-25).

The apostle John repeats our Lord's command given in Matthew 5:48, followed by the good news of God's provision for sinners who cannot keep His Law: 1 John 2:1-2:

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous: And He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

## Presidents with February Birthdays

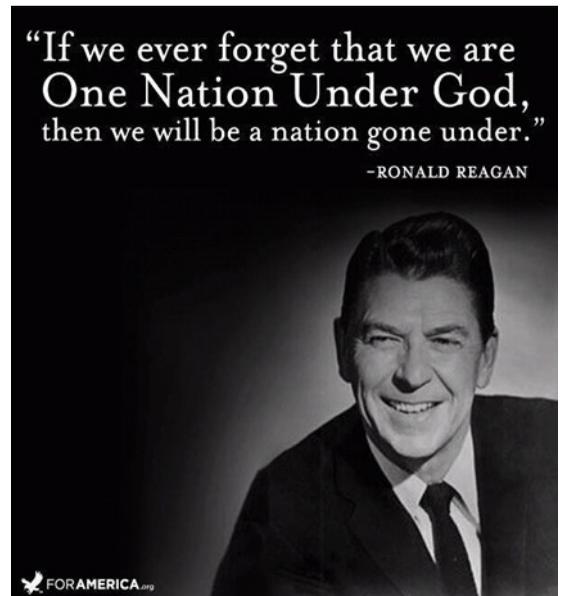
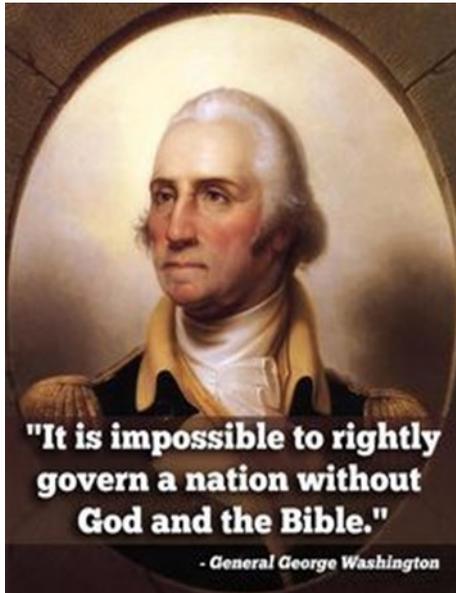
February 12th



William Henry Harrison—February 9th

“I deem the present occasion sufficiently important and solemn to justify me in expressing to my fellow citizens a profound reverence for the Christian religion, and a thorough conviction that sound morals, religious liberty, and a just sense of religious responsibility are essentially connected with all true and lasting happiness.”

February 22nd



February 6th

*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!**

Rev. David Lewis &  
In Defense of Truth  
2927 Cub Hill Road  
Baltimore, Maryland 21234

#### **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