

The DEFENDER—February 2024



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

A monthly publication of the
IN DEFENSE OF TRUTH radio broadcast
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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK: February's Mount Rushmore

February has long been known as President's month, due primarily to the fact that arguably our nation's two greatest leaders were born then. Many will tell you that their greatness rested in their reliance on Almighty God.

Abraham Lincoln (born February 12) said, in declaring a National Day of Prayer and Fasting, "It is fit and becoming in all people, at all times to acknowledge and revere the Supreme Government of God; to bow in humble submission to His chastisement; to confess and deplore their sins and transgressions in the full conviction that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; and to pray, with all fervency and contrition, for the pardon of their past offenses, and for a blessing upon their present and prospective action."

George Washington (born February 22) said, "It is impossible to rightly govern a nation without God and the Bible." General Washington's faith was strong when he led his troops. In the field He read from His personal prayer book, "I have sinned and done...wickedly, be merciful to me, O God, and pardon me for Jesus Christ's sake...Thou gavest Thy Son to die for me; and hast given me assurance of salvation, upon my repentance and sincerely endeavoring to conform my life to His holy precepts and example. I beseech Thee to defend me this night from all evil..." In his inaugural address at the outset of his first term as president, Washington said "it would be peculiarly improper to omit, in this first official act, my fervent supplications to that Almighty Being who rules over the universe, who presides in the councils of nations and whose providential aids can supply every human defect..."

William Henry Harrison (born February 9) lived only 30 days after being elected president, so we'll never know the impact his Christian faith might have had on the nation. But he gave us a glimpse of where he stood in his inaugural address: "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."

And finally Ronald Reagan (born February 6) said, "America was founded by people who believed that God was their rock of safety. I recognize we must be cautious in claiming that God is on our side, but I think it's alright to keep asking if we're on His side." It seems clear to me that to continue to receive God's mercy and blessings, we better be on His side. Another quote from Mr. Reagan seemed eerily prescient for our current political climate, when he said, "The time has come to turn to God and reassert our trust in Him for the healing of America...our country is in need of and ready for a spiritual renewal..."

And all the Lord's people said...AMEN!

Rev. David Lewis

Following Christ or the New World Order

Why Christians Should Vote in 2024

By Robert Luthardt, Sr.

Casey J. Wheatland is a senior Lecturer of Political Science at Texas University. He holds a Ph. D from Hillsdale College and is a former Publius Fellow at the Claremont Institute. Wheatfield is presently teaching about the 200th Anniversary of America's Monroe Doctrine whose celebration seems muted. Americans have been taught little of Monroe's "GRAND STRATEGY" or the truth of its Christian morals. A condensed version follows.

Those born in the first half of the 20th Century have watched the failing of America's public education, most especially in the history of America's founding. Our founding parents were strong in Christian Faith. Today, few know the basis of Monroe's Christian strategy since American principles have been ignored or distorted. This was most distinctly seen when the progressiveness of Theodore Roosevelt led America into the Spanish American War. In Roosevelt's "Corollary to Monroe's Doctrine," American foreign policy was countermarched from Christian principles and orthodoxy to a new "International Order" and "Nation Building" and armed diplomacy.

The Monroe Doctrine under the President and his Secretary of State, John Quincy Adams, was never to impose armed diplomacy on other sovereign nations. Monroe followed the rudimentary American beginnings of our foreign policy and the need to "preserve liberty from threats foreign and domestic." President Monroe was fully confirmed in American origins politically and he enunciated such in his annual message to congress, December 2, 1823. Even though he only incidentally mentioned the collapsing Spanish Empire in his speech, certain Progressives such as Sen. Henry Clay misguided many to a path of spreading radicalized republicanism abroad.

John Quincy Adams declared for the Founder's cautious approach of maintaining neutrality regarding foreign wars. All well knew of President Washington's strong admonition of maintaining non-interference in foreign affairs and wars. President Monroe re-stated Washington's statesmanship by continuing a laissez-faire non-intervention with all others.

In characteristic American judiciousness, Monroe and Adams announced a warning to all foreign governments that any attempts to assert military control over the countries in the western hemisphere would be "manifesting an unfriendly disposition" toward the United States. This effectually made Latin America and others "off limits" to marauding European nations. In this, Monroe and Adams echoed our own Declaration of Independence.

What followed was Monroe's vigorous support for American expansion from the Atlantic to the Pacific to close our country to all other nations, politically and commercially. Adams also made this commitment in an address on July 4th, 1821. In it Adams reminded all Americans of Washington's words to "avoid foreign entanglements" and to remain clear of any "permanent alliances." He further stated that we show open animosity to none.

In the beginning of our nation, the most noted "Federalist writer and defender," Alexander Hamilton, advised against war with any European Nation, but to make great effort to foster a strong union of American States, thus countering aggressive nations coming to our shores.

How did the Monroe Doctrine become reversed from strict neutrality to justification for an expansive thrust for "Nation Building" abroad? What initiated meddlesome subjugation of other nations? Wheatfield and other patriotic leaders decried America being changed to an outward war footing under Theodore Roosevelt's Progressive leadership. One cannot refrain from imagining that America's "about

face” came more from the preachments of Charles Darwin and Karl Marx than from the Gospel of Jesus Christ that the American founders taught. At the same time Roosevelt led America into war with the failing Spanish Empire over aggression in Cuba, Senator Albert Beveridge gave a highly inventive speech in Congress claiming the “Declaration of Independence” was only for “civilized nations,” allowing the USA to assume control of others.

History records the 19th Century’s (the 1800’s) assault upon Christianity’s time-honored supports for our infallible, inerrant Bible, which is Almighty God’s very words. Such radicalization first affected German seminaries, other European seminaries, and finally the leaven spread to American theological schools and pulpits.

During the same era of Christian doctrinal downgrade, President Roosevelt made his claim that America now had the duty to impose an “International Police Power” in other lands and in other possessions (we next took Spain’s holdings in the Philippines). When Roosevelt issued his “Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine” it reversed American foreign policy. Monroe’s Christian just principles toward nations became America’s duty to “uplift mankind” by using our treasure and the blood of American service members to make it happen.

Wheatland and others lamented that it is a short walk from Roosevelt’s progression to Woodrow Wilson’s quixotic “make the world safe for democracy” and to again use American blood and weaponry in WWI. From there it devolves into President George H. W. Bush’s “New World Order” using America in Africa, which was always Europe’s area of military trespass. Will we see a new world Empire and a charismatic leader who will one day prevail over all nations and who will equally ignore God and His Son Jesus Christ (1 John 2:18-22; 2 John 7; Rev. 12:7-9; Rev. 19:21)?

Once America’s policy makers lost sight of our originally stated principals, they also lost sight of our protected and promoting national strength at home and sponsoring of freedom in Latin America. Limiting arms for the defense of our homeland was never meant for intervention in other nations. What our new “war-footing” under Roosevelt and Wilson yielded was a far worse WWII and the evils of Adolph Hitler and his Nazi Party that threatened to take over the entire world.

By the time of the senior Bush’s war in Iraq, America had already been branded the “Great Satan” due to our intervention against a Muslim nation which was at least partly responsible for the revenge attack on America on 9-11. As a nation, the USA continues to sleep. We have chosen to have forgotten that the twin towers in New York had been previously bombed with explosive-filled vans well before the 9-11 attack by Saudi Arabians. In these cases, the “munitions and aircrafts” were all made in America. All the enemy Muslim terrorists were in a Satanic rage of murderous revenge caused by our attacking other nations.

The administration currently in Washington, D.C. deliberately involved us in a war in Eastern Europe (should be a European matter and not ours). We are now deeply involved in a most bloody internecine war between Russia and the Ukraine, both of whom have very questionable leadership, yet we have sent millions of American dollars and weaponry to that war that has killed thousands. Will Russia remember when the shooting war is over? Has our leadership forgotten that Russia is a nuclear powerhouse?

Why has our policy been so forgotten? The weakness in Washington has driven Russian and Chinese Communist leadership together along with North Korea and all are unified in their animosity to the United States. At a time when our military is so needed, the Presidential reigns of Obama and Biden have driven many to abandon the ranks of military when perhaps they are more needed than ever.

So, what should Christians do? First, we should pray for God’s forgiveness of our individual and our national sins. Doing so, we can then ask Him to send a wave of righteousness into the hearts of

our people; even a “great awakening” as He was pleased to do in the past in our country. We should even more support financially and prayerfully every pastor who properly handles the Word of God and all institutions like “In Defense of Truth” that does so faithfully.

We at In Defense of Truth do not tell anyone for whom they should vote. If any do not already know who is most supportive of God and his plans for our nation, they either do not at all know the Lord or choose to remain asleep.

Scripture tells us of our duty to God and His Son Jesus Christ. We know we are to “submit yourselves to every ordinance of man” (1 Pet. 2:13), “whether Kings or Governors” because God has established them, so give honor to whom Honor is due (Rom. 13:7).

And always, keep looking up (Luke 21:28).

JESUS

FOLLOW ME
~Jesus

**is NOT
LOOKING
for
FANS**

**He is
LOOKING for
FOLLOWERS**

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Tony Evans

O The Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

By Nancy Long

Jer. 31:3b – *“Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn thee.”*

Rom. 5:8 *“But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”*

Rom. 8:35, 38 & 39 – *“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

1 John 4:10 & 19 – *“Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”*
“We love Him, because He first loved us.”

1 John 3:1a – *“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God “*

Eph. 3:17-19 – *“That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled, with all the fullness of God.”*

O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

“O the deep, deep love of Jesus, Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free!
Rolling as a mighty ocean In its fullness over me,
Underneath me, all around me, Is the current of Thy love;
Leading onward, leading homeward To my glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, Spread His praise from shore to shore!
How He loveth, ever loveth, Changeth never, never more;
How He watches o’er His loved ones, Died to call them all His own;
How for them He intercedeth, Watcheth o’er them from the throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, Love of every love the best;
‘Tis an ocean vast of blessing, ‘Tis a haven sweet of rest.
O the deep, deep love of Jesus, ‘Tis a heav’n of heav’ns to me;
And it lifts me up to glory, For it lifts me up to Thee.”

Text: Samuel Trevor Francis

Music: Thomas J. Williams

God's love God's **"agape love"**, is the ultimate, the absolute highest, and most supreme love there is! People talk about this subject all the time, but what is love anyway? We use the same word to express feelings for ice cream, cars, baseball, puppies, spouses, children and yes, even God! Love though, at its core, is so much more than a stimulation of the senses, so much greater than a warm fuzzy cuddly physical sensation. Genuine love, true love God's love, is a decision, a choice, a commitment. It's a verb, an action, a demonstration, a behavior a way of life. **"But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"** (Rom. 5:8). God's love runs deep!! Who though, can accurately describe, using mere human words, or really even completely understand, the magnitude, the greatness, the immenseness the unending, limitless, sacrificial love of God?! There is nothing lovable, or lovely, in any of us, nothing admirable, nothing sweet, nothing good absolutely nothing!! **"There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God"** (Rom. 3:10-11). The Bible makes this very clear, friends, even for the most naïve and childlike among us.

When we, in our humanity, express "love" for some one or some thing, there's always something in it for us that pleases. This is not so with God! God **is love!** His very nature and essence is **love!** It's **who He is!** God is the **epitome**, the very **embodiment of love**. Who of us can truly understand this? We realize, and only because we've been given the faith to believe, that Jesus Christ demonstrated sacrificial love by willingly shedding His perfect, precious, and pure, blood, and dying for those whom He chose before the foundation of the world, so that we could be restored back to fellowship with God! Those of us who call ourselves Christians, who have been born again and now have a new nature, have been blessed with a tiny glimpse, and just a bit of an idea, of what true love is all about. We now are expected to live as Jesus has taught **"to love one another, as I have loved you"** (John 13:34). This love should be the mark of every one of Jesus' disciples.

Legend would have us to believe that Samuel Francis, the author of the aforementioned, 'O, the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus penned these words as a testimony of his personal experience, after attempting suicide by jumping off London's Hungerford Bridge into the Thames River. After this failed effort to take his own life, this young man experienced a renewal of faith, spiritually being turned upside down! He went on to write many more poems and hymns. Even though there is little proof to support this claim of attempted suicide, the words of this hymn remain true.

There is a beautiful passage of Scripture that I believe provides powerful wisdom regarding and defining love for all of us to follow, each and every day of our lives. It's found in 1 Cor. 13, and is frequently called "The Love Chapter. It's most likely the most quoted passage in the world on this topic. The Apostle Paul, by Divine inspiration, revealed these words, giving a more clear definition of what real love, in fact, is: **"Love is patient, and is kind; love is not jealous or proud; love does not behave rudely; love does not insist on its own way; love is not provoked; love thinks no evil; love does not rejoice in wrong, but always rejoices in the truth."**

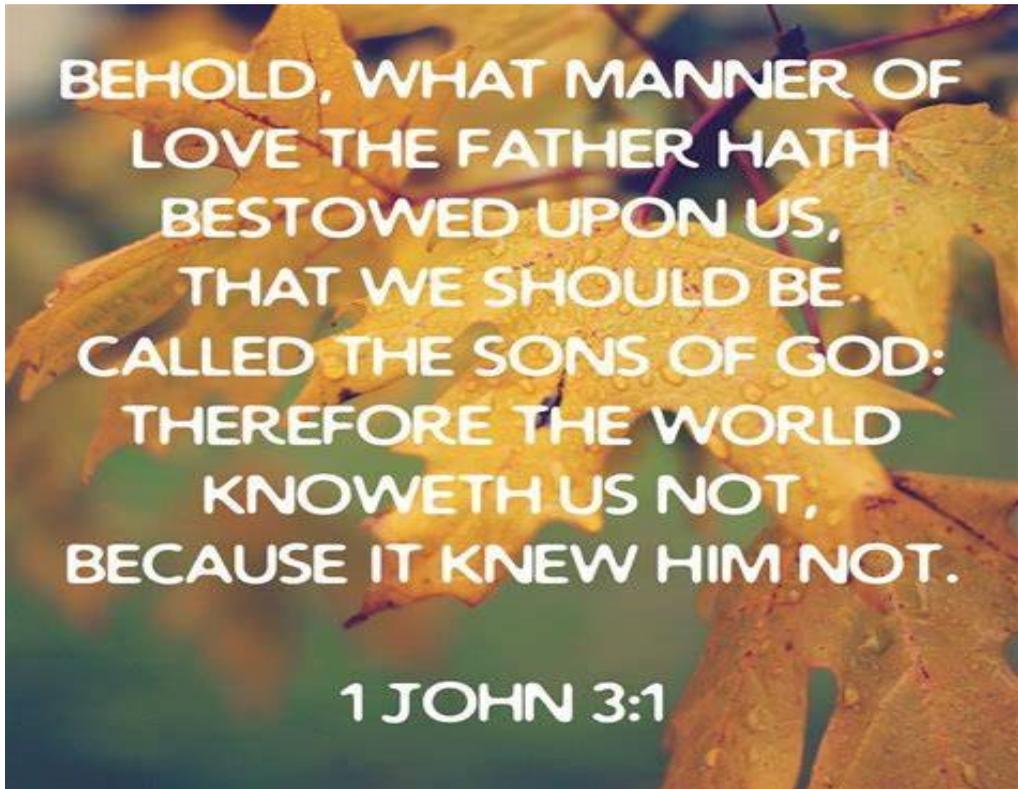
This type of love flows far deeper than romance or experiences that only excite the imagination. The love of which the Bible speaks is a behavior or an action we **choose** to

exercise, with the help of the Holy Spirit, regardless of our feelings. This certainly goes contrary to the flesh, or to selfish inclinations which, if not dealt with in relationships, will surely prove to be unproductive, and possibly even destructive.

“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another” (John 13:35). John makes clear the expectation of love in the true believer. For those who have indeed been born again, who have been imparted with a new nature, their lives should be habitually characterized by love. Those who practice Christ-like love show evidence of the new birth.

It's important to remember that Jesus Christ said, ***“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? and in Thy name have cast out devils? And in Thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity”*** (Matt. 7:21-23).

The most important thing in life is for us to know and be assured that we have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, and that we will live with Him eternally in a glorious place called heaven. As quoted so simply, yet so profoundly by the late Dr. J. Vernon McGee, ***“It is not to mouth platitudes about His being your Lord and claim to be doing great things for Him. It narrows down to one thing He said to Simon Peter by the Sea of Galilee, ‘Loveth thou Me?’”***



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.

The Defender is available, free of charge, on audio CD.
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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