

## DO YOU RECALL THESE WORDS?

Ezra Taft Benson, Secretary of agriculture under Dwight D. Eisenhower, was asked to give Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev a guided tour of some of America's agriculture facilities. Somewhere in the different discussions between the two men, Khrushchev made the following remarks:

"You Americans are so gullible. No, you won't accept Communism outright; but we'll keep feeding you small doses of Socialism until you will finally wake up and find that you already have Communism. We won't have to fight you; we'll so weaken your economy, until you fall like overripe fruit into our hands." The Soviet Union officially fell on Christmas day of 1991 when Mikhail Gorbachev resigned as president of the USSR. However, by this time, much of what Khrushchev had said to Secretary Benson had already come true. We live in an America today that is for lack of a better term "post America." That is, our nation has in many ways abandoned the system of government of, by, and for the people the framers of the Constitution handed down to us for the Socialism and Communism Khrushchev predicted. It is undeniable that the left in this nation (in this writer's humble opinion far more populous than many are willing to admit), are socialist communist sympathizers. Many have surrendered the political philosophy of Washington and Madison for that of Marx and Lenin. This includes many in the highest reaches of our government. One does not have to be a card carrying member of the Communist Party U.S.A. to be a communist. He just has to be one in philosophy. If it waddles and quacks like a duck, it is a duck, or as Andy Taylor once remarked to his son Opie, "You can change the name of a rose, but you can't do nothing about the smell."

However, Khrushchev only had it partially right in the quote given above. It hasn't been only the gradual acceptance of a socialist economy that has brought us to the brink of a fundamental transformation by those who disdain traditional America. The greatest contributor to our problems reflects one of the significant fundamentals of Communism; the rejection of God and abandonment of the objective moral values revealed in the Bible.

Liberals have high-jacked important moral issues and attempted to reduce them to subjective political subjects. The Bible tells us that homosexuality is an abomination to God (Lev. 18:22). Many liberals now close their eyes to the murderous acts of terror committed on September 11, 2001, deny there is a war on terror, all the while engaging in their relentless war against the unborn. That war, if not by a frontal attack, at least in a back-door way, may very soon be extended to target the elderly.

Whereas almost all of our founding fathers believed that Christianity, at least as they understood it, should be the religion of America, a recent book, *Muslim Mafia* describes how spies have infiltrated the executive and legislative branches of our government, along with our intelligence agencies with the goal of turning America into an Islamist country. While such clandestine activity is going on, government officials continue to praise the religion of Mohammad. This ought not so to be.

America is in real trouble. But the trouble is not with our economy; that is a secondary concern. Our trouble is that too many of our citizens have abandoned, or are in the process of abandoning, God and His inspired Word. The Psalmist stated by divine inspiration that; "*Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people he hath chosen for his own inheritance*" (Psa. 33:12). Many Americans once believed that verse referred providentially to America. Now, a growing group of Americans choose to deny that God had anything to do with our past, and certainly has no role to play in our future. They must not win this battle. Armed with the sword of the Spirit, it is only the people of God, the church of Christ, that can rescue our beloved nation from the seemingly unfolding truth of Khrushchev's prediction. No one else can do it.

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**BELVEDERE BEACON**  
*Ye are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14)*  
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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES  
SUNDAY:      WEDNESDAY:  
Bible Classes for all ages 10:00 am.      Bible Classes for all ages 7:00 p.m.  
Morning Worship 11:00 am.  
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.  
EVANGELIST: Ken Chumbley - Tel. No. (803) 279-8663  
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## Is Worship God-centered or Man-centered?

Our Lord Jesus Christ emphasized that, "**God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth**" (John 4:24). Also, when the devil attempted to entice Jesus to fall down and worship him, the Son of God responded by saying, "**Get thee hence Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve**" (Matthew 4:10). These two passages should suffice in scripturally clarifying that our God is the object and center of worship. However, more and more churches and individuals are placing emphasis upon worship services being man-centered rather than upon God. They are more interested in what pleases them than in determining from the inspired Word of God how He wants to be worshipped.

In this age of modern conveniences, people are inclined to seek what has been coined as "creature comforts." Many have become self centered; instead of being thoughtful and considerate of others, and especially of our Heavenly Father. They want the worship service to be modified in order that it will conform to that which pleases them.

The tempo of much of the music heard today in the religious realm is more conducive to an old fashion barn dance than reverence toward God. Not only is that true within the denominational world, but sadly this is also true among many congregations of the church. In attempting to appeal to the whims of a permissive society, several congregations of the church select songs that will incite hand clapping, bodily gyrations, foot patting, lifting up hands and moving them back and forth, etc. The Apostle Paul stressed, "**Let all things be done decently and in order**" (1 Corinthians 14:40). There is certainly nothing decent and orderly in such shenanigans. Often, instead of singing in such services, there is humming, whistling, repetitive sounds with their voices, and even mimic with their voice mechanical instruments of music. It seems that some brethren have lost all propriety of conduct in blindly following the latest trends of society at large. The New Testament specifically instructs us to sing by speaking, Ephesians 5:19 (this excludes humming, whistling, repetitive sounds with the voice, and imitating mechanical instruments of music). We are also to teach and admonish "**...one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord**" (Colossians 3:16). A person cannot do that by exercising the innovations already mentioned.

Brethren need to get back to pleasing the Lord in their worship rather than their sensual desires. Again, if we are to please the Heavenly Father, then we "**...must worship him in spirit and in truth**" (John 4:24).

Dub Mowery  
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## THE END OF THE WORLD

Have you heard the news? This world is to come to an end on December 21, 2012.

This date come from the Mayan culture. The Mayan's believed that the world would last through five cycles of 5126 years. According to the Mayan calculations, we are living in the fifth cycle and that cycle is to come to an end on December 21, 2012.

You may have heard about, or even seen the new block buster movie that was released on November 13. A synopsis of the movie states: "Never before has a date in history been so significant to so many cultures, so many religions, scientists and governments. '2012' is an epic adventure about a global cataclysm that brings an end to the world and tells of the heroic struggles of the survivors." That the movie is based on the Mayan calculations is made clear from the following statement from the official web site of the movie: "With the Mayan calendar ending in 2012, a large group of people must deal with natural disasters such as volcanic eruptions, typhoons and glaciers."

While the movie may make interesting viewing for those who like such movies, and some may believe that the Mayan's have made a correct prediction, what should be the reaction of Christians towards the idea that December 21, 2012 will mark the end of the world?

What does the Bible have to say about the end of the world. In answer to the questions of the disciples, following His discussion concerning the destruction of Jerusalem, Jesus said regarding the final Day of Judgment and the end of the world: "*But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only*" (Matthew 24:36).

Who will you believe, the ancient Myans who have said that the world will come to an end on December 21, 2012 or the word of the Lord who said that only the father knows when that will take place? I believe the choice is clear and simple. I will accept the authoritative word of the Lord rather than the word of men.

Throughout the centuries, men have sought to prognosticate with respect to when this world will come to an end. Such have proved to be false prophets. Unless our God would chose to bring this world to an end prior to then, the ancient Myans will join the long list of those who dates have come and gone without the end of the world occurring.

Let us remember the words of Paul in Romans 3:4 – "*...let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.*"

*Ken Chumbley*

## NEWS AND NOTES

Keep in your prayers the following: Helen Culpepper, Pam Gossett, Lavonne McClish, Linda Chumbley, Maomi Aaron's sister, Leann Rogers, who is having health problems, Myrtle Grimsley, and Lanny Niver together with his daughter and son, and Tim Smith.

Continue to keep Myrtle Grimsley in your prayers as she continues to recuperate.

Also Lanny Niver with his continued back problems.

Pam Gossett has been gone some of late but has also had health issues and thus she has not been in attendance for awhile.

### **"Your Problem Is That You Are Just Unloving..."**

**Has anyone ever told you that?** I have heard that a few times through the years, and things similar to it: "You are too negative," "You need to be more concerned with the *spirit* of the law and less concerned with the *letter* of the law," and more. Prior to finishing any article (this one included) I ask myself several questions about what I have written—Is it correct? Is it needed? Is it balanced? Are there two or more ways of seeing the issue considered? Have I proven my point clearly? Am I speaking the truth in love?

**I love the Lord**—first and foremost. I love my brothers and sisters in Christ. I love the lost—alien sinners and erring brethren. I love the liberals—they are lost, mistaken, misguided (sometimes), ignorant (sometimes), and even hypocritical, but I love them anyway. I hope to call to their attention the error of their way that they might repent before Jesus comes or they die; for, lacking such repentance, He will spew them out of His Mouth. Every line of this article, like them all, is written with love.

**Is it unloving to point out the error of one's way to him?** Jesus did it. Paul did it. Peter did it. In fact, if you took out every book of the Bible that says something to us about the importance of living right and not living wrong, what would you have left? Not much. While it might be unpleasant to read of your sin, please stop accusing me (and others) of being unloving because we earnestly contend for the faith. If we did not love, we would not try to correct.

If what you read on these pages is wrong, prove it, and let me know; I do not wish to go to hell for teaching false doctrine. If what you read on these pages is right and proves that you are doing something that is wrong, repent—for judgment surely comes. If you are proven wrong and you still refuse to repent then you are the unloving one for Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments."

I remember an old saying about throwing a rock into a pack of dogs—which one barks first? Make sure that what you are doing is proper—it would be a shame to come so close to the truth only to miss heaven because of liberalism in whatever form. I do love Jesus. I do love you and long for your salvation. That is why I try to reach you with the truth.

*Tim Smith  
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