

God's Heritage, Our Responsibility

From Ronald L. Dart's Program Notes

You may have never heard this horrible story. On March 9, at Mifflin High School in Columbus, Ohio, four boys dragged a disabled girl into the school auditorium, beat her about the head and forced her to perform oral sex with two of the boys. A crowd of students watched, and one student videotaped the incident.

Michelle Malkin told the story. The girl went immediately to her teacher and reported the incident. When the girl's father arrived and learned what was done, he wanted to call 911, which is what Ohio law requires. The assistant principal tried to talk him out of doing that. He wanted him to call the non-emergency police line.

While all this was going on, the principal stayed in a routine meeting behind closed doors while her staff tried to get things under control. Only after the girl's father called the police himself did they come, and by the time they got there, all the school administrators had gone home for the day.

There are two things you can conclude about this crime. 1) It was a crime. 2) This sort of thing is becoming so commonplace in schools that the administrators are becoming inured to it.

School administrators are cowed by the legal system which has tied their hands in dealing with discipline problems in the schools.

One thing lending support to this conclusion is: This was not the first assault on this girl at this school. Michelle Malkin wrote about this, though, to make the point that this was not an isolated incident. It is epidemic in schools.

She reported that in her home county in Maryland, "a local government report revealed that nearly 12,000 children ages 12 to 17 are bullied, abused or robbed by peers and others. Of that number, more than 1000 are victims of sexual assaults." And, Ms. Malkin, who seems to be a good reporter, makes a truly astonishing statement, and one that can easily be checked. She said that the school system is not required to inform the police of these crimes. Oh well, I guess boys

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will be boys.

But Michelle Malkin offers an irrefutable fact: If these events were going on in a private school, it would be shut down. Why are they being tolerated in public schools? Are we just getting better news reporting, or have things gotten materially worse over the years? You can be assured that nothing like this was going on in

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You've Asked . . .

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What's A Christian To Do?

By Richard Glasgow

Broadly speaking, within the Christian community there are two divergent ways of looking at the political process and our civic opportunities or responsibilities. There are those who exercise their civic right to participate in the political process and there are those who think it's wrong to do so.

Let's look at the definition of politics. It is simply the term for "the science or art of administration of government." The word itself needn't be a disgusting or dismissive word; it just describes how a nation's governance comes about.

What we've come to identify with politics is the unseemly and contemptible conduct of our elected officials, and the crony capitalists with whom they conspire, for more money and power. It's no wonder many Christians want nothing to do with the corrupt "ruling class."

Another reason many Christians won't participate in local or national politics is because of the following statement made by Satan: "Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 'All this I will give you,' he said, 'if you will bow down and worship me.' Then Jesus said to him, 'Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" (Matthew 4:8-10, NIV). The reasoning is that Satan must have had the right and ability to give those kingdoms away because he has dominion over them; and because of that, we shouldn't participate in his methods of governance. But keep in mind: Satan is the father of all lies. "He

[the devil] was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies" (John 8:44b, NIV).

To be sure, Satan is the god of this world as we are told in 2 Corinthians 4:4: "The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God" (NIV). And Jesus calls Satan the "prince of this world" in John 12:31. But whether or not Satan had the ability to grant rulership of the kingdoms of this world is a moot point, because ultimately God reigns supreme in the heavens and earth and it is he who allows kings to reign and rulers to rule. "This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men" (Daniel 4:17). Also, "Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established" (Romans 13:1, NIV).

A prime example of God's hand in selecting human leaders is the story of Saul in 1 Samuel 8 and 9. Israel wanted a king—which was not what God wanted; but he acquiesced and chose Saul. There are a couple of things to note in this example. First, God was willing to listen to the people and yield to their will. If he did that for malcontents who rejected him as

King, how much more might he be willing to do that for those who seek to do his will? Wouldn't he be more prone to answer those who petition him for guidance in using one of the very benefits he's allowed them—the opportunity to choose their leaders? Second, the man God chose ultimately turned out to be a dreadful king, not because God made a poor choice, but because Saul made poor choices. It is flawed reasoning to suggest we shouldn't vote on our laws or for our leaders for fear that it might ultimately turn out poorly; that's always a possibility because people are imperfect.

(to be continued in the next Living to Win)

YEA Feast Books for 2013

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high school in the 1950s. Things have drastically changed since the turn of the century.

And then, there is Florida. Thanks to 24/7 cable news coverage, we have become painfully aware that we have a problem. If you watch the news each evening, you'll learn it is common to hear about a child who has been abducted, raped, and murdered. It seems like an epidemic, and it has certainly caught the attention of Florida legislators who are now scurrying to pass laws to deal with this scourge.

But here is the problem. The only thing the legislature can do is make laws. Someone once said that when the only tool you have is a hammer, every problem looks like a nail. So, the Florida congressmen will pass some new laws, but there is something you should know about that. Laws are ineffective in governing a lawless people.

The legitimate authority of the state is undermined when the people will not enforce the laws passed by their legislators. But, there will be new laws. Anyone in jail for a sex offense right now can forget about parole. They will be releasing drug dealers and Mafia hit men before sex offenders get out. And, there is probably no deterrent value in longer sentences, not even death sentences. These men seem to be utterly unable to not rape and kill.

Nevertheless, lawmakers will pass more laws, with longer sentences, and will monitor sex offenders more closely. That is all well and good, but there is something more important to

consider. Not one bit of this is any good at all to the first child stolen, raped, and murdered by an evil man. What do you suppose the courts and the legislators are willing to do about that? They are going to take Draconian steps to prevent a second crime. What I want to know is what lawmakers are going to do to prevent the first crime. What can lawmakers do about that?

Do you see that this problem is beyond the reach of the law? It has to do with the character of the people. We aren't the first people to go down this road. Others have made the same mistakes and reaped the same rewards on the way to perdition.

Would you like to know what our future looks like? "Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land" (Hosea 4:1).

Simply, this is the objective of a small, but determined group of powerful people. Not that there would be no truth or mercy, but that there would be no acknowledgment of God in the land. The problem is, without acknowledgment of God, there can be no truth nor mercy.

From the New International Version: "There is no faithfulness, no love, no acknowledgment of God in the land. There is only cursing, lying and murder, stealing and adultery; they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows." They break all bounds. Think about that. We want to be free from restraints, to break the chains that bind us. We want freedom from restrictive laws.

"Because of this the land

mourns, and all who live in it waste away; the beasts of the field and the birds of the air and the fish of the sea are dying. But let no man bring a charge, let no man accuse another, for your people are like those who bring charges against a priest. You stumble day and night, and the prophets stumble with you. So I will destroy your mother [motherland]" (Hosea 4:3-5, NIV).

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children" (Hosea 4:6, KJV).

Now, herein lies the problem. When we have forgotten the Law of our God, how much attention do you think we will pay to the legislators? The NIV sees something here that is easily overlooked. They see these admonitions as made to the priests, the Cohens. The word Cohen in Hebrew means "a mediator in religious services."

Here is how the NIV renders this: (Hosea 4:6-9, NIV) "My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests [Cohens]; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children. The more the priests increased, the more they sinned against me; they exchanged their Glory for something disgraceful. They feed on the sins of my people and relish their wickedness. And it will be: Like people, like priests. I will punish both of them for their ways and repay them for their deeds."

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Where all this will take us is not pretty. "For they shall eat, and not have enough: they shall commit whoredom, and shall not increase: because they have left off to take heed to the LORD. Whoredom and wine and new wine take away the heart. My people ask counsel at their stocks, and their staff declareth unto them: for the spirit of whoredoms hath caused them to err, and they have gone a whoring from under their God" (Hosea 4:10-12, KJV).

The "spirit of whoredoms" is an interesting expression. Do you think an obsession with sex might be called a spirit of whoredoms? And,

has there ever been a more sex-obsessed society than ours? Probably, yes, but we aren't through yet. "They sacrifice upon the tops of the mountains, and burn incense upon the hills, under oaks and poplars and elms, because the shadow thereof is good: therefore your daughters shall commit whoredom, and your spouses shall commit adultery. I will not punish your daughters when they commit whoredom, nor your spouses when they commit adultery: for themselves are separated with whores, and they sacrifice with harlots: therefore the people that doth not understand shall fall" (Hosea 4:13-14, KJV).

It's no stretch to say this is what our own future will look like. We are almost there already. Although he may not be a Jeremiah, even a naturally optimistic person finds it harder and harder to be optimistic in the face of the evening news. What can be done about any of this? This is a most important *Born to Win* CD for you to have. What follows is one of the most telling, the most chilling prophecies in the Bible, laid out in plain English. It will be absolutely invaluable to know where all of this is going to take us. It seems to accelerate almost daily, and you need to know. Return the enclosed card, or call 1-888-BIBLE-44 to get your *FREE* CD.

Report from Benin Republic

by Michael Porter

Shalom and greetings from Benin. We are praising Jesus for the success of our trip to Togo Republic a few months ago. I traveled to Togo with Stella to see our scattered brethren and those who have been rejected by the families because of Jesus and his Sabbath. Our journey to Togo was a huge success because the brethren were so happy to meet us. They are all doing well in Jesus despite the economic hardship. They are full of spirit and are working in the truth given to them. We had fellowships with the orphans, widows, disadvantaged brethren in the three congregations, and several home cells in Togo. Many of the widows, orphans, rescued temple prostitutes, converted prostitutes, etc., besieged me for help to start some trade to feed their families and to become self-reliant. I don't know exactly what promise to make; hence, I struggle myself and depend on faith. Please pray for these little ones who have embraced Jesus as their Lord and Savior not to return back to the world.

Calendar of Events

Feast of Tabernacles, September 18-26, 2013. Opening night service September 18 at 7:30 p.m. We want everyone to know you are welcome to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles in Hot Springs, Arkansas with us. Enjoy worship, special music, Christian living seminars, state of the art YEA programs for children and teens, and family-inclusive activities and opportunities that make the Feast of Tabernacles a spiritual rejuvenation. Renew old friendships, and make new friends at all-time favorite activities such as the Pie & Ice Cream Social, family picnic, senior luncheon, Golf Scramble, dances, and Fun Show. Enjoy dinner on the *Belle of Hot Springs* riverboat, and learn fun facts about Hot Springs on the Duck Tours. There's truly something for everyone!

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for every good work.*