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John Newlin Ministries, Inc.

- realizing the power of a life in Christ-

THE BIG ISSUES

Last night I heard again several news commentators make the point that the big issues facing the government right now are tax reform and revision of the health care law.

Really?

Seriously?

How many of you think these are the big issues facing the government and thus the big issues facing America?

What about all these issues as vital concerns for the people of the United States (and really the world) in these critical last days:

- **The massive fall away from God** - the steady increase in immorality in America for many years now. This is a nation whose government in recent years has openly thumbed its nose at God. Even if some of the new leaders appear to be Christians or have some connection to Christianity, the government and the administration continue to run an organization that openly approves and thus facilitates lifestyles that God considers an abomination. Everywhere – on television and in the movies and the music and general behavior – we are living in a low class America. By low class I mean low morally and culturally. America has moved into the gutter. It remains to be seen if there will be any meaningful attempt to crawl out. The fall away from God, by the way, is an essential prophecy of something to happen before the Day of the Lord (see 2 Thessalonians 2:3. That prophecy is fulfilled now in America and the world.).
- **The rise in lawlessness** – Who can dispute this one? Respect for law fell steadily in the last few years. A failure to enforce the commonsense laws of the nation led to a great growth in the number of criminal individuals living and walking free in the country, both illegal immigrants and legal citizens. A nation without serious enforcement of basic laws that protect the life and limb of society is not a nation worth living in. It is also not a nation that can endure. Hopefully there are some signs efforts are being made to turn this around. By the way, this rise in lawlessness is a sign of things to happen in the last days (See 2 Timothy 3:1-5).
- **The breakup of the family unit** – We have had divorce for a long time, and in fact that curse seems to be slowing down, perhaps because people are marrying at a much lower rate. But I am talking about much more. I am talking about a real hardnosed division among family members. Recently I wrote of this. How children are separating themselves from parents. Terrible. Cathy went into a store not long ago and overheard a man telling the owner how he had not spoken to his father for 15 years. The owner replied

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that his daughter had just suddenly decided for no reason that he knew of that she did not want to have anything to do with him. The recent elections in the country have also brought to the fore a terribly lost group of people that has contributed to the separation: young especially but also some older – who cannot openly discuss differences and are maniacally opposed to the new government now in power and to basics of free speech. It was difficult or impossible for some to have the traditional family get-together at Thanksgiving and Christmas. By the way, this is another sign of the end of the age, prophesied in Micah 7:5. It also was spoken of by Jesus himself in Matthew 10:34-36 when he made the bold point that his coming would cause a man's enemies to be members of his own household.

- **The rise in international war and terrorism** – We could have included this above under the rise of lawlessness, but it deserves its own space. Look at how many nations are involved in war or are apparently about to be. And look at the extent of terrorism throughout the world, the mad efforts of those who apparently have lost their minds to the devil and are eager to kill others even in horrible ways just to make some false point. Much of this is connected to islam, a false religion which by now most thinking people should have realized is as far from a religion of peace as it can be. By the way, again, this is all signs of the end of the age, as expressed in Matthew 24:6-7 and in the scripture already quoted in 2 Timothy 3:1-5.
- **The obtuseness of people in the West to recognize the challenge to their existence that is right now before them** – It is incredible is it not to see the atrocious decisions that have allowed large numbers of persons with 180 degree opposed beliefs and cultures to flood into Europe and begin the process of turning those nations upside down. It is incredible to see the number of terrorists that have been let in there or are being home grown now. The hundreds of thousands, even millions, of “refugees” from the Middle East that came into these middle size and small European countries evidently largely brought young and single males whose religious background and beliefs could not be more different. They come from the world of Mohammed, from the culture of shariah law, from a culture where women are second class citizens, from a culture that does not tolerate LGBT persons or drug users. It is amazing to see the liberal left support this muslim immigration which would in fact destroy so many of their members. All that has happened in Europe is happening to a lesser extent in America. This reminds me of when Hezekiah showed emissaries from Babylon all the treasures of Israel. And we know what happened next. The Babylon invasion. Again, this all falls under wars and rumors of war and the rise of lawlessness. Also no doubt 2 Corinthians 4:4, which makes the often quoted point that the god of this world [the devil] has blinded the minds of unbelievers. (Note: The purpose of this general attack of radical islam on the rest of the world is not being hidden. No, the leader of one of the key groups – ISIS - has stated the objective is world government, world control.)
- **The failure of the American people to recognize how their education system is and has been corrupting and stealing away American children.** – No Americans should send their children off to college today without a thorough investigation of that college. Most universities and colleges are in the hands of the rebellious far left today. From surveys it is obvious that something like ninety percent of the faculty are of

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the far left political persuasion. And as to spiritual beliefs? Sad. Sad. Yet Americans for decades now have sent their children to these indoctrination factories without thinking about what their children will learn there. And thus we have the screaming college students who cannot bear to hear opinions that differ from their own. They are so weak and confused and lost that universities have created quiet rooms for them to go to so they won't have to face anyone saying something other than what they want to hear. Look at how university administrations and professors tolerate and even seem to support violence against those who would speak from a viewpoint not desired by the far left members of their student body. This is all a big problem. Each thing in this list above is just as aspect of the work of the devil in these last days, of course. This particular problem is just more subtle.

- **The abdication of the full gospel message by the majority of American churches** - Most churches today are cold dry places unfocused on the issues that matter. Many are nothing more than social gatherings. Study after study, as well as plain old personal experience, show that the overwhelming majority do not preach and teach the Holy Spirit and that his gifts such as healing are for today, prophecy even though that is one third of the Bible, and the imminent return of Jesus even though that is what is about to happen. To top that off, many do not preach and teach what it takes to be in the Kingdom of God, something essential to know in these days. Many do not teach what Jesus said about this to Nicodemus in John 3 or what Paul later said in Romans 10:9. Large numbers of naïve Americans attend churches every Sunday thinking all is well with them and their relationship with God and that they are just living their lives as they should, when in fact they are not in the Kingdom, they are not saved, they will not go with Jesus when he returns. As he said in scripture, they will hear "I never knew thee" if they hear anything at all. The preachers and elders of those churches will have a great deal to answer for when they come to face their own judgment, and they won't have any good answers to give.
- **The separation of the American government from the people** – It is because of this very factor that the recent shocking national election occurred. Enough Americans throughout the land finally realized something has gone horribly wrong with society and they threw out the past government. It is apparent they hoped to be throwing out the Washington traditional establishment and culture. But of course that has not yet happened. The same deeply embedded culture inhabits all the government offices, and the Congress still operates not as the people had hoped when the members were elected but more in line with staying in office and reflecting special interest groups. And even though an obviously true rebel moved to the White House, his fire and his changes seem to be slowing down. This government in Washington and all the hundreds of thousands of bureaucrats and lobbyists and others attached are just part of the big problem of the general move to ever bigger government and the eventual one world government. Right now there is a blip in this happening with the new administration, but this trend has not been stopped.
- **The general lack of interest and/or knowledge still in the bulk of society in preparing for the Lord's return, in the spiritual salvation of their family and friends and associates, in the protection and provision for difficult times** – Most just continue as has been the American approach for decades. They

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go to work if possible, take care of their families as they can, have cookouts and watch sports and go on an annual vacation to the beach. And the nation and the world spin to the inevitable conclusion. Serious believers hope for that end time revival often mentioned. But it has not happened yet, certainly not in America. It may still happen before the Lord's return to collect his believers, or in fact it may happen in the Tribulation period and involve some of all those left behind.

Related to the last point, a question to all believers is what are you doing about the Lord's imminent return? Surely you should be out there in some way trying to reach all the lost in your group of contacts – your family, friends, neighbors, relatives, co-workers. I just wrote of this in the recent **WATCHMAN WARNING** publication titled “What Is a Believer in Jesus Christ to Do Today?” You can read that by going to our website and clicking on the article title on the home page or by clicking on the blog in the menu column. Or by going directly to the blog.

You and I live in a seriously lost, dark world. Believers have joy only because they know the Lord and keep their focus on him. Life continues in the world just as it did in Noah's day. Everything went forward then as normal in terms of daily life even though God characterized the people as focusing on evil always. And suddenly the flood came and that was that. Same for Sodom and its destruction. God has given many many warnings. Jesus laid out what was to happen. Well. It is that time folks. Sometime before long he will collect his believers, the rest left behind will be shocked (perhaps), a charismatic leader will rise to take over, God will pour out his wrath on the humanity that is on earth and really on the earth itself, and in a few years he will be back to eliminate the opposition and establish Kingdom rule from Jerusalem. The script has already been written.

The Lord is coming soon. I have it on good authority - his. Always remember to stay alert! Our time is full of people who call evil good and good evil. You must be discerning all the time.

May you live in the blessings of the Lord always.

And Always Keep Your Eyes on Jesus!

John

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