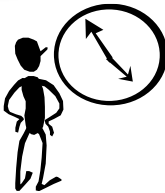


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Time of Assembly



Sunday:

Bible Study 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.

Every other Sunday night:

Worship 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday:

Bible Study 7:00 p. m.

Cancel Culture

By Terry Sanders

The Cancel Culture has slowly been building a high success rate. They have managed to have statues and pictures removed from public display. They have caused books to be essentially banned from public consumption. Historical accounts are being “sanitized.” What were once popular movies and TV shows are not in rerun due to alleged “uncomfortable content.” The more success, the more emboldened they will become. It is all done under the guise of cleansing society of offensive things and materials. It is really about gaining the power to control lives and behavior.

I am sure I am not the only one who thinks that the Cancel Culture one day will, when convinced of their power, turn their focus upon the Bible.

They will vehemently desire its elimination due to the content identifying sin and condemning it. Many of those in the Cancel Culture are heavily laden with Biblical sins. They will pronounce such teaching as offensive and demand that Bibles be removed and then later eradicated.

I wonder how shocked some of our “love and tolerate everyone” Christians will be then. After all, they have denied that the Bible contains anything offensive. I feel that many of them will have the “deer in the headlights look.”

Have you not read Matthew 15:12? “Then His disciples came (to Jesus) and said to Him, ‘Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?’” I do not see where Jesus changed what He said or apologized for it. NTL, the Pharisees were determined to “cancel” Him.

Get ready, folks, getting rid of the Bible gets rid of any possibility of morality (what little is left anymore). It will be replaced with nothing and there will be no limit to the sin and depravity that will follow.

Oh, Terry, you see hobgoblins when there are

none. Yeah? The Bible can't be read in school due to a wrenching of the Constitution. You can't stand in a public place and preach the Bible because someone will be offended and report you. Sometime the hobgoblins are real.

One last thing: "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived" (2 Tim. 3:13, KJV).

Can a Man be Saved Without baptism?

Brother Lipscomb:

Do the Scriptures say that no one can be saved without baptism, or is it only an inference? If an inference, are not all creeds founded on inferences? I have been reading your paper [*The Gospel Advocate*] for some time, and I like it very well.

LIPSCOMB'S ANSWER:

Inferences are of different degrees of certainty. A necessary inference is regarded but little, if any, short of a positive declaration or command. Whatever is necessary to the attainment of an end is necessarily inferred as embraced in the command. It is a necessary inference that he must do all these things requisite to obtain an end because the thing commanded cannot be done without doing these necessary things. We, on the other hand, infer things on slight unnecessary grounds. Nothing save a necessary inference should be regarded as authoritative. While it is not said in the Scriptures no one can be saved without baptism, it is true that the only plan for saving sinners that God has revealed leads through baptism. And I do not know why the clause, 'that he has revealed,' should be thrown in, for I do not believe he has an unrevealed plan. The declaration of the Savior is: '*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*' Here the road to salvation as marked by the Savior leads through baptism. The fact that lack of baptism is not repeated as a condition of damnation has no bearing because baptism has been connected with faith and is the outgrowth of it; and in calling up faith in the last clause, all that has been connected with it must be understood.

The commission as given by Matthew is: '*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Neither is there salvation in any other [name]: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*' (Acts 4:12.) This is a plain declaration that men can be saved only in the name of Christ. But men must enter into that name before they can be saved in it. This commission by Matthew says men must be taught, then baptized into the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They cannot be saved without coming into the name of Christ. They are baptized into that name. Of the same force is the idea we are saved '*in Christ.*' In him, we find remission, salvation, redemption, and sanctification. It is in him these can alone be found. Then whatever is necessary to an entrance into Christ is necessary to the attainment of salvation, redemption, sancti-

fication, and all blessings found in him. Paul says: '*So many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death.*' (Romans 6:3.) Again: '*Ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*' (Galatians 3:26-27.) We enter into Christ and enter his death by being baptized into him. We become children of God by faith in Christ, by being baptized into Christ, and so '*put on Christ.*' Now, if baptism is essential to entrance into Christ, it is necessary to the enjoyment of all blessings found only in him. It is a necessary inference, then, that inasmuch as we enter Christ in baptism, baptism is a condition of the enjoyment of all blessings found in Christ. The Spirit said on the day of Pentecost: '*Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.*' Now, the remission of sins is the same as salvation from sin, on which future salvation depends. Take it '*for remission of sins*' or '*into the remission of sins,*' as our Baptist friends now say it ought to be translated, and we have repentance and baptism as means of reaching remission of sins. All means or acts necessary to reach remission of sins are necessary conditions of obtaining and enjoying remission of sins. Hence, if an inference, it is a necessary inference and authoritative as a condition of the promised blessing. So, too, Ananias said to Saul: '*Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.*' This admonition grows out of the two facts that baptism is a condition on which God cleanses from sin and baptism is a washing. Then if baptism in this sense washes away sins, we cannot be cleansed from these sins without the washing. It is a necessary inference here that without the washing in which God cleanses we cannot be cleansed from sin.

Peter declares that Noah and his family '*were saved by water. The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us.*' Baptism saves us from our sins in the same manner that water saved Noah and his family from the destruction of the sin-defiled world that is, water is the medium through which in baptism we pass from a state of sin and condemnation into a state of acceptance and favor with God. If this be so, we cannot reach that state of favor and salvation without baptism, any more than Noah and his family could reach the new world without passing to it by means of water. If it is an inference that no one of the antediluvians was saved without water, it is an inference that no one can be saved without baptism. If an inference at all, it is a necessary inference from so many and so different standpoints that it has all the force and assurance of a clear and distinct declaration. It only means that God has seen fit to pardon man's sins on condition that he believes in Christ, our Savior, and so embodies that faith as to be buried out of self into Christ, the Redeemer. Baptism is the act in which we deny ourselves, are buried out of ourselves, and enter into Christ.

This is God's order as plainly revealed as any truth of the Bible, and it is useless and sinful for man to try to set aside or avoid the plain commands of God.

Grandpa, Tell Me 'Bout the Good Old Days

By Jefferson David Tant

In 1986, Jamie O'Hara wrote a hit song with the above title. It was popularized by Naomi and Wynona Judd. Allow me to be nostalgic as I cite the words with a few comments. (If you don't know the song, you can Google it.)

“Grandpa, tell me 'bout the good old days,
Sometimes it feels like this world's gone crazy,
Grandpa, take me back to yesterday,
When the line between right and wrong didn't seem so hazy.

Grandpa, everything is changing fast,
We call it progress, but I just don't know
And Grandpa, let's wander back into the past,
And paint me the picture of long ago.

(Chorus)

Did lovers really fall in love to stay,
And stand beside each other come what may?
Was a promise really something people kept,
Not just something they would say and then forget?

Did families really bow their heads to pray?
Did daddies really never go away?
Oh, Grandpa, tell me 'bout the good old days,
Oh, Grandpa, tell me 'bout the good old days.

We live in a world that is going downhill rapidly. The unspeakable Connecticut tragedy is really unimaginable. Twenty innocent children, and several adults slaughtered by a young man who was either deranged or evil personified. And now we have the mayhem in Seattle, Portland, New York City, and around the nation.

Ever since Adam and Eve listened to Satan's lies, mankind has been in trouble. Some generations later God said “Enough,” and the Great Flood cleaned the slate. And who knows when God will do it again? Not by water, as per his promise. But it will be as Peter wrote: “*But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up*” ([II Peter 3:10](#)).

Many want to ban guns. Guns are not the problem. Logically, we should ban automobiles, for they kill far more than guns. And what about beer, for drunk drivers kill thousands. Kitchen knives also kill. The point is, objects do not kill. Evil hearts kill.

Buff Scott wrote,

“Manslaughter has replaced innocent lives.
The ugly has replaced beauty.
The abnormal has replaced normal.
Evil has replaced good.
The immoral has replaced moral.
Lying has replaced truth.
Dishonesty has replaced honesty.
Deceit has replaced sincerity.
War has replaced peace.
Perverted sex has replaced natural sex — man-with-man, woman-with-woman.
Violent fantasies have replaced reality.”

1963 was a pivotal year when atheist Madelyn Murray O’Hair got the Supreme Court to ban school prayer. And as God was kicked out of school, he has progressively been banned from more and more aspects of American life. And the America we loved has turned out the lights, one by one, that once illuminated our fair land as a shining beacon of hope, opportunity, and moral values to the world.

And as our government has endorsed the abortion of millions of babies, and now supports perverted homosexual unions, and is waging a war against religious values, one wonders when the final light will be snuffed out. America is the only nation I know of that was founded on the principle of religious freedom. It seems strange that the principles that guided our founding fathers, which have stood our nation so well for over two centuries, are now considered offensive. Do today’s nay-sayers want to change our Declaration of Independence to read “one nation under Satan” rather than “one nation under God?” We have descended into the abyss so far that a new Bible is being published — “The Queen James Bible.” This Bible twists the meaning of every passage condemning homosexuality to make perverted sex seem OK.

Certainly, the entertainment industry has contributed to our downward slide. Violent video games, sexually explicit and perverted movies and TV shows, foul and vile language, have helped foster many of the younger generations without social graces. God’s admonition goes unheeded, “*Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God*” ([Leviticus 19:32](#)).

Those who uphold moral values and respect for God are becoming a minority in our nation. But it has been this way in many nations throughout history. I fear not so much for myself, as my years are numbered, but I mourn for the nation that my children and grandchildren will inherit.

Paul urges “*that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity*” ([I Timothy 2:1](#)).

“*Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people*” ([Proverbs 14:34](#)).