

*Poverty
In the
Land of Plenty*



Poverty in the Land of Plenty

I am an ardent reader of Vitamin E (Encouragement), the thought provoking messages by our Elder Scott Gage, which is sent to me regularly. In his recent in V.E. he wrote the article – “America – What is Her Future?” While reading it I was reminded of a message I wrote in my monthly magazine in Telugu “Gospel Echo” a few decades back after coming across a news item in our local newspaper with a heading – “The Increase of Poor in America”. At that time, and even now, the Youth dream about America as the country of plenteous opportunities - the Dollar dream, to go there for Studies and jobs and to settle there.

America is considered a super power by all the countries of the World, the undeveloped and under developed countries look for

favor in improving their lot by seeking aid in one form or another, but now why this downhill trend? One wonders; let me quote some points to ponder, updating in brief:

The National Debt is increasing to staggering heights, due to miscalculated management of National wealth. The Tax payer is burdened unbearably under the weight of excessive taxation. The Donor becoming Debtor (Deut 28:12, 44). Terrorism is the greatest malady, plaguing and threatening world peace; America has invested much in containing and eradicating this by aiding some of the countries, particularly a country has been recipient of huge sums of money at the cost of tax payers' hard



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Voice of the Sea

“The seas have lifted up, O Lord, the seas have lifted up their voice; the seas have lifted up their pounding waves. Mightier than the thunder of the great waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea, the Lord is mighty.” (Psalm 93:3&4) “For I am the Lord your God, who churns the sea so that its waves roar, the Lord Almighty is his name.” (Isaiah 51:15).

My family, along with some friends and neighbors just returned from vacation at Miramar Beach, in Destin Florida. Everyone found ways to entertain themselves, but for myself the most enjoyable pastime was simply sitting on the balcony of what was our home for the week, and looking out over the ocean, which as awesome as it is, it's just one small part of God's creation. As I sat there, all sorts of images would run through my mind, like what an amazing site it must have been when God parted the Red Sea and Moses led his people across on dry land, or when Jesus stilled the tempest or walked on water. While my mind wandered, the different sea birds would pass by in flight in search of their daily bounty. On one particular morning I even saw some type of great fish leap in to

the air, which gave me a small glimpse of the many mysteries that lie beneath the surface. Each and every morning you could see the fishing vessel's on the horizon, and even the occasional jet from one of the nearby military bases in flight. Then it suddenly dawned on me that despite the boats, jets, and even the traffic near our home, all I could hear was the relentless ocean crashing in to the beach. No matter how great man's inventions, the power of God's creation is far and above any contribution man will ever make! You can't help but be reminded of the awesomeness of God's power when looking out over the vast ocean, and then hear the great waves crashing. Each wave reminds you that His power is ceaseless. That reminder will be with us until Jesus comes again, and this earth as we know it passes away. Thanks be to God for this one of many constant reminders of his Mighty Power!

...Tom Bennett

Spearsville, LA

Antioch Bulletin 6/10/2012

often want to spice up the old truths of Scripture with some new and superficially attractive concoction from the outside world, but this usually serves merely to adulterate "the sincere milk of the word" (I Peter 2:2) and insert "death in the pot." Like the woman in the New Testament parable who took leaven and secretly "hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened" (Matthew 13:33), Elisha's enterprising young student slipped in his attractive ingredient, and it soon permeated the whole pot of soup with its poison. This is the way with false doctrine.

The remedy for the poison in the pottage was found when Elisha said, "Bring meal. And he cast it into the pot. . . . And there was no harm in the pot" (2 Kings 4:41). The purifying "meal" was fine wheat flour, always in Scripture symbolizing the true Word of God. It is the Word which is the true bread by which man must live (Matthew 4:4), and the antidote for the poisonous doctrines of the world must always be the unadulterated Word of God. (HMM – ICR)

...the late Alpha Lemley
ABBA – 10/26/2006

What I Need

*I need a strength to keep me true
And straight in everything I do;
I need power to keep me strong
When I am tempted to do wrong:
I need grace to keep me pure
When passion tried its deadly lure;
I need love to keep me sweet
When hardness and mistrust I meet:
I need an arm to be my stay
when
Dark with trouble grows my day;
And naught on earth can these afford,
But all is found in Christ my Lord.*

--Theodore Horton--

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10/7/2012

earned money, without any verification and accountability. On the contrary, instead of containing it was the promoter, used the funds to maintain terror camps to harass and bother its neighboring country. The 9/11 bombing of Twin Towers, a citadel of trade, was a blow to America's Economy. Who sheltered the "King Pin, "the Brain behind 9/11 Destruction?

Anti-Christian Policies adopted by National Leaders turned Atheist such as banning the Bible and prayers in public life and schools under the guise of Secularism; forgetting God surely brings the wrath of God. (Ps 50:22).

The Enemies trying to usher the New World Order, one World Govt., one World Religion, one World Currency, to kill the Mighty Dollar reigning supreme in World Markets, planning to de – Americanize thus pushing God out of Society to nullify the slogan on the dollar bill – "In God we trust" by replacing their own Currencies.

The Oil producing Nations using "Oil Bomb" to shatter the American Economy as Oil has become most essential commodity in Public Life. Better go for other alternatives, let the Scientists work for production of Bio – Petrol etc, rather than depending on fickle minded oil bosses.

The Policies of some of the National Leaders are Anti – Israel (Jews) to please the whims and fancies of oil supplying countries, viz. Land for Peace, so called Peace Camps, Camp David etc. The Israelites regained their Land by war (1967), one must not forget the Jewish contribution to Christianity; they gave the Patriarchs, Prophets, Joseph (Foster Father of our Lord and Savior JESUS CHRIST), mother Mary (Surrogate), Apostles and even the Bible. The enemy of the Jews would ultimately become the enemy of Christianity & America (Gen 12:3 & Ps 122:6).

Sin and Sinful life style became

the order of the day; abomination is the fashion – Gays, the word Gay means Cheerfulness but its meaning is changed to sinful practice. Lesbian, an example of Moral Decay (Rom 1:26, 27); Legalization of such unholy relationships / marriages speaks volumes. Then why not legalize Crime??? All these are defiling the sanctity and sanctity of American Public Life, remember the fate of Sodom and Gomorrah, the same punishment awaits the countries which practice such sins. God is Just and Judge, otherwise He has to tender apology to the people of those twin cities of sin. He will not do so, He will surely Judge, it's only a matter of time. The Church of Christ has a vital role in preaching against it for abolition and in being vigilant and to persevere (I Pet 4:7).

Slaughter of innocent in Abortion Clinics, shedding of innocent blood, the mother's womb was considered as the safest place

for a baby, but it is no longer now, flushing the unborn, living embryos through drains (Amos 1:13, II Kings 8:12, Hosea 13:16).

Christ is the only solution to the sin problem. America is mercifully surviving in spite of such because of Praying, Faithful Saints, Living and Abiding His Word (Prov. 11:11). As the Saints of His Kingdom the Church has to pray for betterment in all spheres of Life by setting a good example of a true Christian, upholding the values of Life.

The economic crunch will impact on Global disaster, be assured, you Saints, only Pray and lead the righteous life as elucidated in the Bible. The Closures, the Wall Street collapse or any Depression will not affect His children; remember our Almighty God fed millions in the Wilderness for Forty Years. Israelites flourished in spite of World Wide Famine due to a Righteous

Death in the Pot

Alpha here with a somber-thought.

As you read this, consider the present state of thinking among many of our Preachers. I have had many "arguments" over the statement: "If the "WORD" does not address the subject, it is OK: Note the fact the Spirit had Peter write "the sincere milk of the word" (I Peter 2:2). Any and all other programs or additions to the "Word" are POISON!!! The only addition that may be added by man can ONLY be what is necessary to fulfill the meaning of the Word (Controlled by Romans 14). Anything more would be adding to the Word. Would it not??

Note Rev. 22:18-19 and

2 John 1:7-11, ¶ "For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an anti-christ. 8 Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. 9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. 10 ¶ If there come any unto you,

and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: 11 For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds". Some extremely important teachings in this enlightened age!

"So they poured out for the men to eat. And it came to pass, as they were eating of the pottage, that they cried out, and said, O thou man of God, there is death in the pot. And they could not eat thereof" (2Kings 4:40).

The "sons of the prophets" studying under Elisha became hungry, so Elisha told them to "seethe pottage" (v.38), evidently a soup primarily made of lentils. However, one of the young students proceeded to gather some wild gourds and grind them into the pottage, carelessly assuming that their attractive appearance and taste would spice up the otherwise dull meal. When the more mature students took the first sip, however, they realized the alien ingredient was poisonous, and cried out: "There is death in the pot!"

There is a parable in this experience. Modern Bible scholars

Now I Sit Me Down In School

This was sent to me today, you may have seen it before. It's funny that the Bible (according to ads in the Christian Chronicle) is being taught in schools in the former Soviet Union. And here in the good ole USA (a nation established as a Christian Nation) it and prayer are pretty much outlawed:

Written by a 15 year old student

Now I sit me down in school
Where praying is against the rule.
For this great nation under God
Finds mention of Him very odd.

If scripture now the class recites,
It violates the Bill of Rights.
And anytime my head I bow
Becomes a Federal matter now.

Our hair can be purple, orange
or green,
That's no offense; it's a freedom
scene.
The law is specific, the law is
precise,
Prayers spoken aloud are a serious
vice.

For praying in a public hall
Might offend someone with no
faith at all.
In silence alone we must meditate,

God's name is prohibited by the state.

We're allowed to cuss and dress like freaks
And pierce our noses, tongues and cheeks.
They've outlawed guns, but FIRST the Bible.
To quote the Good Book makes me liable.

We can elect a pregnant Senior Queen,
And the 'unwed daddy,' our Senior King.
It's 'inappropriate' to teach right from wrong,
We're taught that such 'judgments' do not belong.

We can get our condoms and birth controls,
Study witchcraft, vampires and totem poles;
But the Ten Commandments are not allowed,
No word of God must reach this crowd.
It's scary here I must confess,
When chaos reigns the school's a mess.

Almost Daily
California Lane Church of Christ
01/20/2012

man Joseph (Gen 47:27).
Isaac reaped a hundred fold during famine in their Land (Gen 26:17). God Bless.

...G. P. Benhur, Ph.D.
Missionary / Evangelist
Hyderabad, India

Is the Bible Really the Inspired Word of God?

During a question and answer session at a recent speaking engagement, a university student asked me, "Why do you believe that the Bible is the inspired word of God?" Now this is a very interesting question; and probably one of the most important questions any Christian could ask themselves. What is so special, so unique about the Bible that Christians believe it is literally the inspired word of God?

In answering this student's question, I encouraged him to consider the following facts about the Bible:

First, the Bible is not just one single book. This is a more

Rather than being a single book, the Bible is actually a collection of 66 books

common misconception than many people realize, especially with people who do not come from a Judeo-Christian background. Rather than being a

single book, the Bible is actually a collection of 66 books, which is called the canon of scriptures. These 66 books contain a variety of genres: history, poetry, prophecy, wisdom literature, letters, and apocalyptic just to name a few.

Second, these 66 books were written by 40 different authors. These authors came from a variety of backgrounds: shepherds, fishermen, doctors, kings, prophets, and others. And most of these authors never knew one another personally.

Third, these 66 books were written over a period of 1500 years. Yet again, this is another reminder that many of these authors never knew or collaborated with one another in writing these books.

Fourth, the 66 books of the Bible were written in 3 different languages. In the Bible we have books that were written in the ancient languages of Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic; a

reflection of the historical and cultural circumstances in which each of these books were written.

Finally, these 66 books were written on 3 different continents: Africa, Asia, and Europe. Once again, this is a testament to the varied historical and cultural circumstances of God's people.

66 books, written by 40 different authors, over 1500 years, in 3 different languages, on 3 different continents

Think about the above realities: 66 books, written by 40 different authors, over 1500 years, in 3 different languages, on 3 different continents. What's more, this collection of books shares a common storyline- the creation, fall, and redemption of God's people; a common theme- God's universal love for all of humanity; and a common message- salvation is available to all who repent of their sins and commit to following God with all of their heart, soul, mind and strength. In addition to sharing these commonalities, these 66 books contain no historical errors or contradictions. God's word truly is an amazing collection of writings!

After I had shared the above facts with this student, I offered him the following challenge: I said to him, "If you do not believe that the Bible is the inspired word of God, if you do not believe that the Bible is of a supernatural origin, than I challenge you to a test." I said to the student, "I challenge you to go to any library in the world, you can choose any library you like, and find 66 books which match the characteristics of the 66 books in the Bible. You must choose 66 books, written by 40 different authors, over 1500 years, in 3 different continents. However, they must share a common storyline, a common theme, and a common message, with no historical errors or contradictions." I went on to say, "If you can produce such a collection of books, I will admit that the Bible is not the inspired word of God." The student's reply was almost instantaneous, he emphatically stated, "But that's impossible!"

"But that's impossible!" It truly is impossible, for any collection of human writings. However, the Bible passes this test. The Bible contains 66 books, written by 40 different authors, over 1500 years, in 3

different languages, on 3 different continents, with no historical errors or contradictions. The entire Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, bears the mark of Divine inspiration.

The entire Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, bears the mark of Divine inspiration.

The next time you encounter someone who asks you why you believe the Bible is the inspired word of God, try sharing this challenge with them. Better yet, don't wait until you're asked, just go ahead and share this challenge with a friend today. You don't even have to mention the Bible up front; just ask them if they think it would be realistic to assemble such a collection of books. After they say, "But that's impossible!" you've got a ready-made opportunity for sharing the truth of God's word with somebody!

...Via email

An Ancient Prayer

Give me a good digestion,
Lord,
And also something to digest;
Give me a healthy body,
Lord,
And sense to keep it at its best.
Give me a healthy mind, good
Lord,
To keep the good and pure in sight;
Which, seeing sin, is not appalled,
But finds a way to set it right.

Give me a mind that is not bound,
That does not whimper,
whine or sigh.
Don't let me worry overmuch
About the fussy thing called I.
Give me a sense of humor,
Lord;
Give me the grace to see a joke,
To get some happiness from life
And pass it on to other folk.

—Thomas H. B. Webb—

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