

No Bandage Solutions

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Because we live in tenuous times with many of our institutions being scrutinized and "*found wanting*," the natural tendency is to seek solutions for the inadequacies in these agencies with the hope of restoring them to a level that will better serve the citizenry. Although well meaning, the proposed solutions often do not address the core problems. For instance, there is a belief that if a country is not functioning well, the solution is to elect a new leader who will "*right all the wrongs*" when, in reality, this only acts as a bandage because no leader has complete control over all the bureaucracy that has contributed to the problems. Besides, many leaders are beholden to special interest groups and donors who have contributed to their election campaign. Therefore, many of the promises made during the election cycle are not implemented. Even if a leader is able to deal with the bureaucracy and does not cater to special interest groups and donors, he/she will not remain in power forever, and the successor can undo all the positive programs that were introduced. We see this dynamic played out in the history of the kings of Judah and Israel and, to make a long story short, it eventually ended in the complete failure and defeat of these two nations at the hands of their enemies.

So, any long-term solution to the problems in our institutions must address the foundation upon which they were built. In the case of America, the Constitution of the United States was the foundational document created to maintain peace within the nation by providing guidelines through which disputes between individuals and parties could be settled. However, any foundational document, no matter how good it is, cannot be effective if it is ignored or not followed as intended. This strikes at the heart of the problem in America's

case because there are increasing numbers of people who want to ignore or dismantle this Constitution.

In a universal sense, mankind was given a constitutional document but, just like many in America today, there has not been a willingness to follow its rules and regulations. Part of the blame for this relates to a nation that was given the responsibility to explain its contents and associated benefits, as well as the consequences for failing to follow its legislation, to every nation on this planet:

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To summarize so far, a successful society needs to have a foundational set of rules that apply equally to everyone, and it must have consequences for those who refuse to follow its legislation. Also, without a willingness to trust that these rules will result in a good outcome, there will be disharmony within that society. In cases like this, good leaders will be limited in what they can do to improve the lives of the citizenry, and anything they do will only act as a bandage instead of a permanent solution to any given issue or problem. And, as no human being has the power to change another person's mind, a greater power would have to intervene in order to facilitate this change from a distrustful and unwilling attitude to a positive one.

In a nutshell, the Apostle Paul explains this dilemma.

*"...the carnal mind is enmity against (hostile toward) God; for **it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be**"*
(Romans 8:7; Ed. Note in parenthesis; emphasis added; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted).

So even though trusting in and following God's law and commandments will ultimately lead to

a good outcome, we are naturally inclined to distrust His word and refuse to follow it even though the consequences can be harmful to ourselves, and others who are negatively affected by our lawless behavior. This strong inclination to distrust and reject God's instructions has been known from ancient times.

*"...this is a rebellious people, lying children, **children who will not hear the law of the Lord**; who say to the seers, 'Do not see,' and to the prophets, 'Do not prophesy to us right things; (instead) speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits. **Cause the Holy One to cease from before us**" (Isaiah 30:9-11; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).*

*"**The heart is deceitful above all things, and incurably sick; who can know it?**" (Jeremiah 17:9; emphasis added)*

Consequently, mankind desperately needs to have a change in attitude from one of natural hostility toward God's word/law, to one that trusts and willingly seeks to follow God's instructions. This is what King David sought with all his heart.

*"God, create a clean heart (inner attitude) in me, put into me a new and constant spirit, do not banish me from your presence, **do not deprive me of your holy spirit**" (Psalms 51:10; cf. Acts 13:22; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added; The Jerusalem Bible).*

Since the time of Adam and Eve, mankind has chosen not to trust and obey God's word and the negative consequences have been recorded for future reference (cf. Exodus 32:32; Psalm 139:16; Daniel 12:1). Thankfully, the time is coming when everyone will have a strong desire to follow the law and commandments of God.

*"Now it shall come to pass **in the latter days** that the mountain of the Lord's house (God's kingdom) shall be established on the top of the mountains (Satan's kingdoms), and shall be exalted above the hills (mankind's gov'ts); and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths," For **out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem**" (Isaiah 2:2-3; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).*

Clearly there will be a universal acceptance that God's laws produce positive results, but this will only occur once mankind has reaped the consequences of its lawless behavior. At this point, the Spirit that King David sought will become readily available to everyone.

*"Then I (Almighty God) will give them one heart, and **I will put a new spirit within them that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them**; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God" (Ezekiel 11:19-20; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).*

*"No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for **they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord**. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more" (Jeremiah 31:34 cf. Isaiah 11:9; 44:3-5; emphasis added).*

Because we have not arrived at this point in history yet, we will continue to treat our problems with bandages, while ignoring the real cause of our injuries. Currently, there is a strong faith in our wisdom to solve every challenge we face using various means, including science and technology. But for those who believe that God's word is accurate and

reliable, we are shown in advance that our best efforts will fail because our goals and objectives are focused primarily on all things physical/material, while ignoring our spiritual condition. This is the reason that mankind's collective institutions are compared to the ancient Babylonian kingdom that eventually collapsed under the weight of its sinful behavior.

"Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come. And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore" (Revelation 18:10-11).

"The merchants who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing...and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What is like this great city?'"(Revelation 18:15-18).

This future scenario depicts the collapse of every institution that has been created during mankind's watch because none of them held firm to the principles contained within God's Constitution. Instead, every one of them has become corrupted to one degree or another by Satan's self-serving values.

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In conclusion, Christ will return just before we reach the point that our lawless behavior destroys us, along with the planet (cf. Matthew 24:12, 21-22). Then Christ will begin rebuilding every institution from the ground up, and they will all be founded on the principles contained within God's word. Figuratively, this is compared to building on a rock as opposed to sand.

"...whoever hears these sayings of mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock, and the rain descended, the floods came, and

*the winds blew and beat on that house, and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. Now everyone who hears these sayings of mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand, and the rain came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, and it fell. **And great was its fall"*** (Matthew 7:24-27; emphasis added).

For those who have an ear to hear, you can begin building on a solid foundation now, but the first step in this process involves repenting of the sins that are the root of our problems, and then starting a new life in harmony with God's will, which is summarized by His law and commandments.

"...Repent and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

"Therefore we were buried with him (Christ) through baptism into death (of our old way of living), that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory (power) of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life"(Romans 6:4; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Having repented of our sins, there is no going back to the use of bandages (i.e., trusting that human solutions alone will solve our problems).

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