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THE BAPTIST HERITAGE

VOLUME XXIII ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 20, 1999

THE RESTITUTION OF ALL THINGS

In the October issue of *The Baptist Heritage* I presented an argument that the Lord Jesus Christ was not born, did not live, did not come out of the grave, and did not rise to the Father's right hand in order to right the wrongs of the world and to make this temporal home of ours a better place in which to reside during our threescore and ten. This is not a minor, unimportant doctrinal distinction. It is a

It is neither the theoretical nor the practical intent for the Gospel to restore pristine Eden to this fallen, sin-cursed world.

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I'll Say It Again: A Reprint. What Changed America

DISCOVERED:

*The Secret
Of*

What Changed America

Reprinted from the February 1997 Baptist Heritage.

Recently, I concluded a lengthy, serious

(Continued on page 8)



this and that

Editors

Jerald L. Manley

Gary Roland

Dorothy Gundersen

I trust that none of you are overly worried about the end of the century and the problems lumped together as Y2K. While I can imagine a certain amount of computer related business problems, announcements of the end of the world are premature by at least 1007 years. Prepare for December 31 and whatever glitches come as you Yankees would for a winter blizzard and as we here do for a hurricane. Use prudence, but do not panic.

In the same topic, it seems inconceivable to me that there actually are intelligent Christians who believe that a calendar (based upon faulty premises and misguided assumptions and that was designed by sinful men) will compel God to do anything. The Lord Jesus Christ does not have to return on or about January 1, 2000 to maintain His integrity. He may return to catch away His Own before I finish

Jesus Christ is going to return on the basis of God's calendar and not on the basis of Gregory's or yours or mine.

this article—but if He does not return for a hundred years, He owes me no apology. His instructions were to be ready every day and any day. The apostles died believing the Lord Jesus could come at any moment and so did my

(Continued on page 31)



this and that

(Continued from page 2)

mother. They were not wrong to do so. They were simply being obedient to the command of the Master. I want to be one who also listens for the trumpet and the shout of the archangel. I desire to be able to pray with a sincere heart, "Even so, come Lord Jesus." He is coming, but not because a calendar is about to change. I fear a backlash will be reaped from this foolishness. Christians may be blamed for whatever 'civil unrest' occurs and the Bible will be ridiculed as unreliable and myth. Preachers ought to preach Scripture not conjecture.

I apologize for being late with the last three issues of this publication. We have been hampered with some health problems and certain technical production problems. The first are better and the second are handled for the present. ✕

—Pastor Manley

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I'LL SAY IT AGAIN: A REPRINT

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Sadly, it is not just in sports and courts, government and business, and newspapers and television that this corruption appears.

Preachers--pastors, evangelists, missionaries, church staff, etc.--adopt this same philosophy and will do anything for results. Under this philosophy, contemporary music is used in Baptist churches. After all, the world uses it and that proves that it draws a crowd. Doctrine is not preached because it does not draw a crowd. Holiness is not to be mentioned because holiness will certainly reduce attendance.

The wounds faithfully received in the battles fought to preserve truth by the fathers are considered unnecessary exertion and wasted effort by the sons, who hasten to return to the very corruption their fathers fled. What was purchased at such terrible cost is being sold for the meager sum of acceptance and recognition. Even Esau received better barter than do they for they cannot eat what they have received. They think themselves wise and rich. They do not realize how foolish and poor they really are.

—Pastor Jerald L. Manley

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The wounds faithfully received in the battles fought to preserve truth by the fathers are considered unnecessary exertion and wasted effort by the sons, who hasten to return to the very corruption their fathers

THE RESTITUTION OF ALL THINGS

(Continued from page 1)

truth that lies at the very heart of biblical Christianity and is one of the vital doctrines that distinguishes true Christianity from the false religions that mimic and counterfeit Christianity. There is a vast, vital difference between renovating this sin-cursed world into a temporary, better place for a better version of fallen humanity and in regenerating a lost, sinful soul and providing her/him with a new home for eternity. The person without Christ is dead spiritually. While that fact is not fully appreciated by many religious people; it remains, nevertheless, an absolute, eternal, biblical truth. Physical, material, social, educational, psychological, philosophical, even moral improvements do not give spiritual life. They do not regenerate; they do not grant spiritual life. Though efforts of embalming, cosmetic touches, and strategic aesthetic lighting, decorations, and music may help a corpse look alive, they cannot produce life. Just so, no human effort can impart spiritual life, even if it helps the 'corpse' look better.

The Scriptures emphatically teach that the Son of God entered flesh to settle matters eternal, not conditions temporal. It is neither the theoretical nor the practical intent for the Gospel to restore pristine Eden to this fallen, sin-cursed world. Social

There is a vast and vital difference between renovating a sin-cursed world into temporary better place for a better version of fallen humanity and regenerating a lost, sinful soul and providing her/him with a new home for eternity.

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THE RESTITUTION OF ALL THINGS

(Continued from page 3)

reform is not the cause for which that precious blood flowed on the cross. Moral Re-Armament was not the cause that raised the banner of the cross. The abolition of war, the preservation of the environment, the equalization of the races, the liberation of the working class, the emancipation of slaves, the elevation of womankind, the advancement of healthcare, the education of the masses—not one of these nor all of these together brought the Son of God from the Realm of Glory to the Hill of Calvary. The Lord Jesus Christ did not hang upon that rugged, bloodstained cross to make men better fathers and women better mothers and children better citizens of an ever-bettering world. He did not endure the sufferings indescribable to reduce poverty and to remove sickness. He did not promise to clean up this dirty old world but rather to bring all creation into judgment, let it melt and pass away with fervent heat and be brought forth as a new heaven and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness. It was not mere reformation but full, complete regeneration that was promised to flow from His great sacrifice. If the purpose and the cause for which He came were to improve this world or the living conditions in this world, then He failed in those efforts, because that has not happened. The world is worse, far worse, today than it was before He came.

The Scriptures emphatically teach that the Son of God entered flesh to settle matters eternal not conditions temporal.

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I'LL SAY IT AGAIN: A REPRINT

(Continued from page 28)

cers of the law observe a man murder his wife as they approach. After a gun battle, he surrenders. The jury later convicts him of second degree murder rather than first because he might not have intended to kill her.

Nothing is improper and everything is permissible as long as 'no one' (who really counts) gets hurt.

As for the aroma of justice served in California courts, the stench is even stronger. The whole world knows the stories of the sons who shot-gunned their parents to death, even pausing to reload, being set free because they are now orphans, of the known wife abuser acquitted of a double murder because a single police officer used a single pejorative word, of a vicious child molester set loose into a community and given access to national media to smear the family of his victim.

America has governors, congressmen, senators, and high executive officers all guilty of admitted immorality and yet they are permitted to remain in office. Cabinet officers are sued by mistresses for child support and continue to serve as appointed leaders of departments of government. Immorality is described as only a 'private affair.' Perjury has become 'a laughing matter.' Nothing is improper and everything is permissible as long as 'no one' (who really counts) gets hurt.

No harm, no foul is as far from biblical truth as darkness is from light.

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that conduct does not directly harm some non-consenting other person, then there is no foul.

Where will this all end? Is it just a foretaste of what it yet to come?

This disturbing and devilish philosophy has caught on in the land at large. Evidence of the corruption is found in every newscast or on the front page of every newspaper—or even in the local section. For that matter, the classifieds reveal the very same philosophy. Newspapers running dating/mating services is not a tradition continued from the 1940's. And, it is no longer 'boy desires to meet girl' notices that are to be found there. The Van Johnson and June Allyson romance stories have been replaced with tales of Sodom and Gomorra.

A local Pensacola resident is caught in the very act of receiving stolen goods, even signs his name as the receiver, yet the judge dismisses the case without sending it a jury because the prosecution failed to introduce evidence to prove that the man could read; therefore, he might not have known what he was signing. Two local sworn offi-

The wounds faithfully received in the battles fought to preserve truth by the fathers are considered unnecessary exertion and wasted effort by the sons, who hasten to return to where their fathers fled.

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THE RESTITUTION OF ALL THINGS

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Why then did He come? He came to seek and to save that which was lost. He came to be a propitiation for sin.

Romans 3:25

(Christ Jesus) Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

1 John 2:2

And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins* of the whole world.

1 John 4:10

Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

[The word 'propitiation' is a most precious word. No one English word is a true, exact synonym. To replace the word 'propitiation' and continue to convey the same thought would require all of the words 'atonement, compensation, reparation, redemption, expiation, repentance, making amends' and even then the full meaning is not completely and adequately conveyed. A propitiation is the aton-

The salvation He provided is personal, individual salvation—not societal salvation.

ing sacrifice, presented humbly and remorsefully with sincere repentance, that regains (not merely an attempt to do so, but the actual accomplishment) the favor, goodwill and

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affection of one who has been offended, being offered in strict compliance with all conditions and requirements demanded by the offended one in order to avert the rightful anger of that offended one who is always a superior and more powerful being than the one who offends and to do so in such a manner that the prior offense is forever forgotten and will never become a hindrance to full and complete fellowship between the two parties. You will have to reread that sentence several times to grasp the full impact of that word propitiation. I confess that I had failed to consider the fullness of the word until Karl Gehrig (then a lay member of my church, now a missionary) focused my attention there about thirty years ago. I will always be grateful that he did so. It is a word too seldom used by preachers and, as a rule, completely overlooked by laypeople. One may search the indices of most theology books and not find it cited. It is not mentioned in the average Baptist church more than a handful of times in a lifetime--nor are many other vital words of doctrine, for that matter.]

When the Lord Jesus Christ is called our Propitiation, it is a declaration that He, and He alone, is the Sacrifice for our sin. He removes the offense of our sin and He restores our fellowship with the Father. Through the salvation the Lord Jesus secured

The world is worse today than it was before He died with His Own blood, we are regenerated, born again, born (not adopted—that is a different doctrine altogether)

(Continued on page 7)

I'LL SAY IT AGAIN: A REPRINT

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No wonder they had to get rid of Tom Landry.

The obvious rule in sports (and life in general) today is that if one is "important" to the success of the team, then one may "JUST DO IT." And, that is the philosophy infecting the whole of the nation's living.

A person may do whatever it is that makes him/her happy; and as long as that conduct does not directly harm some non-consenting other person, then there is no foul.

Baseball players spit on umpires and gamble from the dugout on games. And, the fans still want to put such a one in the 'hall of fame.'

Football players steal, rape, use drugs, and battle police. And, the crowds only increase.

Basketball stars write books boasting of 'encounters' in the tens of thousands. And, the royalties flow in.

The most vulgar of mouths in sports may well be on the tennis courts where gentlemen and ladies once played.

Ice skaters, the most elite of all, hire "hit men" to dispose of the competition.

This ungodly philosophy is very simple to express as it is applied to everyday living.

A person may do whatever it is that makes him/her happy; and as long as

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All sports, professional or amateur, are now infected with this disease--both on and off the court. Can any sane senior citizen believe that Dennis Rodman or Roberto Alomar would have been heroes in the days of Bob Cousy, Bill Sharman, Jerry West, George Mikan, Ted Williams, Duke Snyder or Ralph Kiner? Those two could not have carried the water bucket for the others. Today, million dollar players will kick a cameraman and then blame the league for having too many cameramen or spit on the umpire and then, as will no doubt happen, blame the umpire for making the "spitter" so mad.

Though I have great respect for Emmitt Smith and am quick to write that, as far as my knowledge extends, he is a credit to his home town of Pensacola, it seems that the National Football League Dallas Cowboys have come to epitomize the spirit of the day. The corporate sponsor with whom the owner worked his private deal (around the rules of the NFL) has the slogan of "JUST DO IT." It might well seem to you as it does to me that the team has accepted that philosophy. Even with the recent (remember this was 1997) "clearing" of two of its members, many of the current Dallas Cowboys have acquired the reputation of living that very way. They just do it.

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The Van Johnson and June Allyson romance stories have been replaced with tales of Sodom and Gomorra.

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The Lord Jesus Christ did not hang upon that rugged, bloodstained cross to make men better fathers and women better mothers and children better citizens of an ever-bettering world.

into the family of God. The salvation He provided is personal, individual salvation--not societal salvation. He died for 'whosoever believeth,' not for collective corporate conversion. The person saved (by grace through faith) is made a 'new creature' in Christ; but to this very day, the effects of the blood atonement of the

Lord Jesus have not touched the world. The world has not been born again. The world is worse today than it was before He died. Humanity is more evil than it was before He died. Even religion is viler than it was before He died. The horrible truth is that the worst of all these things has not yet arrived. The prophecy

[2 Timothy 3:13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived]

is one that will continue to be fulfilled until the world is fully and completely ripened to rottenness.

Revelation 14:15-18

And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped. And another angel came out

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*I'LL SAY IT AGAIN: A REPRINT**(Continued from page 1)*

study attempting to discover an answer a nagging question that has plagued me over the last several years. In fact, I have lost sleep and, perhaps, even some weight in the diligent pursuit of this important endeavor. The specific issue of my search was more critical, in my thinking, than was food and sleep. America was dramatically and drastically changed during my lifetime and I want to know how that transition was accomplished and how it came to be accepted by the citizens of this grand republic. In this effort, I have made a sincere effort to search through history and philosophy books and to read news accounts and sermons, concentrating on those

Candidly, I quite unexpectedly stumbled over what I now believe to be a worthy explanation for this problem on the sports page of the local newspaper.

works prepared during the last seventy-five years seeking to uncover hints to possible solutions. I still have the history books that my mother used in her schooling and most of those from my own schooldays. I used those antiquated references for comparison with materials reflective of today's America. Strangely, the answer came from none of these expected avenues and was not an actual result of my searching. Candidly, I quite unexpectedly stum-

*(Continued on page 9)**I'LL SAY IT AGAIN: A REPRINT**(Continued from page 24)*

and for some reason in the time since I "retired" from the courts, the rules were changed. I do not know who changed them, nor why. I only know they are changed. Perhaps there was a Supreme Court decision that I missed. Maybe it was a result of sit-ins, demonstrations, or marches. For all I know, Congress may have passed a law to change the rules or some President may have issued an executive order.

However it may have happened, the old rules are gone and the single basic rule of basketball today has become "NO HARM, NO FOUL."

Players grab, paw, grope, handle, elbow, forearm, head-butt, punch, slap, kick, shove, and much worse with no whistle ever sounding. If there is no evidence, such as blood flowing, bones broken, or teeth missing, there seems to be no foul.

That simple phrase, "NO HARM, NO FOUL," seems to me to describe the philosophy that pervades America today and makes her vastly different from the America of my youth. Any conduct is acceptable as long as there is no "harm."

No harm, no foul is as far from biblical truth as darkness is from light.

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"detestable," "wretched," "dishonorable," "an infringement of the rules," and "outside the lines." A foul in Indiana basketball of that golden yesteryear was all of that and more. It was not to be done. Intentional fouls had not yet been invented. The object was not to commit a foul.

In those long ago and forever gone days, basketball was a 'no contact' sport.

There was no such thing as "incidental contact."

If your hand or elbow or foot or knee or head or any other body part came into contact with the opponent, you had fouled him/her and you were required to pay the penalty. When you fouled someone, you raised your hand in open confession and sincere repentance and, when you received four fouls, you also received a seat on the sidelines and watched the others play.

Basketball is obviously not played that way today.

Basketball in the 90's is some sort of combination of circus/rodeo/hockey/rugby/soccer/football/combat played on slick, bare wood without benefit of the pads. Sometime and somewhere

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The obvious rule in sports (and life in general) today is that if one is "important" to the success of the team, then one may "JUST DO IT." And, that is the philosophy infecting the whole of the nation's living.

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bled over what I now believe to be a worthy explanation for this problem on the sports page of the local newspaper. In an attempt to save you the exertion of such effort, I hasten to share my accidental discovery with you.

Identification of the differences between then and now has long been within my ability, but I have not been able to detect the precise time or the exact cause of those changes.

THE UNSEEN FORCE BEHIND AMERICA'S DEMISE

Or

NO HARM, NO FOUL

It is apparent to every intelligent, unbiased observer that America has changed in this last half of the Twentieth Century. This land is not at all the same land in which I grew up. Something drastic has happened in and to the United States

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of America, one nation, under God, indivisible, and with liberty and justice for all, since the 1940's and 1950's. No sensible, rational person over the age of fifty can possibly dispute this truth—nor would any rational, sensible person desire to do so. The change is apparent to all that have lived through it.

I speak not of some decorative change in material things such as in machinery or media or architecture or agriculture.

This change is not a change in style, but an alteration of substance. The modification that I abhor is the transformation that has taken place in the very character of America.

This change is not a change in style, but an alteration of substance. The modification that I abhor is the transformation that has taken place in the very character of America.

I have, in previous articles, bemoaned this metamorphosis (*perhaps mutation is a better choice of*

words) and have attempted to itemize some of the more serious changes and have discussed the disastrous results. Identification of the differences between then and now has long been within my ability, but I have not been able to detect the precise time or the exact cause of those changes.

I have not been able to do so until recently, that is. I now believe that, at last, I have discovered the underlying philosophy that has been al-

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were enforced by common consent, if not by a whistle. Court boundaries were established and were very flexible to meet the logistics of the playing area, but, half court or whole court, the rules were always inflexible. We played a lot of "half-court" and that required a back line over which a rebound had to travel before the opposing team could try for a basket. The half court was played exactly as if it were a full court. The player could

not palm the ball nor could he double dribble. One foot always remained stationary when standing and holding the ball; and the number of steps taken between the last dribble and taking the shot was established in stone.

There were many individual rules for the game; however, the basic rule of the 1940 and 1950 Indiana game of basketball was "NO CONTACT."

That simple phrase, "NO HARM, NO FOUL," seems to me to describe the philosophy that pervades America today and makes her vastly different from the America of my youth. Any conduct is acceptable as long as there is no "harm."

If a player made contact with an opposing player, the whistle blew. Contact was a foul. Among other things, our old friend Webster provides the following definition of "foul." It is that which is "offensive to the senses,"

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of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever
He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

What a Day or rejoicing that will be! Such a day is promised and is just as certain as every other promise of Almighty God. That great day, that glorious day, that good day is called The Times Of Restitution Of All Things.

Acts 3:19-21

Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when
the times of refreshing

shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until

the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

To God be the glory, great things He is going to do. Perhaps this Thanksgiving will be the last time of thanksgiving on this sin wrecked earth for we believers. Perhaps, we shall soon be with the Lord waiting for Him to bring this world into judgment and bring forth a new one, and there, before the Throne, be able to say our thanksgiving before

His face.

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--Pastor Manley

I'LL SAY IT AGAIN: A REPRINT

(Continued from page 10)

The manipulation of that single philosophy has moved beyond its point of entry so as to have now altered the basic character of the entire nation.

tered and know where that transition began. The manipulation of that single philosophy has moved beyond its point of entry so as to have now altered the basic character of the entire nation.

Other than the teaching of seducing spirits and the receptive nature of Adam found in all humanity, I have not yet settled on the originating source that produced this pollution; but I think that I can now express the attitude adjustment that is responsible for the devastating changes in my native land. Moreover, I can show where it entered the mind and heart of the people of this nation.

My recently gained insight is that this change was first introduced into sports, a particular sport in fact, and has spread so widely as to infect the entire culture from that humble insertion. Before you laugh this premise off as the silly thoughts of an aging preacher, at least consider the following line of reasoning.

I was never much more than average in any sport so in approaching the subject of sports, I write not as a "star," just a "player." Growing up in

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Connersville, Indiana as I did, I had no choice but to learn to play basketball. Basketball to a Hoosier is as water to a duck, air to the eagle, food to a boy, or flattery to a girl.

Oscar Robinson and Larry Bird and a

There were many individual rules for the game; however, the basic rule of the 1940 and 1950 Indiana game of basketball was "NO CONTACT."

great host of others are what they are (basketball wise) because they were fortunate enough to have breathed Indiana air and to have drunk Indiana water and to have walked on Indiana soil bouncing an

Indiana basketball.

Just as I, they did not learn basketball from a book. All of us old time Hoosiers were saturated with basketball through Indiana's cultural environment. Basketball was largely obtained by a simple process of osmosis. We caught basketball exactly as we caught measles, mumps, or poison ivy. It was a consequence. We were exposed to it and we caught it.

Nothing was more important to a town than having a winning team. For years, school consolidation was opposed simply because it meant losing a basketball team. Politicians were often elected or defeated depending on what coach or

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THE RESTITUTION OF ALL THINGS

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Only righteous beings will walk on the New Earth or enter in the New Heaven. The Father, The Son, The Holy Spirit, holy angels and the redeemed and regenerated of humanity will dwell there forever.

And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.

This new creation is secure for eternity. There will be no more loosing of Satan, no more entrance of things that offend or people who might do those things. Only righteous beings will walk on the

New Earth or be in the New Heaven. The Father, The Son, The Holy Spirit, holy angels and the redeemed and regenerated of humanity will dwell there forever.

Revelation 21:27

And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither *whatsoever* worketh abomination, or *maketh* a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

There will never be another sin, not a single solitary sin, nor any of the effects of sin allowed to enter.

Revelation 22:3-5, 20-21

And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name *shall be* in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light

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heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

Revelation 21:1-6

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be their God*. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

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player they had helped obtain. Basketball was serious business.

Indiana basketball was played on grass, on dirt, on cement, on blacktop, on wood, and on ice. It was played in the sunshine, in the rain, and in the snow. Basketball was played indoors, outdoors, daytime, nighttime, and in spring, summer, fall and winter. Every backyard seemed to have its own hoop attached to a tree or a garage or a barn or a pole. The sound of bouncing basketballs was heard from before breakfast until long after dark.

Never equal in talent, but ever equal in the rules.

We Hoosiers loved basketball as though it were ours alone. James Naismith, by an accident of geography, may have invented the game in Massachusetts, but he invented it to be played in Indiana. It mattered not in those days whether one was great or just good. The game was played because it was there. Tall, short, fat, skinny (We could use those words back then.), tough guys, not-so-tough guys—every-body played basketball. Everybody played because on the basketball court everyone was equal. Never equal in talent, but ever equal in the rules.

We played our basketball hard, but we played by the rules. Whether in Indianapolis for the state finals or in the neighbor's backyard for bragging rights, the rules were the same; they

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THE RESTITUTION OF ALL THINGS

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Do not expect the world to improve during your earthly lifetime.

of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud

cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.

Do not expect the world to improve during your lifetime. Do not fall victim to the flesh-pleasing, but false, teaching that Christians can cause America to become moral. Even if believers could, which they cannot, achieve some effect on the morality of this country (as the proponents of the misconceived, misdirected, and misfired Moral Majority claimed as a goal), morality is not the standard for believers. Righteousness is. Voting a moral conscience did not stop a single abortion in America, did not close a single booze outlet, did not put out a single red light, did not clean a single film, did not reclaim a single derelict, and did save a single soul. America, in the aftermath of the salvage work of nearly a century, is worse than she was before the reformation attempt started. Those who called for 'moral re-armament' in the first half of the century sounded the same note as did the followers of the Rev. Jerry Falwell and Paul Weyrich seeking a Moral Majority and did so just as sincerely and as wrongly. Frank Buchman launched his efforts (Buchmanism,

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those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

It is not only those who offend that are removed this time. The heaven and the earth are also removed, melted, burned up and dissolved. And, in their place comes a New Heaven and a New Earth. The change thus effected in all of creation will be like that of the believer at resurrection—the same only different. When He 'fixes' it the second time, the 'fix' is eternal. This is a regeneration (Matthew 19:28).

1 Peter 3:10-14

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the

The heaven and the earth are also removed, melted, burned up and dissolved.

elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. *Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the*

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have produced generations of offspring that are ripe for rebellion and eagerly follow Satan to overthrow 'Paradise on earth.' If the efforts of Moral Re-Armament and Moral Majority had succeeded in 'bettering' this world, still no one would have been regenerated by the reformation they produced. Reformation does not provide regeneration either. Another purging of this earth will be required after Satan is loosed.

The salvation He provided is personal, individual salvation--not societal salvation. He died for 'whosoever believeth,' not for collective corporate conversion.

And, this time the purging will be complete and permanent, total, and final.

Revelation 20:9-15

And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of

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The Oxford Group, Moral Re-Armament) to bring America (and the world) to depend upon God's guidance, moral absolutes, and to have individuals experience a 'life-changing.' 'America needs morals'—who could disagree with that? The problem is that morality will not regenerate and a moral unregenerate is but one sin from being a moral degenerate. It was only when the apostle Paul preached of 'righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come,' that Felix trembled. Morality plays may attract and entertain the masses, but they do not regenerate anyone. Moral revivals will not change the world.

Since neither the world nor this nation will improve during my lifetime, then will "this present evil world," as Paul labeled it, ever be better? Yes it will. There is hope.

There is coming a day, a grand day, a great day, a glorious day, when the Lord Jesus comes to 'fix' this present evil world.

2 Thessalonians 1:7-10

And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; When

A moral unregenerate is one sin from being a moral degenerate.

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he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

It was not mere reformation but full, complete regeneration that was promised to flow from His great sacrifice.

When He 'fixes' this world and establishes His Kingdom, He will first clean it up by removing everything that is evil and all who do evil. Evil cannot be rehabilitated; it must be removed.

Matthew 13:40-43

As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Among those offensive beings removed from this world will be Satan himself. What a glorious day when the old deceiver, the father of lies, is banished from the face of the earth and confined in chains under lock and key.

Revelation 20:1-3

And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on

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the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

However, this 'fixing' will only be for one thousand years. After a blessed millennium of peace, prosperity, security, and safety with no evil allowed, Satan is released from his confinement. Turn Satan loose? Let the dragon run free again? Yes, that is exactly what the Scripture declares will happen.

Revelation 20: 7-8

And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

Just as soon as he is released, the Devil is immediately active again. Incarceration does not even reform, let alone regenerate.

What a glorious day when the old deceiver, the father of lies, is banished from the face of the earth and confined in chains under lock and key.

While the confirmed depravity of the Devil may be considered self-evident, it is most instructive to realize that 'an environment sans evil' does not regenerate humanity because the 'nations' (Gentiles) brought into the Millennium

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