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"Saving" Christmas

...NEWS...FLASH.... NEWS...FLASH....NEWS...FLASH...

This is an all-points bulletin. Be on the lookout for missing, one of a kind, masterpieces. Cheap imitation replacements are popping up everywhere in their place deceiving even the very elect. Surprisingly, these imitations are often foolishly believed to be better than the originals. If this continues, only the cheap imitations will remain. One masterpiece currently being targeted is Christmas, although it is only one of many targets. The **prime objective** is the total eradication of any semblance of Christianity from our society. **Warning!** You must be vigilant. The lure to accept the cheap substitute is strong and illusive and the masses are being fooled even as we speak. As more of these fake substitutes are accepted, the real masterpieces seem to simply vanish.

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Dear Friend,

I know this is a bit dramatic, but nonetheless true. An orchestrated effort has been underway for decades to remove and replace anything associated with Christianity. Christmas is just one of an ever increasing number of targets. In the case of Christmas, a cheap imitation filled with good feelings has been appearing in its place, void of any spiritual significance. It began with the subtlest of attempts to change the name from Christmas to "Xmas". That is about as subtle as dropping a bowling ball on your foot. From that point on Christmas has been devolving into a gift-giving celebration of sorts that any heathen would be comfortable celebrating. In more recent years those feigning religious tolerance, boasting of their sensitivity towards persons who might be offended, have endeavored to further sterilize any Christian significance from the celebration. Keep in mind, Christmas is about how God laid down His deity and became one of us in an effort to save us. To successfully remove Jesus from Christmas requires some kind of a substitution to be made in place of Jesus, one that

provides an emotional lift, a warm fuzzy feeling inside, in order to keep the people coming back for more. Marketing companies have done a masterful job of replacing Jesus with a less controversial figure, an overweight man in a red suit. "Season's Greetings" is promoted instead of "Merry Christmas". This orchestrated push has one goal and that is to completely remove "Christ" from Christmas in a demonic effort to totally eradicate Christianity from society.

Christianity's place in the world over the past few decades can best be portrayed as watching a video played back in slow motion of a catastrophic storm ripping apart a house piece by piece. The difference is that when a piece of Christianity is unceremoniously ripped away a cheap, adulterated, substitute quickly takes its place. Consequently, a cardboard structure with the word "Christian" supplants the original.

Let's say that when the video of the storm showed the bricks flying off it represented the disintegration of what God calls a family. As quickly as those bricks flew off a perversion appeared bearing the same name, "family", with no resemblance to the original, which is comparable to adding Styrofoam bricks to the cardboard structure. You can call them bricks if you wish, but bricks they are not. The most evident of these can be seen on television shows claiming to depict families in today's "modern" world, with same sex couples representing what satan wants society to believe to be "normal". All of this eats away at the moral fabric of our society, and it's done in the name of entertainment. Humor, laughter and jokes are used to soften the blow and ease us into acceptance. Eventually, little children are questioning their own gender identity and confusion fills their minds, all of which has been authored by the source of confusion, the devil.

The bottom line: There is a real effort to redefine sin. Using a less offensive name will never change the act from sin to righteous. For example, using terms like "family planning" in place of abortion doesn't somehow make it less wrong. Taking the life of an innocent baby for the sake of convenience is wrong and will always be wrong no matter what it is called. The list of things being "redefined" is ever growing and much too numerous for this letter. Just know that it is happening right before our very eyes and the objective is to completely eliminate Christianity from society.

The trend has been to label anyone exposing these things as "bigots" and "intolerant". Bless God, we should all be intolerant of the devil thinking he is just going to waltz right into our world and start relabeling every perverse act and then try to make us feel like we are wrong for shining the light of truth on the obvious. All of this redefining of sin isn't going to somehow make it not be sin.

As much as we love the people caught up in sin, we have to hate the acts of sin themselves and refuse to placate those continuing to promote such depravity.

Some might say, “Mark, you are just being an alarmist.” I’m sure Noah probably heard the same thing over the hundred years that it took him to build the Ark, while the people continued their moral disintegration. We know the underpinning of humanity was unraveling by what was written just before Noah’s introduction in Genesis 6. (Genesis 6:5-8)

(5) “And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. (6) And it repented the Lord that He had made man on the earth and it grieved Him at His heart. (7) And the Lord said, ‘I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air, for it repenteth Me that I have made them.’ (8) But, Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.”

Thank God for Noah. Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. Had there been no Noah we would have never been born. But, God’s mercy enabled Noah to preach righteousness for 100 years to those morally bankrupt people until finally the end came. (II Peter 2:5)

“And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly.”

Here’s a **nugget** of revelation to help you appreciate the multiple layers in which the Word of God is written. On the surface, we see the death of all those who failed to join Noah in the Ark, refusing to step through that door. By looking closer, it is evident that this points to something more than just their death. The death of all those outside the Ark paints the picture of the death of the first man, the first Adam. The Bible really only concerns itself with two men; the first Adam and the last Adam, Jesus. By identifying ourselves “In Jesus” we are entering into the Ark of salvation that He built for us through His death, burial and resurrection. But, we must pass through the “door”. Jesus speaks of two “doors” in John 2, both of which are birth canals. (John 10:2)

“But He that enters in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep”

In this verse the “shepherd” is Jesus and the “door” he entered by was the womb of Mary, which gave Jesus legal entrance into this world. Praise God, this is the **genuine message of Christmas**. (John 10:3 and 4)

(3) “To Him the Porter openeth; and the sheep hear His voice: and He calls His own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. (4) And when He putteth forth His own sheep, He goes before them, and the sheep follow Him for they know His voice.

In verses 3 and 4 the Shepherd is going before the sheep leading them out. What is He leading them out of? Jesus, the Good Shepherd, is leading men out of spiritual death. Here’s the problem, the first “door” every man comes through into this world is a “one way door”. Men are perpetually born into this world in spiritual death because of Adam’s sin. In order for Jesus to lead His sheep “out” (of spiritual death), a new “door” or birth canal had to be made for man to be born into eternal life. (John 10:7 and 9)

(7) “Then Jesus said unto them again, “Verily, verily I say unto you I am the ‘door’ of the sheep.”... (9) “I am the ‘door’: by Me if any man enter in he shall be saved, and shall go in and out and find pasture.”

In order for Jesus to become our “door”, He had to be offered as a sacrifice for the sin of the first Adam. Having paid the price for sin, the death of the first Adam was made complete making it possible for Jesus to be raised to new life. Jesus passed through the “door” OUT of spiritual death to become the firstborn from the dead. We are now able to follow Him, passing through the birth canal of the “new birth”, we are born again into the family of God.

What we must remember is that “In Jesus” we died to everything pertaining to the first Adam, which is represented by everything on the outside of Noah’s Ark. That means we are supposed to be dead to all the sin and depravity associated with the first Adam. There needs to be a clear-cut distinction between those of us “inside the Ark” and those outside.

What I am about to say I say with fear and trembling. Clearly, we see that the end is rapidly approaching and only those who continue to remain in the Ark of Jesus Christ will be saved. (Matthew 24:37-39)

(37) “For as the days of Noe (Noah) were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. (38) For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noe entered the Ark, (39) And knew not until the flood came and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

For one hundred years Noah stood as a beacon of light in a fallen, morally depraved world, offering to anyone the answer to their inevitable fate.

Multitudes watched him in disbelief and continued to live as normal. We must realize that there will be those who jeer at us for our stand of faith. We must try to urge as many as possible to enter in through the “door” of Jesus before it is too late. Sure, they may make fun now, but we know the truth, we know what awaits them in eternity and we have to be willing to forsake all in an effort to assure them of the truth. Compromising our convictions is not the answer. Presenting a more “palatable”, watered down version that’s less offensive is useless. Refuse to kowtow to the pressure of the masses outside the Ark trying to tell you how wrong you are for your beliefs. Consider which path you are on. (Matthew 7:13-14)

(13) “Enter you in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leads to destruction, and many there be that go in thereat.” (14) “Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leads unto life, and few there be that find it.”

Don’t fret if you feel outnumbered or intimidated because of the masses who are going the wrong way. You and God make a majority. God has specialized throughout history in using individuals just like yourself through whom He could work. Look at Noah. When all of human existence hung in the balance one man, Noah, found favor in the eyes of God. Humanity has Noah to thank. We see Noah’s tremendous contribution to God’s kingdom, but often overlook the fact that it was done right in the midst of a sin-ridden world, who probably enjoyed every opportunity to ridicule Noah. We are here today, not because of those outside the Ark, but because Noah and his family stepped into the Ark. Every person alive today has Noah to thank because all of us can trace our existence back to that Ark and to one of those 8 people inside. Think about Noah and ask yourself how important can one life be in the course of all humanity? Your place in history awaits you. Your life has the potential of affecting the lives of multitudes for eternity. The choice is yours. Will you forsake the pleasures of a “normal” life for the opportunity to affect the lives of multitudes, as did Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Isaiah, Paul, and of course, Jesus (and the list goes on). In a time when the enemy is hard at work trying to redefine our entire world to the exclusion of Jesus, you and I have the opportunity - more than that - the responsibility to hold up the banner of truth for all to see and show whomever will how to find their place in the Ark of Salvation in Jesus Christ.

You see, as much as the devil would love to rewrite history and redefine truth, he can’t. The “Christ” in Christmas will always represent satan’s defeat. By sending

Jesus into this world to become one of us, through His dying in our place and paying the full penalty for sin; He became our “door” out of spiritual death, which He Himself first passed through as the firstborn from the dead. He became the “door” we must pass through into the Ark of our salvation. For all that, Jesus didn’t stop there. (Colossians 2:15)

“And having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.”

In an open display of humiliation, Jesus made a spectacle of satan and all of the host of hell once and for all. Defeated! Now, only to a rational person would such a defeat mean the end, but the devil is by no means rational. In his warped mind he believes he can still win. The biggest obstacle he has now is the fact that he must convince reborn sons of God to accept defeat, to ignore the place we have been seated in Jesus. (Ephesians 2:6)

“And hath raised us up together and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.”

I would like to say that the enemy is a failure at convincing us to accept defeat, but that is not the case. Here we are, seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus and yet all too often we find ourselves siding with the enemy by thinking, “Oh, there is no hope.” “Oh poor me, all is lost.” We look at the world around us, the rampant sin, the redefining of our society being orchestrated by the devil, and we say, “Oh, I’m just one person, what can I do?” Always remember that you and God together make a majority.

As I close this letter today I want you to understand that “Saving Christmas” takes place every single day of our lives as we refuse to follow the way of those feverishly working to eradicate any semblance of God or His Son and His standards from our very existence. We know that there are two ways that a person can walk through this life, the wide gate that offers no resistance or the strait, narrow way. It is amazing to me how we fail to realize that “few” not “many” will choose the path that leads to life. If a person is looking to go the same direction as the majority the fact of the matter is, the majority is going the wrong way. The majority are the ones busy redefining everything to exclude God. They are the ones laughing at those “uptight Christians” because we refuse to acknowledge same sex marriages. They would be the same ones who laughed at Noah, but the laughing stopped once the door was shut and the rain began to fall for the very first time. “Wide gate seekers” want to live nice quiet lives, fit in with the rest of the crowd and by no means cause waves. Face it, if you are going to be a tool in the hands of Jesus you are going to make waves,

say things people don't want to hear, expose the darkness with the light inside of you, and walk the strait and narrow path. Who knows, you may even be the one God is able to use to forever change the lives of multitudes.

As you and your family enjoy celebrating Christmas and all the blessings of God, remember Jesus. Remember Jesus: born to a virgin, born with the life of God, who came to redeem mankind from sin. Remember Jesus entered this world to become the "door" that every person can choose to step through and be born into God's family, as sons of God.

~ Merry Christmas

Mark Jenkins