

City of Refuge

America: The Big Picture

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Previously, we used the parables of *The Matrix* and *Captain Marvel* to illuminate the magnificent, empowering, redeeming, transformational qualities of the life in Christ as depicted in the New Testament. Without something approaching this kind of understanding of the role the body of Christ is supposed to have, any further discussion will be almost meaningless and pointless. If you don't agree with or understand this calling upon the people of Christ, you might as well stop reading and go do something else.

Still worse, this transcendent, overarching message seems lost in today's churchianity where most often "pastors," "apostles" and other self-exalted spiritual gurus talk instead about "church" attendance, tithes, offerings and submission to the "man of God's" vision for his own "work of the Lord." (May the blessings of God be upon any assembly that does not conform to this disturbing condition!) So, with the transcendent, overarching view of the beautiful nature of the calling and life of Christ and God as a backdrop and rejecting as best we are able the flat, lifeless and uninspiring "gospel" of the "church," let us explore anew just exactly what America is.

More Than a Place

"I love America because America is not just a country, it's an idea. You see my country, Ireland, is a great country, but it's not an idea. America is an idea, but it's an idea that brings with it some baggage, like power brings responsibility. It's an idea that brings with it equality, but equality even though it's the highest calling, is the hardest to reach. The idea that anything is possible, that's one of the reasons why I'm a fan of America. It's like hey, look there's the moon up there, let's take a walk on it, bring back a piece of it. That's the kind of America that I'm a fan of.

"In 1771 your founder Mr. Franklin spent three months in Ireland and Scotland to look at the relationship they had with England to see if this could be a model for America, whether America should follow their example and remain a part of the British Empire. Franklin was deeply, deeply distressed by what he saw. In Ireland he saw how England had put a stranglehold on Irish trade, how absentee English landlords exploited Irish tenant farmers and how those farmers in Franklin's words, 'lived in retched hovels of mud and straw, were clothed in rags and subsisted chiefly on potatoes.' Not exactly the America dream... So instead of Ireland becoming a model for America, America became a model for Ireland..." (Bono, lead singer of U2, in his commencement address to the 2004 University of Pennsylvania graduating class on May 17, 2004)

Bono, an Irishman from Dublin, Ireland, a lead singer for a rock group, understands America better than do many Americans! America's high ideal of liberty is like reaching for the moon in the same way as being trusted with power includes the responsibility of using that power wisely and beneficially.

As was touched upon in the introduction, America is simply more than just a nation – it is also a philosophical ideal. Many people simply do not or do not want to understand this duality in its nature. Physically it incorporates the states and territories that have been received into the union. Philosophically it is built on the foundational principles stated by Thomas Jefferson:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal...” and
“...governments [derive] their just powers from the consent of the governed.”
(Declaration of Independence, 1776)

This refers here, of course, to equality of opportunity and justice and not referring to equality of existence and to the revolutionary idea that “we the people,” not the king or the state, are the real holders of ruling power.

When we consider equality of opportunity and justice in contrast to equality of existence, we must recognize that it is communism and socialism that push beyond equality of opportunity and justice and which takes its subjects into what is supposed to become equality of existence. This latter always fails and produces only yet another example of exalted, entitled elitism. The entitled elitism of socialism, in the last 100 years, is directly responsible for the deaths of 100 million people, for starvation, poverty and famine that accounts for at least another 180 million deaths and for the failure of over 100 countries. It is inconceivable that anyone would want to attempt this kind of system ever again but it remains one of the most popular ideas around the world.

Looking at America, it can be categorically stated that all of America’s greatness stems from its adherence to Jefferson’s bedrock ideal of equality of opportunity and justice and that all of America’s sins and stains stem from some form of elitism.

A Religious and Moral Ideal

We must heed again the warnings of our founding fathers:

“The moral principles and precepts contained in the Scripture ought to form the basis of all our civil constitutions and laws. All the miseries and evil men suffer from vice, crime, ambition, injustice, oppression, slavery, and war, proceed from their despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible.” (Noah Webster)

“We have no government armed in power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Our Constitution was made only for a religious and moral people. It is wholly inadequate for the government of any other.” (John Adams)

The push to move America’s morality to the so-called left (into the toilet in many cases!) is an attempt by Satan to get us to overwhelm the bonds of law and decency that is America’s strength. Even the labels of left and right are deceptive. The real choice is between liberty and goodness (God’s way and blessing) and control and destruction (Satan’s pathetic attempt to show he is similar to God).

Make no mistake here – communism and socialism is merely legalized theft: theft of one's inalienable God-given rights as a human being as well as theft of one's personal resources. Capitalism begins with the basic premise that the product of a person's labor belongs to himself. Socialism begins with the basic premise that the product of a person's labor belongs to society. If socialism were content to curb the greed, irresponsibility and selfishness that crops up in unrestrained capitalism, it might be tolerable. But most often, hypocrites who preach about sharing wealth with others use the tenets of socialism only to gather benefits to themselves. It is interesting to note that while people like George Soros want to inflict socialism upon the world, if the socialists get their way, he would be stripped of his wealth because he is the epitome of the 0.1 percent of the world's wealthiest people! Were the socialists to actually gain power over him, he would probably espouse different philosophies.

Socialism really becomes only an expression of some self-appointed elite's "ownership" and control of other people's property and even lives, in short, nothing more than legalized theft. The biggest problem of socialism is that, sooner or later, you run out of other people's money and resources. This truth is too often only discovered at the end of a disastrous chain of events that leaves lives, economies, nations and cultures in ruins and some despot seated in untouchable power.

Foundations

As we touched upon in the introduction, it is painfully obvious that America suffers from the same duality all humans suffer from. Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn said so well,

"The line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being. And who is willing to destroy a piece of his own heart?" (*Gulag Archipelago*)

Those who cannot grasp this personal duality have failed to destroy that piece of their own heart. In truth, this is precisely what Jesus came to do. Paul wrote:

"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me... But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." (Gal. 2:20, 5:22-25)

"For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." (2 Cor. 5:14-17)

Though many people approach the Bible religiously, it is a mistake to do so. The genuine life in Christ is not a religious life but a spiritual life. Paul wrote:

“I say then: Walk [live your life] in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.” (Gal. 5:16-17)

“But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Rom. 6:17-23)

We are taking a long look at the teachings of the New Testament because this is the foundation of America. This is the “religion and morality” John Adams saw as the only suitable content that would preserve the government instituted by the Constitution. Though many have looked at things backwards as it were, religion and spirituality is not the result of American laws but rather, as we shall especially look at later, America, the philosophical ideal, is the result of men living in religious and spiritual liberty. Only as men practice the denial of their lusts and seek to live in righteousness – a practice truly only possible in the power of Christ and God – will they be the kind of citizens who will make wise and good decisions that benefit the people around them. When men practice the indulgence of their flesh and reject the knowledge of their conscience and of God from their thinking, they will be unwise and unstable in all their ways.

Duality

Paul wrote:

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith.’ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be

wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man – and birds and four-footed beasts and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men (literally, males), leaving the natural use of the woman (literally, females), burned in their lust for one another, men (literally, males) with men (literally, males) committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.” (Rom. 1:16-32)

This was written to the Romans of Paul’s day some 2,000 years ago (around 60 A.D.) but it could just as well have been written to Americans of today. We are experiencing precisely the exact same things! This is no coincidence. The problems of the Romans is precisely the same as the problems of the Americans. The human race is fallen – no one is righteous, no not one. (see Rom. 3:11-18)

We must come to recognize the similar duality of America. Philosophically, we read the six well-intentioned purposes pursued by the American founding fathers and recognize and aspire to the ideal:

“We the people of the United States, in order to [1] form a more perfect Union, [2] establish justice, [3] insure domestic tranquility, [4] provide for the common defense, [5] promote the general welfare, and [6] secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.” (Preamble to the Constitution of the United States of America)

But realistically, in view of the line of good and evil that runs through the heart of every man, woman and child, we must also recognize that America, even with its godly roots, good intentions and commendable attributes, will likely ultimately prove to be only a nation that looks like a lamb but speaks like a dragon. (Rev. 13:11) It is one interpretation of the end-times prophecies that the U.S. is one of the horns of the beast that comes up out of the earth (Rev. 13:1) even as a seemingly conflicting theory (one we will explore later) views the wings of the eagle given to the woman who gives birth the Child and the earth that aids her views these things as America. (Rev. 14:14-16) Perhaps both interpretations are right – the former referring to the political and bureaucratic aspects of the US and the latter referring perhaps to the people and

their military power. We must never forget that when it comes to prophecy, we see as through a glass dimly. (1 Cor. 13:12)

It remains, however, that America stands now at a crossroads where we, each one as an individual and as part of various corporate groups, need to determine (with God's help) whether we are truly part of the lamb or part of the dragon. We must never forget that

“the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another.” (Gal. 5:17)

America may yet abandon even the appearance of a “Christian nation” and as more and more individuals take on more of the attributes of the dragon and progressively depart from the words and ways of the Lamb! One expects this from people raised in the world but those who bear the most responsibility are those who have a façade of “Christianity” but possess none of the life-changing power of God. (2 Tim. 3:5)

Bono's quote with which we opened this discussion deserves to be considered carefully. Benjamin Franklin traveled from America (an English colony at the time) to Ireland (another English colony) and he observed the conditions there to see what good ideas he could take away from there. Instead, he found truly deplorable conditions that no one in their right mind would aspire to. This is worth noting because there are people (like Soros) and forces (liberalism) at work to bring America down to this deplorable condition. Some do so from evil intentions and some do so because they, in their blind zeal to try new things, fail to grasp what consequences will accrue from our turning from the ways and words of the Almighty God. This will be the consequence of making the wrong choices here.

Greatness

If President Donald Trump's “Make America Great Again” emphasis is viewed from this perspective, it is precisely on point – that is, if we perceive greatness as God defines it. Previous presidents have used this idea but mostly only as a means to get elected or re-elected. Trump seems to be one of those who embrace this idea in its fullness even if there are occasional inconsistencies in his applications. The left will of course vilify any human weakness in the man even as they ignore their own far-worse despicable actions, thoughts and ways.

What does it mean to make America great again in God's eyes? Consider the following prophecy that was given through a minister, George Duffield, in 1776:

“Can it be supposed that God who made man free, and engraved in indelible characters the love of liberty in his mind, should forbid freedom already exiled from Asia and Africa, and under sentence of banishment from Europe – that he should forbid her to erect her banners here, and constrain her to abandon the earth? As soon shall he subvert creation, and forbid the sun to shine. He preserved to the Jews their cities of refuge, and whilst sun and moon shall endure America shall remain a city of refuge for the whole earth, until she herself shall play the tyrant, forget her destiny, disgrace her freedom, and provoke her God.” (George Duffield II, Journal of Presbyterian History, Volume 3, p. 73)

Consider this prophecy carefully and let us recognize the two powerful elements contained therein. First, Duffield recognized that liberty had been virtually exiled from Asia and Africa and was being banished from Europe and believed that liberty came to America so that she could be a city of refuge for the world.

In 1776, the world was under the power of the British empire upon which the sun never set because it reached all around the globe. The East India Company was particularly instrumental in maintaining abusive control over Britain's colonies. Africa was enslaved in colonialism under the likes of Cecil Rhodes and the East India Company. Asia was ruled by the Russians tsars who kept their serfs in abject poverty and by the Chinese whose realm was so vast that warlords governed over their individual territories and the emperor ruled from far away even as they tried to keep out Britain's colonialism. Yet, even though colonialism, like America's struggle to be good and great, brought much misery, it also brought technology and improvements to undeveloped areas of the world that enabled them to better move into modern life in an increasingly global economy and environment. In the process of rejecting the absolute power of monarchies in Europe, democracy was modified in Europe to make monarchs mere figure heads while, quite often, the aristocracy maintained control. France was a bloody exception and a warning to all that democracy could be dangerous.

America's success in pursuing greatness, however tarnished or impure with occasional misguided departures from her God-given mission, is why America stands as shining beacon for immigrants from around the world and why America has been given the strength to withstand and even overcome the tyrants who have arisen in this world (Kaiser Wilhelm, Adolf Hitler, Josef Stalin, etc.) It is in this light that George Soros' lament that America stands as the last and greatest obstacle to the luciferian world order he wishes to instill in this world. (source)

It is America's effort to be a godly city of refuge for the world that has enabled it to stand out as the place where most people would like to live. In the Bible, a "city of refuge" was supposed to be a place where someone who accidentally killed someone could flee so as to avoid the retribution of the avenger of blood, the friend or family member of the victim who came to claim an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth and a life for a life. It is to be noted that willful murderers were not entitled to flee to the city of refuge, only those who had accidentally caused the death of another. (Num. 35:12-15) The manslayer could not leave the city of refuge and if he was found outside it, the avenger of blood was free to avenge the death of the victim. The manslayer could not leave the city of refuge until the death of the high priest who was in office at the time. (Num. 35:25-28)

Most of the people who came to America fled from religious persecution in Europe. They sought a place where they could be free from those who sought, often literally, to kill them. They sought to make a place in America where they could practice their morality and religion according to the dictates of their conscience, free from the standards of others whose morality and religion was used more as a means of exercising authority and extorting money than as a way to be better people. This is America's role as a city of refuge for the world. It was a place where God could be sought and worshiped in truth and goodness, where religion was not to be used as just another means for evil.

Warning!!!

We must heed Duffield's prophetic warning or America will cease to be what she used to be. Duffield said that America's destiny or calling as the world's city of refuge would remain until America herself shall:

1) Play the Tyrant.

It is no accident that the liberal left is seeking to take the U.S. under a communistic and socialistic regime. It is Satan's scheme to turn the government into a tyrannical monster so that America's divine appointment to greatness can be ended.

2) Forget Her Destiny.

It is no accident that the liberal left has been working long and hard to remove God from the public discourse. Christians (of whatever genuineness or fraudulent flavors and stripe) have played into this hand by retreating into their "churches" and "denominations" which have only further deprived any genuine believers of spiritual strength. That America was ever called to be a city of refuge for the world is not discussed in very many "Christian" circles these days.

3) Disgrace Her Freedom.

This is the source of the push behind the LGBT agenda, truly a disgrace to America's freedom. God created man and woman (them, plural) in His (singular) likeness. (Gen. 1:27) God is not confused as to which of the only two genders any individual is – only the individual is confused with a confusion that does not come from God. (1 Cor. 14:33) Further, God commanded men and women to leave their parents and to cling or cleave to one another as a united husband and wife. (Gen. 2:20-25) A second disgrace is the abortion industry that is practicing wholesale murder for profit. A third disgrace is lawlessness (doing what is right in one's own eyes – see Jdgs. 21:25 – a philosophy and mindset the world calls relativism) that pervades even the religious communities that claim to follow Christ. (see Gal. 5:13) All these disgraces are disqualifying America from her position as a city of refuge for the world.

4) Provoke Her God.

This is a reference to idolatry. God is America's Husband in a similar sense that He was Israel's husband and that Christ is Husband to any individual who seeks salvation in His name. Satanism, or perhaps more properly Luciferianism, is the one religion being promulgated by the United Nations and the U.S., by being quietly overtaken by what is commonly called the Deep State, has been coming under that religion. The only thing left is for the U.S. to willfully embrace the deceptions of the liberal left and openly embrace this Luciferian religion and America's status as a city of refuge for the world will be done.

Satan's ultimate boast is that he will be like the Most High God. (Isa. 14:14) The difference between Satan's methods and God's methods are exposed when we consider America's role as a city of refuge as contrasted with the so-called sanctuary cities. Since America is an imperfect expression of God's ways, this insight is necessarily flawed by America's historical sins and stains and departures from the high ideal. So, with that caveat, let us look at the ideal.

America receives a large number of people from foreign countries every year. These people historically were required to pass a civics test that at least exposed them to the American ideal of civic liberty and responsibility. There were standards that could not be waived as those with diseases could not be brought into the country and criminals were denied entrance and returned to their country of origin. This is the order reflective of God's way. No one can enter God's kingdom who is not born anew (1 Pet. 1:23, etc.) and no one can remain in His kingdom who does not do the will of God. (Mt. 7:21)

Immigration has currently reached a crisis. Our southern border is being flooded by illegal immigrants. Many large cities and even some states have declared themselves to be sanctuaries for these illegal immigrants, granting them immunity from the crime of entering the country illegally and too often provides shelter from prosecution of other crimes against both illegal immigrants and rightful citizens. Rebellion against rightful order is characteristic of Satan's inability to rule and reign beneficially. Providing opportunity for damage and destruction is symptomatic of the flawed notion that he has any possibility of ruling the earth in like manner to the Most High God.

The sanctuary cities are fast becoming hell holes. Drugs and insanity rule the streets flooded with homeless people unwilling or unable to cope with the responsibilities of their life. Crime is rampant as most crimes go unpunished and criminals are returned to the streets faster than the police can arrest them. This is Satan's inability to do anything beneficial for the human race. The thief still comes only to steal, kill and destroy. (Jn. 10:10)

Jesus still offers abundant and eternal life. (Jn. 10:10) Ultimately, that offer is not wrapped up in America. When Jesus returns, He will not be wearing or waving an American flag. Nor will He come to bring liberty as we know it now – He will come to rule in righteousness with a rod of iron. (Rev. 19:15) For those who hunger and thirst for righteousness (what is right, true and good in God's eyes), it will be the ultimate liberty – complete and utter freedom from sin, corruption and deception. Satan, the father of lies, the original murderer will be imprisoned for 1,000 years and all his schemes will be imprisoned with him. The earth will have peace from his pathetic and destructive interference for a millennium.

Eye on the Prize

Rather than view the restoration of America as the end goal, we must take the spiritual step that makes the restoration of America possible. God still says:

“If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” (2 Chr. 7:14)

He still says:

“For you, as brothers, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” (Gal. 5:13)

He still warns:

“If you sin willfully after you have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour God’s adversaries.” (Heb. 10:26-27)

He still instructs:

“Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.” (1 Tim. 2:1-6)

It is a truth that we, as Christians, do not really begin to pray until we perceive a real need that affects us. Then we will finally start to pray. This is such a time but we must not pray that America be preserved as a haven for wealth and entitled living. Rather, we must pray that America will be preserved as a haven for righteousness, truth and justice for all who seek refuge in this God-given city of refuge. Pray that America will remain a light on a hill, broadcasting the love and gospel of Jesus, purified from all the religious contaminants that have corrupted His glorious truth.

And if, in the wise counsel of God, America has forfeited her right to remain as a city of refuge for His people, let us as individuals and corporate groups across the globe continue to stand for His truth and righteousness. As our Lord and Savior overcame Satan at the cross, we also will overcome Satan by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of our testimony, and we will did not love our lives to the death. (Rev. 12:12) We are prepared for this time. We will stand with the Lamb on Mt. Zion in truth, holiness and righteousness and we will follow Him wherever He leads. (Rev. 14:1-4) We will shine like the sun in the kingdom of our Father. (Mt. 13:43) We who know our God will do exploits in His name and for His glory. (Dan. 11:32) We will be His vessels in the end time.

If we fight against the spiritual forces of evil from our prayer closets before we step out of our front doors, nothing this world can throw against us can stop us from bringing glory to the name of our God and Father in heaven. This is our heritage in Christ – and it has been America’s privilege to participate, however imperfectly, in that calling. May she choose wisely in the days to come for if she does not submit to correction, judgment stands ready to bring justice for all her sins.

Let he who has ears hear.

The Matrix and Captain Marvel

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An Historical Indictment

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