

Living in An Upside Down World

Fred R. Coulter—June 13, 2015

Welcome to Sabbath services, everyone! You look out and you ask yourself, ‘What on earth is happening?’ There are so many things going on. The news that we get is getting more and more controlled. If it weren’t for the Internet, and getting reports from various different sources, you would never know what’s going on. Even at that, you really don’t understand what’s going on, because of the powers and the forces behind everything that’s taking place in the world.

Let’s understand that we are living in the days when these prophecies are taking place. Also, keep in mind that all the prophecies will be fulfilled to the maximum, not the minimum.

It’s very interesting that all of these things are taking place, while at the same time there are so many Bibles everywhere. Now they’re getting more and more of them that they will be downloadable with apps. An app means a special configuration of the digital information, so it can come to any handheld device, any computer. Which means, that the witness that God is going to give is going to be pervasive, even though they may not believe it.

Let’s see the very first thing Jesus said when they wanted to know when these things would be in the completion of the age.

Matthew 24:4: “Then Jesus answered *and* said to them, ‘Be on guard, so that no one deceives you.’”

We’ve covered a lot concerning government; so today we’re going to cover religion. Maybe in the near future we’re also going to cover economics, because there are a lot of things going on economically, as well.

Verse 5: “For many shall come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ’; and they shall deceive many.” Then the next one, wars and rumors of wars. We’re not going to focus on that.

He also said, v 10: “And then shall many be led into sin... [which is happening today] ...and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another; And many false prophets shall arise, and shall deceive many” (vs 10-11). This creates a state of lawlessness.

We’ve seen lawlessness in what’s happening in America with that, but there’s a state of lawlessness within religion. Let’s see where that’s going to build up to.

Verse 24: “For there shall arise false Christs and false prophets, and they shall present great signs

and wonders, in order to deceive, if possible, even the elect.”

What is happening? *Satan is deceiving the whole world!* Remember, it was just about a year ago when Kenneth Copeland and the pope, and the Anglican bishop was killed about three weeks later in a motorcycle accident. But our smiling, wonderful, friendly person Joel Osteen has had some visits to the Vatican. He says that’s an awesome place.

But what is now being preached is *the doctrine of universalism*, which is *all people will be saved, no matter who you are or what you have done*. This new version of the Good News ‘is much better than the message of Jesus that they preached and the apostles 2,000 years ago.’ Evolution of the Gospel, just like evolution of human beings.

Now we’re going to speed it up by making artificial intelligence, using computers, putting chips in us, figuring out how we can live longer and become immortal. I think all those people that they freeze so they can bring them back to life later are going to be very disappointed; it was a waste of money. What they preach was far too narrow, according to the way that Joel Osteen explains his message.

I’ve got a printout here, was sent by someone else, so there are a lot of video clips about what Joel Osteen has said. I’m also going to do this on churchathome.org as well. Randy can put up all those clips about what he said. Notice, his new message:

[Joel Osteen Rebukes Apostles Paul, Peter, and John](#)—United for Awakening, 8/27/13 by Peter Michael Martinez (<http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/religion/3059879/posts>)

“I’m for everybody,” says Joel Osteen, “I’m not into excluding people. Jesus can reveal Himself to anybody.”

So, they take a truism, Can Jesus reveal Himself to anyone? *Yes!* That’s not the question: whether He can. The question is: Will He? If He does, how does He do it? How much has He already revealed by having the Word of God out there?

But people today are used to having everything spoon-fed to them on some sort of electronic device, or so forth. If we use it right, it’s a good tool. But if we reduce it all down to Facebook and Twitter, we’re hopelessly ignorant. So, Osteen says:

The idea is that since no one would be accepted if we are called to be “holy” then all have to be accepted. So goes this logic. This doctrine also believes that all roads lead to heaven...

I thought that was to Rome. And they do, all the roads are leading back to Rome. *Yes, indeed!*

...so there is no one “way, truth, and life that leads to the father.” [lower case].

So, according to Joel, sin means *missing the mark*. That’s only one very narrow definition. Sin is also lawlessness. He didn’t dare quote 1-John 3:4 on the *King James Version*, which says, ‘Sin is the transgression of the Law.’ With universalism, all you have to do is be good the way *you think* being good is good and everything is fine.

What is that going to do for the true message? I’m going to bring a sermon on why is the Gospel exclusive at this time? God’s plan will eventually include all people, but not now. It will be God’s way and not men’s way.

That’s technically correct, but he doesn’t like the Scripture that says, ‘For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life.’

When asked about people who live in open sin, Joel smilingly said, “I’m not going to bash those people....”

If you point out their sins, you are a basher and you are evil and you cannot be good. He ought to read Matt. 23.

...I’m not going to be against those people. They’re good people.”

Joel’s wife recently said to Piers Morgan. “It’s the people that we’re after. We’re not trying to judge their sin. We want to encourage them and love them. You’re only going to win people by reaching out to them.”

How’s that for a universal gospel? And they’re not into repentance. Repentance is shameful. Let’s see the very first words out of Jesus’ mouth when He came into Galilee preaching the Gospel. He didn’t say, ‘Gather around everybody, all you good people. I’m here to tell you that there is a message of universal inclusivism. Even if you are a satanist God loves you.’ **NO!** Jesus came into Galilee and said:

Mark 1:15: “...‘The time has been fulfilled... [for the beginning of the preaching of the Gospel by Him personally] ...and the Kingdom of God is near at hand; repent, and believe in the Gospel.’”

The Gospel is the good news of what God is doing. But also at this present time, the Gospel is exclusive. Osteen doesn’t like repentance. He also

says that Peter, John, and Paul were wrong in some of the statements that they brought out.

For example, this is quite a thing here. Let’s turn to Romans 1. What is the greatest sin of man? *Judging God and judging His Word!* People today are into spiritually correct verbiage. That’s the other side of the coin of being politically correct. You can’t use certain words, because someone may be offended. What did Paul write here:

Romans 1:18: “Indeed, *the* wrath of God is revealed from heaven upon all ungodliness...” This universalism has to eliminate that.

- God is good
- God is happy
- God is wonderful
- God loves everyone just as you are

“...and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness...” (v 18). Exactly what is Joel Osteen doing here? *Suppressing the truth in unrighteousness!*

Some people have asked me why I pick on the Protestants so much? *There are two kinds of Protestants:*

1. those who are for Jesus
2. those who are against Jesus

Why do I pick on them? They say I’m being judgmental. *No! I’m judging their fruits and what they say!* Judging the fruits is correct. Going by what they say is correct. Being judgmental is when you judge what *you think the other person is thinking*. That’s the difference between judgmental and judgment. Jesus commands us to *judge righteous judgment*. That means *correct* judgment. This is more true than ever before today.

Verse 19: “Because that which may be known of God is manifest among them, for God has manifested *it* to them; for the invisible things of Him are perceived from *the* creation of *the* world, being understood by the things that were made...” (vs 19-20).

Because everything that God made has an individual identity and genetic code or atomic code, molecular code, whatever you want to call it. It is all different and identical. You can spit on the ground and they can take a sample of that and identify you. That’s how in particular the creation of God is.

“...both His eternal power and Godhead—so that they are without excuse” (v 20). Think about how much they are without excuse if they hold the Bible in their hands and say, ‘We’re preaching the Gospel. We represent God; we represent Christ.’

Like one ex-Protestant told me, he said his church says that if you have Jesus you have everything; you don’t need anything else. What does

it mean to have Jesus? You just accept Him. They don't have Jesus. They have an empty promise.

Who is more accountable than anybody else? *Teachers, ministers, especially those who have the Bible!* If you are a teacher, and you have the Bible, and you don't know what it says, and you don't believe it, and you don't preach it, who then do you represent? Who is your god?

This happens many times. Remember what we said about the Protestants in 1893. Incrementally we're down now to universalism.

Verse 21: "Because when they knew God, they glorified *Him* not as God, neither were thankful; but they became vain in their own reasonings, and their foolish hearts were darkened." We're just reading it here, out of his own mouth.

Notice what they do. This is precisely what Joel Osteen and all of them are doing, v 23: "And changed the glory of the incorruptible God into the likeness of an image of corruptible man, and of birds, and four-footed creatures, and creeping things. For this cause, God also abandoned them to uncleanness..." (vs 23-24). Osteen says this is wrong, negative and bashing.

"...God also abandoned them to uncleanness through the lusts of their hearts, to disgrace their own bodies between themselves... [because you have to be all-inclusive] ...who exchanged the Kingdom of God for the lie... [we just read the lie] ...and they worshiped and served the created thing more than the one Who is Creator, Who is blessed into the ages. Amen" (vs 24-25).

Everything that Osteen said here later is bashing. Then he's unhappy with Gal. 5. This is quite a thing! What happens when you get this way? Satan the devil is deceiving the whole world (Rev. 12:9). He doesn't come to you as someone who is hateful; he does not.

I wonder—and I'll think on this a little bit more—when Jesus was fasting, if Satan came to Him and said, 'You know, God must be pretty harsh to make You fast for 40 days and 40 nights. You look terribly hungry. Oh, You're pitiful. You mean You would do that for God? Now look, I know You have the power to do it and You're really hungry, why don't You change those stones into bread. Don't You think that would taste really good? Fresh out of the oven bread.'

2-Corinthians 4:1: "Therefore, having this ministry, according as we have received mercy, we are not fainthearted. For we have personally renounced the hidden things of dishonest gain... [You get rid of deceitfulness. You have to overcome the deceitfulness of the human heart.] ...not walking *cunning* craftiness..." (vs 1-2). Cunning words, put

together smooth and nice, so you don't know you're being led into sin. After all, you really want to have it nice—don't you?

"...nor handling the Word of God deceitfully..." (v 2). That's exactly what they have to do to preach these false gospels. Then if that doesn't work, then they have to denounce it, and say, 'That's old fashioned, harsh, negative, not uplifting. If you repent of evil that is deeply within you and God removes it from you, is that not uplifting? The repentance may bring about a great many tears and anguish. Yes, indeed!

"...but by manifestation of the Truth... [that's what we do in preaching] ...we are commending ourselves to every man's conscience before God. But if our Gospel is hidden... [which it is to those in the world] ...it is hidden to those who are perishing; in whom the god of this age has blinded the minds of those who do not believe, lest the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ, Who is *the* image of God, should shine unto them" (vs 2-4).

In other words, the goal of God is so glorious and so fantastic that God is only now at this time, going to share that information with those who are truly loving Him and are converted. Not having a false gospel like this.

Verse 5: "For we not preach our own selves, but Christ Jesus *the* Lord, and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake Because *it is* God Who commanded *the* light to shine out of darkness, Who shined into our hearts the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in *the* face of Jesus Christ" (vs 5-6). That's quite a thing, comparing how bad it is in the world in this way at this level.

Let's see the tactics that Satan used, that his ministers used in the days of the Apostle Paul, still being carried on today.

2-Corinthians 11:1: "I would *that* you might bear with me in a little nonsense; but indeed, do bear with me. For I am jealous over you with *the* jealousy of God because I have espoused you to one husband, so that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to Christ" (vs 1-2). Satan the devil and the great whore are the ones who are corrupting all the nations of the earth.

Verse 3: "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness..." You can fill in many blank spaces with that. It always starts out with:

- Is God fair?
- Isn't God harsh?
- Why would God not want you to know good and evil?

I thought God said you can't eat of any of the trees of the garden.

- Can't you see how unfair God is?
- Can't you see how harsh that is?

I'm here to bring you a little enlightenment:

- ✓ you look at this tree over here; that's a super tree
- ✓ look at the fruit
- Isn't that beautiful?
 - ✓ it's really designed to make you wise
 - ✓ forget what God told you
 - ✓ I'm going to tell you something much nicer

I think it was pretty much that way.

Paul uses almost those words right here, v 4: "For indeed, if someone comes preaching another Jesus..." That's what Joel Osteen is preaching and so is Kenneth Copeland, so is the pope and so are all the rest of the Protestants. Some are close, but if you miss the bus you're not going on the trip. You can be close, but as long as you keep Satan's days of Sunday and the holidays of this world ***you are falsely worshiping God the Father and Jesus Christ!***

Since you have the Bible and you don't really believe all of it as God has said, what makes you think God is going to give you salvation? That's basically why I bring out these things concerning it. Now with public relations, that's not politically or spiritually correct, but neither was Jesus in Matt. 23.

"...whom we did not preach, or you receive a different spirit, which you did not receive, or a different gospel..." (v 4).

Isn't this (from Osteen) a different gospel: universalism? Sunday-keeping? holiday-keeping? God loves everyone? God loves everyone, but ***His love comes in different degrees!*** They're not aware of that.

"...which you did not accept, you put up with it as *something good*" (v 4).

'Oh, this is wonderful. He's such a nice man and he smiles all the time. This harsh preacher down the road here, he's got a frown on his face and he looks mean and hateful and he says to repent of your sins.'

That's the way they look at it.

Paul had the countenance, if you think mine is bad, his was worse. 'His preaching is weak. When you look at him, it's really not very appealing. We'd rather have a more handsome preacher up there, one who would speak to us much nicer than Paul does.' That's the way they look at it.

Verse 5: "But I consider myself in no way inferior to those highly exalted *so-called* apostles.

For although *I may be* unpolished in speech, yet, *I am* not in knowledge; for in all things I have demonstrated this to you. Now, did I commit sin by humbling myself so that you might be exalted, because I preached the Gospel of God to you freely?" (vs 5-7).

He said, 'You guys are so bad and so hung up on giving money, I tell you what I'm going to do. I'm not going to ask one 'red cent' from you. Let's see if you really believe God and let's see what you will really do. God really does require that you tithe and give, but I'm going to forebear it. I'm going to work with my hands and see if you respond.'

He had to repent of that to them because they never did respond. It's just like all welfare programs, once you start it, that's what they demand.

Verse 8: "I robbed other churches, receiving wages *from them* for ministering to you."

Verse 12: "But what I am doing, I will do, so that I may cut off *any* occasion from those who are desiring an occasion; so that in the things they boast of, they also may be found even as we *are*. For such *are* false apostles—deceitful workers who are transforming themselves into apostles of Christ" (vs 12-13). Nice, wonderful, understanding, giving, sharing. *Yes, indeed!*

Verse 14: "And *it is* no marvel, for Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore, *it is* no great thing if his servants also transform themselves as ministers of righteousness—whose end shall be according to their works" (vs 14-15). That's quite a thing. And they lie. That's what they're saying.

We know Satan is deceiving the whole world, but let's see what Jesus said about those things. These were Jews who believed on Him. They came to the temple and said, 'Oh, You're the Messiah. Yes!'

How's this for wonderful, politically correct speech, John 8:23: "And He said to them, 'You are from beneath; I am from above... [that's very exclusive] ...You are of this world; I am not of this world.... [that's not inclusive] ...That is why I said to you that you shall die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I AM, **you shall die in your sins**'" (vs 23-24).

They all understood what that meant. That kind of scared them for a minute. Someone coming into the temple and say, 'You're going to die for your sins.' Today most people would scoff and run off and go do whatever they want to do. Sooner or later it will catch up with them.

Verse 25: "Then they said to Him, 'Whom are You?' And Jesus said to them, 'The one that I

said to you from the beginning. I have many things to say and to judge concerning you...” (vs 25-26). ‘What a nasty man that is.’ Is it all right to judge according to fruit? *Yes, indeed!*

“...but He Who sent Me is true, and what I have heard from Him, these things I speak to the world.’ *But* they did not know that He was speaking to them of the Father. Then Jesus said to them...” (vs 26-28). He told them what they were going to do; they were going to kill Him by crucifying Him.

“...‘When you have lifted up the Son of man, then you yourselves shall know that I AM, and *that* I do nothing of Myself. But as the Father taught Me, these things I speak. And He Who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone because I always do the things that please Him” (vs 28-29). That is the key of what we need to do. We find in 1-John 3 that we can do the things that are pleasing to God.

When someone says, ‘It’s pleasing that you come the way that you are and when you listen to these harsh words of the Gospel, you know it needs to be re-edited for the twentieth century, because we’ll all progressed in our understanding and we don’t need that kind of bashing and belittling.’ *It’s not belittling.*

Verse 30: “As He spoke these things, many believed in Him.... [oh yes, we want that, but *our way*] ...Therefore, Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in Him, ‘If you continue in My Word, you are truly My disciples” (vs 30-31). Let’s reverse that; the opposite of that is ‘if you don’t continue in My word, you truly are not My disciples.’

If they come along, using the name of Jesus, but they don’t teach the teachings of Jesus and they teach their own interpretation, twisting and turning it like the Apostle Peter wrote, and perverting the Gospel of God, then you’re not a disciple of Christ. Furthermore, He never said you’re going to heaven. He’s going to bring heaven to the earth.

Then He said, if you do the first part: “...‘If you continue in My Word, you are truly My disciples. And you shall know the Truth...” (vs 31-32). The only way you discover error is by knowing the Truth.

“...and the Truth shall set you free.’ They answered Him, ‘We are Abraham’s seed, and have been in bondage to anyone...” (vs 32-33). The Roman soldiers were right there at the temple area with their spears and shields.

“...What do You mean by saying, “You shall become free”?’ Jesus answered them, ‘Truly, truly I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a servant of sin” (vs 33-34). *No sinner is going to*

enter into the Kingdom of God! That’s why Jesus said to repent and believe the Gospel.

Then it got really heated, Jesus continued, v 37: “I know that you are Abraham’s seed; but you are seeking to kill Me, because My words do not enter into your *minds*.” Isn’t that something? Can you blockade your mind so it won’t enter in? *Yes, you can!* That’s called free choice.

Verse 38: “I speak the things that I have seen from My Father, and you do the things that you have seen from your father.” There’s the *false father* Satan the devil. If they preach lies and do not rightly divide the Word of God, they are preaching themselves. If they preach themselves, that’s a message from Satan.

Verse 39: “They answered and said to Him, ‘Our father is Abraham.’ Jesus said to them, ‘If you were Abraham’s children...” What’s the difference between being of the seed of Abraham and Abraham’s children? You can be of the physical descent, but unless you’re spiritually like Abraham, you’re not his children.

Verse 40: ““But now you seek to kill Me, a man who has spoken the truth to you, which I have heard from God; Abraham did not do this. You are doing the works of your father.’ Then they said to Him, ‘We have not been born of fornication. We have one Father, *and that is* God” (vs 40-41). Did they know about Jesus and His birth? *Yes*, even without cell phones and Twitter and Facebook. It was widespread.

Verse 42: “Therefore, Jesus said to them, ‘If God were your Father, you would love Me, because I proceeded forth and came from God. For I have not come of Myself, but He sent Me. Why don’t you understand My speech? Because you cannot *bear* to hear My words” (vs 42-43).

Notice this very ‘hateful’ speech by Jesus, according to the standards of men today, v 44: “You are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father you desire to practice...”

- everybody is accepted
- God loves everybody
- wonderful, wonderful
- all we have to do is be positive

How’s that working out? *Not very well!*

- positive is not Godly
- correction is not negative
- denouncing sin is not bashing

All of that is done in love, in hopes that they will repent. But in order for that to happen, you have to admit that, ‘Yes, that’s the way I am.’

Verse 44: “You are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father you desire to practice. He

was a murderer from *the* beginning, and has not stood in the Truth because there is no Truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he is speaking from his own *self*; for he is a liar, and the father of it.”

What happens when you build a society like this? Let’s see what happens. You go through all of Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel. Remember, **God always offered them repentance!** Never forget that.

Oh, they all want to be good. They all want to go to heaven. They all want to be nice people. But here’s what God says. He makes Himself available immediately, before He begins denouncing their sins and how that has worked in their lives. He makes Himself available. God is near.

Isaiah 59:1: “Behold, the LORD’S hand is not shortened that it cannot save, nor is His ear heavy that it cannot hear.” If you repent, *God will hear!* If you’ll confess your sins and forsake them, God will forgive you. If you come to Him, confessing your own evils and asking for God’s mercy and forgiveness, and that you need to have your life changed, that you need to be buried in the watery grave of baptism; *God will hear; God will answer!* Doesn’t matter where you are, God is not restricted.

But if you don’t, here’s what you create, v 2: “But your iniquities have come between you and your God, and your sins have hid *His* face from you, that He will not hear... [then they have to bash God, so they look good] ...for your hands are defiled with blood...” (vs 2-3). Think of all the murders, wars.

I was watching a special on the History Channel-2 and they were talking about wars and war weapons. The only ones to defeat the Mongols in their sweep south and west were the Vietnamese.

They defeated them by land and by sea, first by land. By the way, these were the same weapons that the GIs found out about when they went to Vietnam. That is jungle trails. They would put traps underneath that you couldn’t see. They had hardened bamboo spikes where you’d fall into it and right into your feet.

Then they had another one where they had two rollers with spikes on them. If you stepped on that, it would get both of your legs. Having had foot problems, I know that tender feet are terrible.

I also know this: The reason God destroyed Nebuchadnezzar’s image that he saw in the dream, that he destroyed in the feet, because when you do that you knock out everything. Your head is worthless, your arms are worthless, your legs are worthless, your body is worthless, because your feet have been destroyed. So, they had those, too.

Genghis Khan—being a very smart man— withdrew all of his troops, made a fleet of 400 ships.

The Vietnamese got word that they were coming down to invade. They would come up the Mekong River.

So, they put huge big bamboo spikes down in the shallow water. They would come in at high tide and they would be able to get up the river. Then at low tide, those spikes punctured all their ships and destroyed them. So, Genghis Khan gave up on the Vietnamese.

I bring this out to point out something very important: ***Whenever people go against God, evil reigns!*** The only way you can come back against evil is with force. That’s why Christ is going to come in power, glory and force; to end this world’s civilization!

“...and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue has muttered perverseness” (v 3). That’s about all you hear anymore on television. I tell you, they’ve got media control lock, stock and barrel!

Verse 4: “None calls for justice... [if you do, ‘you’re mean’] ...nor does anyone plead for Truth...” No! you have a cause. Remember the ‘hands up don’t shoot’? *They believe a lie!* ‘Black lives are valuable.’ *But they don’t tell blacks to stop killing blacks!* ‘We ought to embrace all of those from Latin America,’ *but they never quit selling drugs!* They never quit lying and cheating!

Not all of them; many of them turn out to be good hard workers. So, you don’t condemn everyone, but we’re condemning the sins that those who commit them do. Look at how many lives have been destroyed!

Then there was the ‘politically correct info babes’ got onto Jeb Bush, and Bush had the audacity to shame single mothers. That was way back even before he was governor in Florida. Well, he was correct! Isn’t it a shame that they didn’t get married so you would have husband/wife, father/mother?

- Isn’t it a shame that the children had to grow up without the help of a father?
- Isn’t it a shame that they have to live on welfare? *Because a mother cannot go out and work and take care of the children!*
- Isn’t it a shame that when they reach teenage that the mothers can no longer control them? *Because there’s no father-figure there!*
- Isn’t it a shame that they’ve got to bring in the police and the juvenile department?
- Isn’t it a shame that they have to live on food stamps?
- Isn’t it a shame that their kids grow up and join gangs? *Then they get killed early!*
- Isn’t that a shame?

Just because a man and woman got carried away with their sexual passions and had no thoughts for anyone but their own lustful fulfillment!

Yes, Bush was absolutely correct! Shameful beyond description! But for those 'info babes': 'You can't bash single mothers.' Listen! There are occasions when single mothers do good jobs! But they will tell you that they have to work night and day, and be vigilant and virtually have to carry a big stick around to make it work!

Everybody was all excited with the mother came down and saw her son in the Baltimore [transcriber's correction] uprising. She ran down and got him and slapped him up the side of the face and said, 'Why are you doing that?' Everyone said, 'Look at that mother, she's doing a good thing.'

It turned out that she was a single mother with six children by six different men! What a shame that she had to go down there and get her son out of that!

Excuse me for getting carried away, but when you bring in false doctrine, lies and run this society the way it's being run today, that is a downright shame! You don't have enough conscience that you repent to God of all of the things that you have done.

(go to the next track)

Let's see what kind of society develops when people have a lawless way of life. That means even the human laws that are designed to be kept; they don't keep them. Look at what we are creating.

I've got to get this book, too, I forget who wrote it, but it was *Going to Pot*. I need to do a series on pot for Church at Home, because it is so destructive. Yet, those who want to destroy this nation tout it as, 'Look at all the tax money. You can get billions.' It's already brought in \$100-million to Colorado. What's it going to cost when their brains and their lives have been 'stupered' into doing nothing because of marijuana.

We're learning the lesson. You bring God into your country. You ask God's blessing on it. You say, 'God bless America.' You put on your money, 'In God We Trust.' ***You lie through your teeth and you reject God! You turn your back on God!***

What kind of society are you going to have? Everyone is wondering, 'What's going to happen?' They fail to realize that if they would just take each one of the Ten Commandments and evaluate it, they would see that all of our problems are not political or societal. They are spiritual and we have to get back to God.

Here's what happens; there are many plans, there are many schemes. Notice how God talks about that:

Isaiah 59:5: "They hatch adders' eggs and weave the spider's web; he who eats their eggs dies, and that which is crushed breaks out into a viper." In other words, every improvement you want to seek is going to lead to a further complication of a greater magnitude. This is what we are looking at today.

Verse 6: "Their webs shall not become clothing, nor shall they cover themselves with their works; their works *are* works of iniquity, and the acts of violence *are* in their hands. Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood; their thoughts *are* thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction *are* in their paths" (vs 6-7).

Like I've said, take the Ten Commandments and sit down and watch the television, take Isa. 59 and sit down and look at everything that is listed here comes up on television in the news, is part of the problems that we have as human beings because we've rejected God. Yet, if anyone says you need to get back to God—oh, you're judgmental and you're bashing.

Verse 8: "They have not known the way of peace..." How much peace have we had since:

- World War I?
- World War II?
- Korean War?
- Vietnam War?
- Cold War?
- Kuwait War
- Iraq War?
- Afghanistan?

Down through history everything is fighting and warring and killing; ***all cut off from God!***

"...and *there is* no justice in their ways. They have made crooked paths for themselves; whoever goes therein shall not know peace. Therefore, justice is far from us... [don't know how to resolve it] ...nor does righteousness overtake us..." (vs 8-9). Because we're not seeking what is righteous, we're seeking what is expedient.

If anyone dares come along with a plan to say, 'The government can't continue to pay welfare for all of you people, you need to get to work.' So then the other government policies are to destroy work. So, it never comes out.

"...We wait for light, but behold, darkness; for brightness, *but* we walk in deep shadows. We grope along the wall like the blind, and we grope as if we had no eyes. We stumble at noonday as in the night; among those who are strong, we are like dead men. We all roar like bears, and mourn grievously

like doves; we look for justice, but there is none, *we look* for salvation, yet, it is far off from us” (vs 9-11).

It looks like sooner or later—let’s just be straightforward on this—they are going to take all of these young women and Sharia Law will be brought upon them, whether here or whether abroad. We have sold ourselves to the sin and iniquity that is described by God as harlotry of the worst kind.

Verse 12: “For our transgressions are multiplied before You, and our sins testify against us; for our transgressions are with us; and *as for* our iniquities, we know them; in rebellion and denial of the LORD...” (vs 12-13). That’s what we’ve done. All these nice, good words here, ‘Oh, we’re for everybody; we want everybody.’ *NO! God wants repentance!*

“...and turning away from our God, talking perversity and revolt, conceiving and speaking from the heart words of falsehood. And justice is driven backward, and righteousness stands afar off... [They don’t even know what it is.] ...for Truth has fallen in the street, and uprightness cannot enter” (vs 13-14).

Think about it. Someone running for president saying, ‘You elect me and the Congress that I want, and I’m going to enforce the Law of God in this land and we will get rid of all the sin and wretchedness that is here.’ How’s that for a platform? You think he would even win a primary?

Verse 15: “Yea, Truth fails; and he *who* departs from evil makes himself a prey. And the LORD saw, and it was evil in His eyes that *there* was no justice.”

I think we can wait for one important thing to come down from the Supreme Court:

- Is same-sex marriage legal?
- Is it the law of the land?

When that comes down, which it probably will, and if ‘Hilary-Bilary’ is the next President, this nation is going under so fast it will make our heads swim! You need to think on that.

If there is a reprieve, if there are enough people who want to do what is right, even though they don’t return to God completely, then maybe there will be a reprieve. Just know for sure, all the forces of evil and liberalism is going to gear up for a battle royal for the next presidential election. That will then bring in things and it will get worse.

Nations come to a certain point, just like individuals in their lives. If they don’t turn from their sins as a nation, it’s like a person, then there is no remedy because you’re fighting against God. You’re not fighting against human beings. You’re

fighting against God and wanting evil, so God is going to send evil. There will be more demons. There will be more killings. There will be more wars, more shootings. It’s what’s going to happen.

“...And the LORD saw, and it was evil in His eyes that *there* was no justice. And He saw that *there* was no man, and was astonished that there was no intercessor. Therefore, His own arm brought salvation to Him; and His righteousness sustained Him, for He put on righteousness... [talking about Christ] ...like a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation upon His head. And He put on the garments of vengeance *for* clothing, and was covered with zeal like a cloak. According to *their* deeds, accordingly He will repay; fury to His foes, dead for dead to His enemies. He will repay their deeds to the isles” (vs 15-18). That’s talking about the return of Jesus Christ.

The Bible talks about liberals. Did you know that? *Yes, indeed!* I wonder if they will read this at the Democratic Convention?

Isaiah 32:5: “The vile one shall no more be called liberal... [that is when Christ returns] ...nor the miser said *to be* bountiful.... [‘I have \$191-million, but I’ve got to earn a living’ (H. Clinton)] ...For the vile will speak folly, and his heart *will* work iniquity, to practice hypocrisy and to speak error against the LORD... [that’s what they’re doing religiously and politically] ...to make the soul of the hungry empty, and he will take away the drink of the thirsty. Also the weapons of the vile *are* evil; he thinks of wicked ways to destroy the poor with lying words, even when the needy speaks right. But the liberal thinks liberal things; and by liberal things he shall stand” (vs 5-8). That means he is going to fall. There we have it.

Let’s see what they thought of Jeremiah when he came preaching the Word of God. This is really interesting. It shows that there are some few who may listen partially. Jeremiah had to get up and speak and sometimes he was really discouraged in it.

We are living in a time that we see the nation going down and we see the world going down. We have lived for the past 50 years with an upward sweep of the economy, prosperity, trade, preaching the Gospel, and even endured through ‘9/11.’ Now we are at a point that we are going down. It’s difficult to live in a nation that is disintegrating.

I think those in Rome when they heard the barbarians are coming, said, ‘We have all these soldiers. They’re just ‘the JV’ out there.’ But after several waves, they conquered Rome. Think of all of our enemies. Think of everything that’s happening in Mexico. Think of all the foreigners that are there waiting to get across, waiting to start destroying key things like rail, phone, television.

Sidebar on technology: You've heard of all the hacking on all the computers: government computers, business computers, Sony computers, IRS, Pentagon. How's that happening?

I'll tell you what I think is happening. I heard this as just a little blurb on the news. All the servers we use for 98% of the computers in America are made in China. Do you suppose that they put secret hardware and software in those servers, to where there is no way that you can find out? And they know everything about our secrets, anything they want at any time. I suppose if one of the Republicans was smart enough, he could make a deal with the Chinese to get all of Hilary's e-mails.

So with that the case, how's that for fulfilling the prophecy that 'your enemies within your gates'... They don't have to be here physically, if they are here in the device, *they are here!* Think of what would happen.

How about all of those servers that run our electric system? Think how dangerous that is. Do you think that the Chinese would be so loving and honest and kind that they would never think of anything like that? *No!* 'We would never steal your secrets; you're so stupid you give them to us. And you are so stupid you buy our servers, so we've got it. We don't have to steal it; we own it! And we own you because we have a great portion of your debt.' So look at what it is.

If someone stands up and says that, 'Oh, you're being negative. You need to speak nicer things. We don't want to offend these people. We don't want to offend the Chinese.' They're only planning to conquer us as much as they can.

We don't want to offend the Russians. 'No, no, no, Putin, please, we beg you, don't take the Ukraine.' He says, 'Thank you, I will.' Someone stands up and says, 'The reason all these things are happening is because we're sinning against God, from the White House and the Congress to every governorship, to every state legislature, to every church, to every synagogue, to every cathedral, to every home, to every person. If you don't repent, God is going to destroy it.' All right, that's Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 26:1: "In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, this word came from the LORD, saying, 'Thus says the LORD, "Stand in the court of the LORD'S house... [he was a priest and he could] ...and speak to all the cities of Judah, which come to worship in the LORD'S house, all the words that I command you to speak to them; do not keep back a word'" (vs 1-2). That's contained in all the rest of the writings of the book of Jeremiah.

Verse 3: "It **may be** that they will hearken... [listen] ...and each man turn from his evil way, that I may repent of the evil which I plan to do to them because of the evil of their doings." That's why these things need to be spoken. Will someone please wake up and listen to God?

Verse 4: "And you shall say to them, 'Thus says the LORD, "If you will not hearken to Me, to walk in My law which I have set before you, To hearken to the words of My servants the prophets whom I have been sending to you again and again, but you have not hearkened; Then I will make this house like Shiloh... [where the tabernacle was originally and He scraped the ground and got rid of it in the days of Eli] ...and will make this city a curse to all the nations of the earth'" (vs 4-6).

Is Jerusalem a curse to all nations on the earth? Have been, from the time of its second destruction, even to now. Yes, look at the fighting, warring, killing, supposedly in the 'Holy Land,' one of the most unholy places in the world.

Verse 7: "So, the priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the house of the LORD." He gave that over and over again. He didn't have the blessing of being able to duplicate it and send it out.

No! And all the children of Judah and the princes and the king came before God at the house of the Lord, at the words of Jeremiah and they were all repenting in sackcloth and ashes and got on their knees and confessed their sins to God, and God held back from destroying Jerusalem. NO! NO! NO! People don't want to do that!

Verse 8: "Now it came to pass when Jeremiah had made an end of speaking all that the LORD had commanded *him* to speak to all the people, the priests and the prophets and all the people took him, saying, '**You shall surely die!**'" *How dare you speak against us this way! Same thing today:*

- How dare you speak against America!
- How dare you speak against the government!
- How dare you speak against the politicians, priests, ministers, pastors!
- You're going to die!

Verse 9: "Why have you prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, "This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be wasted, without inhabitant"?' And all the people were gathered against Jeremiah in the house of the LORD." A near riot right there, right at the house of the Lord. Won't even listen to a prophet of God.

Verse 10: “When the rulers of Judah heard these things, then they came up from the king’s house to the house of the LORD, and sat down in the entrance of the New Gate of the LORD’S house. And the priests and the prophets spoke to the rulers and to all the people, saying, ‘Let a death sentence be for this man, for he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your ears.’ Then Jeremiah spoke to all the rulers and to all the people, saying, ‘The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and against this city all the words that you have heard’” (vs 10-12).

- Are we not to do that today? *Yes, indeed!*
- Doesn’t He say, ‘Cry aloud and spare not’? *Yes, indeed!*

I wish we were in great and wonderful times where we could say all the blessings of God are upon us; God is for us; God is with us. Everything we set our hand to do will be multiplied exceedingly. I would love to say that. But how can you say it *when we are dying a slow extended, terrible death of a nation!* Neither did Jeremiah.

Verse 13: “Therefore, now make your ways and your doings good...” God doesn’t want to destroy America any more than He wanted to destroy Judah and the temple. That’s where God put His name. He gave the plans to David so that Solomon could build the temple. He put His presence in there. He blessed the priests. He blessed the people. Would they listen? *No!*

“...and obey the voice of the LORD your God. And the LORD will repent of the evil that He has pronounced against you.... [Why do you want to die?] ...As for me, behold, I *am* in your hand. Do with me as seems good and right in your eyes. But know for certain that if you put me to death you shall surely bring innocent blood on yourselves, and on this city, and on its inhabitants. For truly the LORD has sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears” (vs 14-15).

He sends His ministers today to do the same thing. That’s what we must be doing now. If we’re all focused in on being positive and being good and nice, *unless you’re preaching repentance, all of those fine, nice words are just hollow and empty and meaningless. Unless there’s repentance, it will never happen!* We’ll also talk about false prophets within the Churches of God as well, because there are some of those. Standing for the Truth today is a very difficult task to do. We must always be vigilant to do it.

Verse 16: “Then the rulers and all the people said to the priests and to the prophets, ‘This man is not worthy to die; for he has spoken to us in the name of the LORD our God.’ Then some of the

elders of the land rose up and spoke to all the assembly of the people, saying” (vs 16-17). Then he said, ‘We heard this prophet in the days of Hezekiah. He spoke against us and we didn’t kill him or put him down.’ So, they let Jeremiah go. Quite a thing!

Jeremiah speaks of the false prophets, Jeremiah 27:9: “Therefore, do not hearken to your prophets, nor to your diviners, nor to your dreamers, nor to your enchanters, nor to your sorcerers, who speak to you, saying, ‘You shall not serve the king of Babylon.’ For they prophesy a lie to you, to remove you far from your land, and that I should drive you out and you should perish” (vs 9-10).

God doesn’t want to do it. God doesn’t want to take us down.

- He didn’t to Israel
- He didn’t to Judah
- He doesn’t to America and Britain and those in Europe

But look at the mess that we have created and the lawlessness that is there. So, we need to bring this kind of message so that at least living in this land we can at least be a beacon of light for whatever it may be and hope that:

- whoever will hear *will hear*
- whoever will forbear *will forbear*
- whoever rebels *will rebel*

—but that *we do not join them in their stupidity and rebellion against God. That we don’t end up being false prophets like those that we have covered today* who say, ‘*Everyone is accepted as they are,*’ *when God says repent!*

Scriptural References:

- 1) Matthew 24:4-5, 10-11, 24
- 2) Mark 1:15
- 3) Romans 1:18-25
- 4) 2-Corinthians 4:1-6
- 5) 2-Corinthians 11:1-8, 12-15
- 6) John 8:23-34, 37-44
- 7) Isaiah 59:1-18
- 8) Isaiah 32:5-8
- 9) Jeremiah 26:1-17
- 10) Jeremiah 27:9-10

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- 1-John 3:4
- Galatians 5
- Revelation 12:9
- Matthew 23

Also referenced:

- Article: [Joel Osteen Rebukes Apostles Paul, Peter, and John](http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/religion/3059879/posts)—United for Awakening, 8/27/13 by Peter Michael Martinez (http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/religion/3059879/posts)
- Book: *Going to Pot* by William J. Bennett and Robert A. White

Copyright 2015—All rights reserved. Except for brief excerpts for review purposes, no part of this publication may be reproduced or used in any form or by any means without the written permission of the copyright owner. This includes electronic and mechanical photocopying or recording, as well as the use of information storage and retrieval systems.