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STRAIGHT TALK

"Be not misled, God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man sows, that also shall he reap." – Galatians 6:7

BAD NEWS CAN BE GOOD

THE PROPHETS

It is depressing to listen to news or read the headlines today. Daily news is full of fears and worries, and constant political bickering between so-called "liberals" and "conservatives" ... neither of them making any sense.

We could sure use some good news for a change couldn't we ... or at least some news that we could understand? Lets see ... the economy is trashed, bank CEOs are getting multi-million-dollar bonuses while we are losing our homes and cars, "terrorists" are everywhere, we must sacrifice our freedoms in order for government to protect us, we are stuck in several wars we can't win or understand, swine flu is going to kill us, those of us who don't work for the government will likely be unemployed soon, if not already. Yeah, hearing this over and over is depressing. Furthermore, we don't know how much of the news is real.

Yep, its bad news all right. But perhaps we need to look at it from another perspective. It's been said that it is darkest just before dawn.

If we think of America's condition as a sickness, we might visualize this nation in pain and discomfort up to the point that her fever breaks giving way to relief and healing. The fever with its pain and delirium purges the sickness. Thus perhaps America is going through a healing crisis.

Israel's true prophets nearly always brought negative messages to the nation. God sent them to warn and to scold Israel, telling of coming or current judgment. *"Your false prophets are not speaking my words."* *"Your nation is going to be invaded and conquered."* *"You have abandoned your God."* etc.

Bad news? Maybe ... in one way. But good in another way. The bad news was that Israel needed chastisement. The good news was that God was giving her the corrective punishment she needed. The spankings often came in the form of national economic problems and/or attacks from other governments.

Thus, while I don't claim to be a prophet, I do wrestle with the same challenge of publishing good news or bad news. And the more I wrestle with this the more I realize that it is indeed a matter of perspective.

We do reap what we sow, and this is good ... for if we are not forced to swallow the fruits of our own works, then the dynamic of God's Law cannot come to bear in our lives. Only by reaping what we've sown can we resolve our problems. This is justice. Without this we lose the ability to learn from our mistakes.

EXAMPLES

Let's cut to the chase. If we look at history's darkest moment perhaps we can make a point. The darkest point of man's history was, without question, the day they murdered God's Son. It was the lowest point in man's history. God sent his Son to redeem and revive Israel ... and they brutally tortured and murdered Him. It was the worst news of all time; the quintessential definition of "bad news."

Israel (not just the Jewish Sanhedrin) shared the guilt:

12. ... you men of Israel, why marvel you at this?

13. *The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his Son Jesus; whom you delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go.*

14. *But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer (Barabas) to be granted to you;*

15. *And (you "men of Israel") killed the Prince of life, whom God has raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.*

Acts 3:12, 15

Denying Jesus is, after all, the most grievous sin a man can commit.

Yet, what was the message Jesus brought them at that time? *"The Good News of The Kingdom of God."* Jesus showed them their sin (bad news) so they could repent and be reborn with new life (good news) .

God's judgment is good. It is not for destruction or harm. It always is for correction and salvation. God does not

destroy us. He saves us ... but He must get our attention in order to help us. Getting the attention of lost people is not easy. Lost people don't know they are lost. They are mentally blind ... just as most Americans today. Only God knows how to get the attention of mentally blind people. He got Israel's attention in the First Century by showing them that they were so lost and depraved that they denied and murdered Jesus – the only One who could help them. The disciples learned this hard truth, and repented. It changed them forever.

The prophets of old faced this problem with the people of Israel who hated them, rejected them, demonized them, and stoned them. But the few who had eyes to see and ears to hear learned the difficult truth and were changed. Thus they were saved through the hearing of the bad news.

While Jesus was gathering his disciples and preparing them for the coming event – the event that was to bring great judgment upon mankind – what was He preaching? Remember?

And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel (good news) of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

Matthew 9:35

Jesus preached the coming judgment with his message of GOOD NEWS! The dark days of judgment were going to produce good results for Israel. This Bible principle deserves our thoughtful consideration.

Punishment produces good things? Yes, this principle is born out in the Book of Hebrews:

6. *For whom the Lord loves he chastens, and scourges every son whom he receives.*
7. *If you endure chastening, God is dealing with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chastens not?*
8. *But if you be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are you bastards, and not sons.*
9. *Furthermore we have had fleshly fathers who corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection the spiritual Father, and live?*
10. *For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own understanding; but He for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.*
11. *Now no chastening for the present seems to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to them who are exercised thereby.*
12. *Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees;*
13. *And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.*

Heb. 12

Ok, now bear with me.

If repentance and a contrite heart are the things that bring God's blessings upon us ... then what we need most is a method to bring us to repentance and contrition. Right?

Now, in Paul's case it required that he be knocked to the ground and blinded by a light from heaven (Acts 9:4). In the case of the Prodigal Son he had to suffer shame, loneliness, and eat with hogs for a while (Lk 15:11-24). In the case of Nebuchadnezzar he had to suffer madness, live with the beasts of the field, and eat grass (Dan. 4:33). In the case of Job he had to lose everything he valued before he was ready to repent (Job 42:6).

So, it seems there is a logical pattern here. God's judgment is corrective in nature. When man needs correction the best and most positive thing for him is to receive judgment and correction.

Thus, we can conclude that:

1. Bad news (punishment) can be good (corrective).
2. The methods needed to get us to repentance can be pretty severe.

REPEATING OF HISTORY

Today we are witnessing a great judgment and punishment in this nation. In part, we see it as an economic crash. And, as usual, most people are going into it blind and scared. They don't know what is causing it. They don't know why it is happening. They don't know what to do about it. People who are confused and scared are easily misled by false prophets (politicians and their hired economists).

Therefore, let us look at our judgment from the right perspective so that we may learn, strengthen our faith, and receive a blessing.

Crashes happen frequently. The crash we are seeing today is a little bigger than most, but it is caused by the same things ... and by the same institutions. So why do people remain confused generation after generation, falling for the same old con games and con artists?

Election after election after election, every four years, people are given an opportunity to learn how politics work. But most Americans cannot remember four years ... so they are perfect cattle to be used, sold, and devoured. Now Americans are looking forward to the next election so they can "fix" the problems by electing the "right" rulers. Here we go again, the cursed four year cycle created by men.

The average man with an average life span has at least 15 chances to learn how elections work. He has even more chances to learn how newspapers and TV news programs work.

Americans are repeatedly afforded the opportunity to learn important truths. Every four years Americans are allowed to hear presidential candidates lie to get elected, then do the opposite after the election. We all have a front-row seat in the school of political science. We get to watch politicians promise to get America out of war, and then after they are elected they enlarge the wars, raise taxes, hire more police and create more debt. We can learn truth from this ... if our eyes are open. Yet most Americans continue to play the cursed game. They continue to play the game that empowers and endorses US politicians and bankers to kill,

rape, torture, destroy ... and prosper. Why do Americans continue to endorse these devils? They do it because they prefer to hear lies. They prefer to NOT LEARN.

Every week churchgoers are afforded the opportunity to learn truth. They go to churches and hear nonsense and lies from the pulpits. They could learn from this ... if their eyes were open. Yet most of them continue to play the game of church and ignore the obvious. They continue playing the game that enables the liars in the pulpits to continue deceiving people and robbing them of their sanity. Why do they do it? They do it because they prefer to NOT LEARN.

Every few decades the American people are afforded the opportunity to learn what causes economic crashes. They live through the years that build up to the crashes. They get to observe the rhetoric and lies of the economists and politicians that lead to the crashes, and then the blaming of the wrong people for the cause of the crashes. They get to ride the ups and downs and experience the consequences of what the politicians and bankers are doing ... which should spur them toward investigation and learning. Each generation of Americans gets the opportunity to experience, first hand, one or more banker-induced crashes. It goes on generation after generation, and we all have the opportunity to learn from it. But, alas, our people prefer to NOT LEARN.

20. *Wisdom cries abroad; she utters her voice in the streets:*
21. *She cries in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she utters her words, saying,*
22. *How long, you simple ones, will you love foolishness? and the scorers delight in their scorning? and fools hate knowledge?*
23. *Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit to you, I will make known my words to you.*
24. *Because I have called, and you refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;*
25. *But you have set at nought all my counsel, and would accept none of my reproof:*
26. *I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear comes;*
27. *When your fear comes as desolation, and your destruction comes as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish comes upon you.*
28. *Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:*
29. *For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD:*
30. *They would accept none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.*
31. *Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.*
32. *For the turning away of the foolish shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them.*
33. *But whoso hearkens to me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.*

Proverbs 1

Learning builds faith and invigorates the mind. Learning dispels confusion and fear. But learning requires a will to learn. It is more than mere gathering of data. LEARNING IS REJECTION OF UNTRUTHS; rejection of lies ... and liars.

"Those who cannot learn from history are doomed to repeat it."

Here's a list of bank panics and crashes in America's history: The Panic of 1819; The Panic of 1837; The Panic of 1857; Black Friday September 24, 1869; The Depression of 1873; The Panic of 1884; The Panic of 1896; The Panic of 1901; The Panic of 1907; The Crash of 1929 and the Great Depression; The Recession of 1937; The Silver Crash of 1980; Black Monday October 19, 1987; Friday the 13th Mini Crash October 13, 1989; Black Wednesday 1992; The Dot Com Bubble Burst, March 2000; The Bank Bailout Bubble Crash started in 2007 and continues today. At least six of these events happened during the lifetime of most who will read this. Should we have learned from these?

Panics and crashes are started by criminal bankers, and they are ended by the same. Without criminal bankers we'd have neither panics nor crashes. America's central banks, from Hamilton's to Wilson's, have created bubbles, panics and busts. They plan them and execute them. Bankers own America and most the world. They acquired their power through unlawful wars and a long series of bank busts and crashes.

When will people open their eyes? That's the question. You can be sure that God, through his corrective judgment and punishment, is giving us plenty of incentive to wake up and see the obvious.

PAUL CRAIG ROBERTS

Paul Craig Roberts was Assistant Secretary of the Treasury in the Reagan administration. He's been there and rubbed elbows with the big crooks in government. He understands what they are doing: they do things that most Americans, frankly, couldn't begin to imagine ... unthinkable, wicked things that happen at a level beyond the purview of the common man.

What's more, Roberts is not afraid to tell the truth. He is a rare breed: an ex-politician who is not bought off or scared off. You can find his articles on the internet.

Fear Rules

by PAUL CRAIG ROBERTS

The power of irrational fear in the US is extraordinary. It ranks up there with the Israel Lobby, the military/security complex, and the financial gangsters. Indeed, fear might be the most powerful force in America.

Americans are at ease with their country's aggression against Afghanistan, Iraq, and Pakistan, which has resulted in a million dead Muslim civilians and several million refu-

gees, because the US government has filled Americans with fear of terrorists. *"We have to kill them over there before they come over here."*

Fear of American citizens is prompting the US government to build concentration camps, apparently all over the country. According to news reports, a \$385 million US government contract was given by the Bush/Cheney Regime to Cheney's company, Halliburton, to build "detention centers" in the US. The corporate media never explained for whom the detention centers are intended.

Most Americans dismiss such reports. *"It can't happen here."* However, In northeastern Florida not far from Tallahassee, I have seen what might be one of these camps. There is a building inside a huge open area fenced with razor wire. There is no one there and no signs. The facility appears new and unused and does not look like an abandoned prisoner work camp.

What is it for?

Who spent all that money ... for what?

There are Americans who are so terrified of their lives being taken by terrorists that they are hoping the US government will use nuclear weapons to destroy "the Muslim enemy." The justifications concocted for the use of nuclear bombs against Japanese civilian populations had their effect. There are millions of Americans who wish "their" government would kill everyone that "their" government has demonized.

When I tell these people that they will die of old age without ever seeing a terrorist, they think I am insane. Don't I know that terrorists are everywhere in America? That's why we have airport security and homeland security. That's why the government is justified in breaking the law to spy on citizens without warrants. That's why the government is justified to torture people in violation of US law and the Geneva Conventions. If we don't torture them, American cities will go up in mushroom clouds. Dick Cheney has told us so.

Terrorists are everywhere. *"They hate us for our freedom and democracy."* When I tell America's alarmed citizens that the US has as many stolen elections as any country and that our civil liberties have been eroded by "the war on terror" they lump me into the terrorist category. They label factual truth as anti-Americanism.

The same mentality prevails with regard to domestic crime. Most Americans, including, unfortunately, juries, assume that if the police make a case against a person and a prosecutor prosecutes it, the defendant is guilty. Most Americans are incapable of believing that police or a prosecutor would frame an innocent person for career or bureaucratic reasons or out of pure meanness.

Yet, it happens all the time. Indeed, it is routine.

Frame-ups are so routine that 96 per cent of the criminally accused will not risk a "jury of their peers," preferring to negotiate a plea bargain agreement with the prosecutor. The jury of their peers are a brainwashed lot, fearful of crime, which they have never experienced but hear about all the time. Criminals are everywhere, doing their evil deeds.

The US has a much higher percentage of its population in prison than "authoritarian" countries, such as China, a one-party state. An intelligent population might wonder how a "freedom and democracy" country could have incarceration rates far higher than a dictatorship, but Americans fail this test. The more people that are put in prison, the safer Americans feel.

Lawrence Stratton and I describe frame-up techniques in *The Tyranny of Good Intentions*. Police and prosecutors even frame the guilty, as it is easier than convicting them on the evidence.

One case that has been before us for years, but is resolutely neglected by the corporate media, whose function is to scare the people, is that of Troy Davis.

Troy Davis was convicted of killing a police officer. The only evidence connecting him to the crime is the testimony of "witnesses," the vast majority of whom have withdrawn their testimony. The witnesses say they testified falsely against Troy Davis because of police intimidation and coercion.

One would think that this would lead to a new hearing and trial. But not in America. The Republican judicial nazis have created the concept of "finality." Even if the evidence shows that a wrongfully convicted person is innocent, finality requires that we execute him. If the convicted person is executed, we can assume he was guilty, because America has a pure justice system and never punishes the innocent. Everyone in prison and everyone executed is guilty. Otherwise they wouldn't be in prison or executed.

It is all very simple if you are an American. America is pure, but other countries, except for our allies, are barbaric.

The same goes for our wars. Everyone we kill, whether they are passengers on Serbian commuter trains or attending weddings, funerals, or children playing soccer in Iraq, is a terrorist, or we would not have killed them. So was the little girl who was raped by our terrorist-fighting troops and then murdered, brutally, along with her family.

America only kills terrorists. If we kill you, you are a terrorist.

Americans are the salt of the earth. They never do any wrong. Only those other people do. Not the Israelis, of course.

And police, prosecutors, and juries never make mistakes. Everyone accused is guilty.

Fear has made every American a suspect, eroded our rights, and compromised our humanity.

WE REAP WHAT WE SOW

America has *"sown the wind,"* and now she is *"reaping the tempest"* (Isaiah 8:7). Look to Christ! Not to government! **"No government but Christ's Reign"** should be our rallying cry. Get this one thing straight and the other things will begin falling into place.

Pray for repentance in America!

