

'Outrageous': California School District Blocks Christian Club at Elementary School

Throughout history, Christians have found themselves under the shadow of persecution. The age-old question, "Are Christians the troubles of society?" has resurfaced in Western society and is reminiscent of King Ahab's inquiry to the prophet Elijah, "Is this you, you troubler of Israel?" (1 Kings 18:17). Today, many in societies around the globe label Christians as the new "troubles" obstructing the perceived progress championed by certain groups.

A Historical Perspective

Christianity's history is marked by moments of persecution, even driving the earliest Christian Separatists and Puritans to seek refuge in the New World to escape religious oppression. In America, a nation historically grounded in Judeo-Christian values, Christians have long felt secure. However, the landscape has shifted. Our society is witnessing the unsettling phenomenon of calling good evil and evil good, as Isaiah 5:20 forewarned.

Believers may find themselves in a situation reminiscent of the early days of the Roman Empire, shortly after the formation of the Christian church. During that era, new Christians bore the brunt of blame for numerous societal problems. Nero infamously accused Christians of setting fire to Rome, leading to widespread persecution. Christians were subjected to horrific trials, including facing lions in the arena and being thrust into gladiatorial combat. They were scapegoated for societal ills and often excluded from economic

activities, a pattern that seems to be emerging in our modern society. This deep-seated animosity toward Christ and His followers is not a novel phenomenon; it mirrors the historical disdain of pagans for the Lord and His representatives.

Notably, even non-Christians have acknowledged the positive influence of Christianity on society. Jewish commentators Dennis Prager and Ben Shapiro has lauded Christianity's role in providing moral and legal foundations that guide our civilization. They warn that dismantling these Judeo-Christian foundations may lead to societal chaos. The erosion of these principles is not limited to specific regions but is spreading across the world.

A Troubling Trend: Disassociation from Christian Values

Recent events highlight the growing tension between Christianity and certain sectors of society. As Charisma News reported, in Phoenix, Arizona, the Washington Elementary School District, by a board vote, severed ties with Arizona Christian University, citing the university's Christian beliefs as problematic. This action shines a spotlight on resistance to Christian influence and values.

Similar incidents are not isolated to Phoenix. A Los Angeles community expressed outrage when a church, which had rented space in a school facility for worship services during non-school hours, invited a speaker who shared her journey of leaving the LGBTQ lifestyle. The backlash led to the school disallowing any group from meeting on their premises, despite clear legal precedents that should allow religious organizations access.

The decline in the recognition of Judeo-Christian heritage can be traced back to a pivotal Supreme Court decision in 1980. In *Stone v. Graham*, the Court struck down a Kentucky law mandating the display of the Ten Commandments in public school classrooms. This decision, in essence, removed a moral compass

from schools out of fear that children might be influenced by the principles within.

Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!

Challenges and Misconceptions

Perceptions of Christianity are increasingly marred by misconceptions. In Queensland, Australia, the deputy police commissioner linked Christian Premillennialism to terrorism, a baseless accusation that fails to understand the Christian belief in a peaceful return of Jesus Christ.

Christianity often finds itself tied to extremism in today's climate. Australia's strict gun control laws have left society vulnerable to government overreach, highlighting the consequences of limiting individual freedoms.

This growing disdain for Christianity aligns with John 3:19, which states that people prefer darkness over light when their deeds are evil. Society's moral compass has shifted, leading to the labeling of good as evil and vice versa.

A Time of Tribulation

In this increasingly hostile world, it is vital for Christians to remain steadfast in their faith. Trust in Jesus Christ, who has conquered the world, and do not be troubled. Continue to be salt and light in a darkening world.

As challenging as the present may be, it pales in comparison to the world that will emerge after the Rapture, when the restraining influence of the Church is removed. At that time, those who have not placed their faith in Christ will face unparalleled hostility.

For Christians who advocate for their faith, involvement in politics becomes crucial. Engaging in the political realm

ensures that our nation is led by individuals who adhere to Christian principles and the Word of God.

A Message of Hope

While society may be shifting, Christians are the preservers of moral integrity. By the power of the Holy Spirit, they hold back the tide of evil. However, a day will come when the Church is taken home in the rapture, and darkness will engulf the world. In a society where Christianity is increasingly viewed as “troublesome,” faith remains the anchor in an uncertain world. Yet the faithful have nothing to fear from the enemies schemes against them, for “You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world: (1 John 4:4).

Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!

James Lasher is Staff Writer for Charisma Media.

Understanding Generational Curses, Part 2: Debunking Common Myths

The rapid proliferation of artificial intelligence has stirred profound contemplation among Christians, prompting questions about the moral and ethical ramifications of this ever-expanding technology.

In the ever-evolving landscape of AI, the future remains uncertain, characterized by the promise of remarkable

technological advancements juxtaposed with fears of job displacement and ethical dilemmas.

Dr. Albert Mohler, Jr., president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, highlighted the dynamic nature of AI, where new moral debates overlap with technological evolution. Speaking on CBN's "The 700 Club," he emphasized the urgency of this issue, saying, "This is a truly frightening prospect." Dr. Mohler urged fellow Christians to closely scrutinize the claim that AI could potentially develop a form of consciousness.

He underscored the fundamental distinction between humans and machines, stating, "There is no such thing as a feeling machine. There may be a machine that mimics feeling; we are not merely feeling machines. We're not merely machines that mimic feeling; we're made in God's image. And so there has to be a distinction there." Dr. Mohler emphasized the responsibility of Christians to safeguard human dignity, particularly when the world's ability to advocate for it appears to be waning.

Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!

Author Jeff Kinley echoed these concerns, expressing apprehension about AI potentially diminishing human purpose and value. He noted the societal trend of replacing human capabilities with artificial counterparts, raising concerns about the marginalization of humanity. Kinley also pointed out the dangers of unrestrained surveillance and the potential for hacking into the human brain.

Yet, Kinley identified censorship and informational control as more immediate threats, driven by the inherent biases and deceptive capacities of AI. He warned of the tendency to unquestioningly trust AI-generated narratives, potentially

undermining human discernment.

Christian apologist Alex McFarland stressed that technology itself is amoral; its moral standing depends on how it is wielded. McFarland emphasized the importance of considering who is programming AI systems and how they are used, particularly highlighting the ethical concerns associated with much of the code and algorithms having originated in Silicon Valley.

However, amidst the concerns, there are also opportunities for positive impact. Some experts are leveraging AI to enhance human health and well-being, while Christian groups are employing it to translate the Bible into previously inaccessible languages.

Author Johnnie Moore urged a collective pause for reflection and moral leadership, emphasizing that the decisions made today will shape the lives of future generations. He called for a careful examination of the ethical dimensions of AI, asserting that the United States should not only lead in technology but also lead with its deeply held values.

In navigating the rise of AI, Christians are confronted with a complex technological, moral and spiritual landscape, demanding discernment and a commitment to the Good News of the gospel of Jesus as they grapple with another transformative technology.

Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!

James Lasher is Staff Writer for Charisma Media.

Jesus' Prophetic Words: Are These Earthquakes, Storms and Fires More Signs of the End Times?

Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin has granted an "absolute pardon" to Scott Smith, a father who was arrested at a Loudoun County School Board meeting in June 2021. The arrest followed a series of events involving the alleged rape of Smith's daughter by another student, which ignited a firestorm of controversy surrounding parental rights and school policies.

Smith's pardon came after he was charged with obstruction of justice and disorderly conduct during the school board meeting, which he attended to voice concerns about his daughter's situation. The incident took place amid discussions about a policy allowing transgender students to use restrooms of their choice.

The pardon, issued Sunday, highlights the circumstances leading to Smith's arrest. It states that a community member threatened to spread false and malicious information about Smith's business, aiming to damage his reputation during the meeting. An ensuing verbal confrontation resulted in Smith's charges, which eventually led to his conviction in a general district court.

However, an appeals court later disqualified the prosecutor due to concerns about the integrity of the prosecution. The governor's pardon emphasizes Smith's factual innocence and false accusations of "domestic terrorism" and "hate crimes" that tarnished his reputation while advocating for his daughter, a victim of sexual assault.

Smith's story garnered nationwide attention and galvanized parents who were concerned about school safety and ideological agendas. Governor Youngkin's campaign promise to uphold parental rights played a significant role in his election to office.

Smith expressed gratitude for the pardon, emphasizing the toll the legal saga took on him, both financially and emotionally. He explained that he sought an "off-ramp" from the charges, given his skepticism about receiving a fair trial in today's justice system.

While Smith's case garnered attention, it also raised questions about the handling of similar incidents within the school system. Loudoun County Public Schools spokesman Wayde Byard faced perjury charges but was acquitted. Byard had falsely blamed Smith for police presence on the day of the rape, even as the perpetrator remained at large.

Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!

Smith's daughter had intended to address the school board about her assault during the June 2021 meeting, but the situation escalated when a confrontation occurred between Smith and a community member named Jackie Schworm. This incident led to Smith's arrest.

Smith lamented that he had become a symbol in the media's portrayal of conservative parents as disruptors of school board meetings. He asserted that the legal process had already inflicted significant damage on him and his family.

In response to his ordeal, Smith plans to take legal action against the prosecutor for misconduct and possibly the National School Boards Association. Governor Youngkin's pardon aligns with his commitment to parental rights, a theme he has consistently emphasized since taking office. He will further

address these concerns during a “Parents Matter” conversation in Loudoun County, emphasizing the importance of parental involvement in education.

This style of leadership is a fresh, and much needed, change of direction in America.

The Bible says in Proverbs 29:2 that, “When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked rule, the people mourn.” All it takes to turn this declining situation around is leadership that stands firmly on godly principles and morality to effect significant change. Now, parents across the state are rejoicing and taking back control over their children from school boards and superintendents who seek to push radical, ungodly ideologies onto the younger generations.

The words spoken in James 2:14-17 are just as true today as they were when they were written, stating: “What does it profit, my brothers, if a man says he has faith but has no works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and lacking daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,’ and yet you give them nothing that the body needs, what does it profit? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.”

If the Christian community truly wants to see an America willingly turn back toward the Lord, it will take action on their part.

Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!

James Lasher is Staff Writer for Charisma Media.

Prophetic Revelation: Russian Spacecraft Crash Fulfills Detailed Prophecy

In a stunning geological discovery, a colossal lithium deposit has emerged along the Nevada-Oregon border, potentially ranking among the world's largest. While this discovery holds immense implications for the electric vehicle (EV) industry, it also echoes the biblical prophecies of the end times and the events that must precede the Tribulation.

A coalition of volcanologists and geologists from Lithium Americas Corporation, GNS Science and Oregon State University unveiled their findings in a groundbreaking paper published in *Science Advances* on August 31. This remarkable deposit lies nestled within the McDermitt Caldera, spanning approximately 28 miles long and 22 miles in wide. Initial estimates suggest that this lithium mother lode could harbor an astonishing 20 to 40 million metric tons, surpassing even the notable reserves in Chile and Australia.

The revelation has ignited discussions among experts and scholars, drawing intriguing parallels to biblical prophecies. Belgian geologist Anouk Borst remarked that this discovery could "change the dynamics of lithium globally, in terms of price, security of supply and geopolitics." This profound shift resonates with the prophetic narratives of economic upheaval and global realignments foretold in the Bible.

Geopolitical strategist Peter Zeihan, however, offers a cautious perspective. While acknowledging the promise of this geological treasure trove, Zeihan underlines the necessity for comprehensive prospecting and infrastructure development before altering long-term strategies. He emphasizes the importance of refining lithium ore into concentrate, a process

integral to the production of lithium metal and batteries.

These developments emerge at a crucial juncture for the EV industry, as automakers grapple with potential lithium shortages that could hinder their plans to build EV sales into the tens of millions annually. The fierce competition for lithium resources has also ignited geopolitical tensions, particularly with China, and amplified concerns about the environmental toll of extraction.

Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!

Furthermore, the surging demand for electric SUVs, sports cars and sedans threatens to outstrip the available supply, as each battery necessitates roughly 17 pounds of lithium in addition to cobalt, nickel and other essential metals.

As the world witnesses the race for these critical resources, it's impossible to ignore the biblical undercurrents that echo the growing turbulence of our times. The Bible forewarns of global shifts and resource scarcity as part of the prelude to the Tribulation.

Jesus warned that "You will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled. For all these things must happen, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom..." in Matthew 24:6-7. With this massive discovery of a much-desired resource used in developing technologies, the strained geopolitical atmosphere becomes even more precarious.

Jesus continued saying, "All these are the beginning of sorrows."

Rare and desirable resources have long been the cause of wars between nations. For decades, wars were fought over minerals such as salt, and the resources spent during the 1800s led to

the global realignment of the 1900s and the world wars. All of these brought with them immense spiritual ramifications, revivals and apostasies that the world can look back on and see today.

As experts in the secular world warn about the possible shifts in the physical realm for which this discovery could be the catalyst, so too do the words of Jesus signify the spiritual ramifications that come with events that cause global shaking.

Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!

James Lasher is Staff Writer for Charisma Media.

Understanding Generational Curses, Part 1: Debunking Common Myths

In a testament to unwavering faith amidst adversity, a Pakistani pastor was shot and injured by hardline Muslims in Jaranwala, Pakistan. The incident occurred just a week after Islamist slogans were scrawled on the walls of his church. The resilient pastor, Rev. Eleazar Sidhu, serves as the spiritual leader of a Presbyterian congregation in Kukranwala village. His ordeal serves as a poignant reminder of the enduring faith required to withstand persecution in the name of Jesus.

As Pastor Sidhu and his assistant were returning home after visiting church members, two bearded men intercepted their motorcycle near the Khanuwana bus stop. The assailants demanded that Pastor Sidhu recite the Islamic creed. However,

the pastor courageously refused and instead began reciting the Apostles' Creed. In response, one of the attackers fired a gunshot, wounding Pastor Sidhu in the upper part of his chest.

The attackers fled the scene, leaving behind a wounded but resolute pastor. His refusal to renounce his faith, even in the face of danger, exemplifies the words of Jesus in Matthew 10:32-33: "Whoever will confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever will deny Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father who is in heaven."

Prior to the violent attack, unknown individuals had defaced the walls of Pastor Sidhu's church with Islamist slogans, including phrases like "Muhammad is Allah's last prophet" and "Here I am at your service, O Messenger of Allah." Such acts of vandalism are not isolated incidents; they reflect the ongoing persecution faced by Christian communities in Pakistan.

Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!

Pastor Sidhu had taken swift action to report the defacement of his church's walls to the authorities, leading to their immediate whitewashing. However, this courageous act resulted in threats from unidentified individuals, who ominously warned him that he would be "deleted from the world" for opposing their actions.

The same individuals who had threatened Pastor Sidhu were among those who later carried out the attack on him. His experience mirrors the harsh realities faced by many Christians in Pakistan, where violence against religious minorities remains a pressing concern.

In the face of such adversity, it is essential for Christians to find solace in their faith and the promises of God. Romans

8:35-37 offers reassurance: "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: 'For Your sake, we are killed all day long; we are counted as sheep for the slaughter.' Yet in all these things, we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."

The Christian community, both in Pakistan and around the world, stands in solidarity with Pastor Sidhu and others who endure persecution for their faith. It is a reminder that, even in the face of adversity, the Gospel message continues to shine brightly. As efforts are made to seek justice and protection for persecuted Christians, it is also a time for believers to draw closer to God, strengthen their resolve and find inspiration in the enduring faith of individuals like Pastor Eleazar Sidhu.

Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!

James Lasher is Staff Writer for Charisma Media.