

House Select Panel on Infant Lives Recommends Criminal Charges

If the election of Donald Trump as the 45th President of the United States wasn't bad enough news for Planned Parenthood, the latest news from U.S. Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) should terrify the abortionists.

The House of Representatives voted 234-181—mainly along party lines—to continue Blackburn's House Select Panel on Infant Lives until it had completed its mission: to fully investigate potential criminal activity by Planned Parenthood, other abortionists and affiliated organizations. The congresswoman added to the bad news with the following statement after the successful vote:

Our panel was tasked with investigating areas that, prior to the revelations of undercover journalists, received too little attention. For most of us, it is nothing short of an outrage that Planned Parenthood and other abortion clinics supplement their budgets by selling human fetal tissue from aborted babies. The House charged members of this panel with investigating fetal tissue trafficking, second- and third-trimester abortion practices, the standard of care for infants who survive abortions and the role played by our taxpayer dollars in this sector of society. Over the last year, we have held hearings that explored the bioethics surrounding fetal tissue use and that revealed the sobering reality of how some bad actors seek to profit from the sale of fetal tissue in violation of federal law.

The work of our panel is specifically focused on protecting the integrity of research, scientific advancements and voluntary organ donation in America. Evidence we have

uncovered reveals that the unethical and potentially unlawful practices of some bad actors may be putting important research at risk. Considering all that our Panel has identified, despite having barely a year to conduct this investigation, it is now up to us to build on this work, to hold our government accountable and to stop these affronts to human dignity.

Additionally, the panel announced it has recommended criminal investigation of the Houston-based Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast for violating both state and federal laws. The referral was directed to Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, who has not yet issued a statement regarding the referral.

Paxton is likely to aggressively pursue any evidence that has been presented to him.

David Daleiden, founder of the Center for Medical Progress, which produced the undercover investigative videos that led to the panel's creation, issued the following statement upon learning of the criminal referral:

The Select Panel is the only official, comprehensive, nationwide investigation of Planned Parenthood's harvesting and sale of aborted fetal organs, and their findings confirm the criminal activity at Planned Parenthood that CMP's videos documented and show that the wrongdoing goes even deeper than anyone first suspected. The panel has also criminally referred Planned Parenthood's closest business partners in the sale of aborted baby parts to various state and local law enforcement. Law enforcement and elected representatives at all levels must now act quickly to bring Planned Parenthood to justice under the law and prevent any more taxpayer subsidies from flowing to Planned Parenthood's barbaric criminal enterprise.

Troy Newman, President of Operation Rescue, responded:

Rep. Marsha Blackburn has done an outstanding job chairing

the Select Investigative Panel in the midst of vicious opposition from those involved with the abortion cartel. The Select Panel's investigation has been worth every dime of money it has spent pursuing the truth. It has caused the break-up of several illegal aborted baby tissue trafficking schemes and launched investigations around the country.

We very much appreciate their work and continue to look forward to the final results of this investigation that is sure to provide even more criminal referrals for prosecution before its work concludes at the end of the year.

Additionally, Family Research Council President Tony Perkins responded:

The panel's recommendation that Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast be criminally prosecuted is the appropriate next step in bringing justice to bear on a group that clearly sees itself as above the law.

With criminal prosecution a growing possibility, the new Congress should once again use the reconciliation process to redirect taxpayer dollars away from Planned Parenthood.

Last year, Congress blazed a trail in preparation for a president who understands the value of every person, born and unborn. On Election Day, that's exactly what voters delivered. On both the federal and state level, voters empowered the pro-life party to bring an end to the forced partnership between taxpayers and Planned Parenthood.

I thank U.S. Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) and the committee members for their investigative work.

And Kristan Hawkins, president of Students for Life of America, said:

The Select Panel deserves enormous credit for their work building on the Center for Medical Progress videos and

exposing the network of criminal activity that Planned Parenthood and their allies in the abortion industry have gotten away with for far too long.

It's past time that the abortion giant not only be stripped of federal funding but be criminally charged and held accountable for breaking the law and selling out women—and the body parts of their aborted children—for profit. It is our hope law enforcement acts swiftly and brings justice to Planned Parenthood. {eoa}

The United Nations General Assembly Passes 6 Outrageous Anti-Israel Resolutions

Last Wednesday, the U.N. General Assembly overwhelmingly voted to adopt 6 outrageous anti-Israel resolutions.

These resolutions address a wide variety of issues including “a two-state solution,” the status of the Golan Heights and a “lasting solution to the question of the City of Jerusalem.”

Unlike U.N. Security Council resolutions, these U.N. General Assembly resolutions are not considered to be legally binding upon the parties, but they do show that virtually the entire planet is in favor of dividing the land of Israel and the city of Jerusalem.

In addition, even though the U.S. voted against each of these resolutions, there is still a tremendous amount of buzz that the Obama administration may decide to go along with a UN

Security Council resolution that would set the parameters for a “two-state solution” before the end of Barack Obama’s term comes on January 20th.

I have not seen a single mainstream news article about these U.N. General Assembly resolutions that were just passed. The only way that I learned about them is because someone sent me a link to an announcement on the official U.N. website. In this article I want to share with you some extended excerpts from that announcement so you can see for yourself exactly how the U.N. feels about Israel.

The first resolution that was adopted calls for an “intensification of efforts” to bring about “a final peace settlement” between the Israelis and the Palestinians. Of course any “final peace settlement” would mean a “two-state solution” that permanently divides the land of Israel into two separate nations. A total of 153 countries voted in favor of this resolution, but fortunately the United States was one of the seven nations that voted against it:

The assembly adopted a resolution on the peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine (document A/71/) by a recorded vote of 153 in favor to 7 against (Canada, Federated States of Micronesia, Israel, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, United States), with 7 abstentions (Australia, Cameroon, Honduras, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Tonga, Vanuatu). By the terms of the resolution, the assembly called for the intensification of efforts by the parties, including through negotiations, with the support of the international community, towards the conclusion of a final peace settlement.

The next resolution that was adopted addressed the status of Jerusalem. The resolution refers to Israel as “the occupying power,” and it calls for the city to be permanently divided between the Israelis and the Palestinians. Once again, the vote in favor of this resolution was incredibly lopsided.

The assembly also adopted a resolution on Jerusalem (document A/71/) by a recorded vote of 149 in favor to 7 against (Canada, Federated States of Micronesia, Israel, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, United States), with 8 abstentions (Australia, Cameroon, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Vanuatu). By its terms, the assembly reiterated its determination that any actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the Holy City of Jerusalem were illegal and therefore null and void and had no validity whatsoever, and called upon Israel to immediately cease all such illegal and unilateral measures. The assembly also stressed that a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the question of the City of Jerusalem should take into account the legitimate concerns of both the Palestinian and Israeli sides.

Subsequently, the U.N. General Assembly also passed a resolution that calls for Israel to withdraw from the Golan Heights. Sadly, the vote in favor of this resolution was also overwhelming.

By the terms of a resolution on the Syrian Golan (document A/71/L.8), the assembly demanded that Israel withdraw from all the occupied territory to the line of June 4, 1967 and called on all parties concerned to exert the necessary efforts to ensure the resumption of the peace process. That resolution received 103 in favor to 6 against (Canada, Federated States of Micronesia, Israel, Marshall Islands, Palau, United States), with 56 abstentions.

The General Assembly also passed three other anti-Israel resolutions last Wednesday, but none of them were nearly as important as the first three I described. But just as with the other resolutions, the votes were not even close...

In adopting a resolution on the Special Information Programme on the Question of Palestine of the Department of Public

Information of the Secretariat (document A/71/), the assembly renewed the department's mandate. It also requested the department to disseminate information on all activities relating to the question of Palestine and peace efforts and to organize and promote fact-finding news missions for journalists to the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including East Jerusalem, and Israel. That text garnered 153 votes in favor to 7 against (Australia, Canada, Federated States of Micronesia, Israel, Marshall Islands, Palau, United States), with 7 abstentions (Cameroon, Honduras, Nauru, Paraguay, Togo, Tonga, Vanuatu).

The assembly also adopted a resolution on the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (A/71/), as orally revised, by a recorded vote of 100 in favor to 9 against (Australia, Canada, Federated States of Micronesia, Guatemala, Israel, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, United States), with 55 abstentions, and a resolution on the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat (document A/71/), with 98 in favor to 9 against (Australia, Canada, Federated States of Micronesia, Guatemala, Israel, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, United States), with 57 abstentions.

Needless to say, the Palestinians were absolutely thrilled by the outcome of these votes.

In fact, the Palestinian representative at the United States boldly declared that these resolutions represent “a clear reaffirmation of the international community's consensus on the two-State solution”.

And it is true—virtually the entire planet wants to see the land of Israel and the city of Jerusalem permanently divided.

The only thing that has been preventing that from happening has been the U.S. veto power on the U.N. Security Council. Unlike General Assembly resolutions, U.N. Security Council

resolutions are considered to be legally binding on the parties. France was ready to introduce a Security Council resolution last September that would have officially divided the land of Israel and the city of Jerusalem, but the Obama administration stopped it. I have spoken before about how it appears a pause button was hit at that point, but now there is a lot of speculation that Barack Obama may reverse course and decide to support such a resolution at the Security Council before his term ends on January 20.

If Barack Obama betrays Israel at the United Nations between now and January 20t it will be one of the most prophetically significant events that we have ever seen, and the consequences for this nation (and for the rest of the world) will be severe.

As you can see from the U.N. General Assembly resolutions discussed above, there is a global consensus that the land of Israel should be divided, and the only one standing in the way right now is Barack Obama.

Let us hope he doesn't decide to do something extremely foolish before handing over the reigns to Donald Trump in late January. {eoa}

The Gift Jesus Wants From You This Christmas

The songs of Christmas pronounce the very meaning, the genuine heart and the vivid story of this holy season. The carols that have grown so vibrant throughout the decades embrace the heartfelt message of Christmas in every stanza—in every melody—and in every word.

More than the food of holiday parties, the songs of this season fill all the ravenous places in humanity.

More than the lights on every home on every street, the hymns of Christmas light up the darkness with His presence.

More than the mountain of gifts under the family Christmas tree, the joyful and hopeful anthems of Advent give generously to a world awash with expectation.

“A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices!”

Into our weariness came a Savior. The tired travelers of life are now rejoicing because of hope. The weary ones, the discouraged ones and the empty ones are joining the chorus of the angels because of the song that only hope sings. Do you hear the song of hope? Is hope singing in your world today?

“Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy has walked where angels trod?/When you kiss your little Baby you kissed the face of God?”

Mary—the virgin who was no more than a girl herself—kissed the face of God. Oh! To be there that night when the angels sang and the shepherds danced. Oh! To watch this young mother fall in love with heaven’s darling.

“Hallelujah! Oh, how the angels sang! Hallelujah! How it rang!/And the sky was bright with a holy light! ‘Twas the birthday of a King!”

His birthday was a night when the darkness of a world in pain exploded with rare and glorious colors. The night Jesus was born was a night when the voices of an angelic choir roared in victory. That night!

“Oh come to my heart, Lord Jesus, there is room in my heart for Thee.”

I am my own innkeeper, and I must decide if there is room for

Him or not. Will I cast away other interests and distractions in order to make a place in my heart for Him? Or does my heart embarrassingly declare, "No Vacancy"?

And we dare not overlook this triumphant theological treatise that fills the canyons of our frightened world with joy explosive:

"Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of Righteousness!/Light and life to all He brings, Risen with healing in His wings./Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die;/Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth;/Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Jesus, the Son of the Most High God, left the glory of Heaven so that you and I would not have to experience the pains of death. He was born so we could be born again. No wonder the angels sang.

My heart joins in the Christmas anthem that resounds through eternity. I can't stop singing the melodies, the lyrics and the hymns that declare Christmas.

One of the greatest miracles of Christmas is that the entire world joins in the proclamation! Christmas has a singular and dynamic song that cannot be stilled and will not be silent. Christmas awakens each one of our hearts to hope ... to joy ... and to the light of the world.

Don't let the pain of the past year silence your song or stifle your joy. The song of Christmas is a song that resounds over the mountains and the valleys of life. The anthem of this season echoes triumphantly over human pain and in spite of deep disappointment.

The joyous carols of Christmas have the intensity it takes to boil away the distractions of the season and help us to focus anew on why He came. He came for you. He came for me.

That's what Christmas is all about. He came.

He came so we could sing.

He came so we could hope.

He came so we could live.

My deepest prayer is when you sing the songs of Christmas this year, you will be reminded of the matchless and glorious miracle of Christmas. This Baby—the little boy in the manger—changed everything for you and for me.

“What can I give Him poor as I am?/If I were a shepherd, I would bring Him a Lamb/If I were a wise man, I'd sure do my part/So what can I give Him? I'll give Him my heart

“I'll give Him my heart, Give Him my heart/What can I can give Him but all of my heart?/I'll give Him my heart, Give Him my heart/What can I give Him but all of my heart?

“What can you give Him? What can you bring?/What can you offer that's fit for a King?/Bow before Jesus that's where you can start/What can you give Him? Just Give Him your heart/Give Him your Heart! Give Him your Heart!

“What can you give Him but all of your heart?/Give Him your heart! Give Him your heart!/What can you give Him? Just give Him your heart!” {eo}

Carol McLeod is an author and popular speaker at women's conferences and retreats, where she teaches the Word of God with great joy and enthusiasm. Carol encourages and empowers women with passionate and practical biblical messages mixed with her own special brand of hope and humor. She has written five books, including *No More Ordinary*, *Holy Estrogen!*, *The Rooms of a Woman's Heart* and *Defiant Joy!* Her most recent book, *Refined: Finding Joy in the Midst of the Fire*, was released last August. Her teaching DVD, *The Rooms of a Woman's Heart*, won the Telly Award, a prestigious industry award for

excellence in religious programming. You can also listen to Carol's "A Jolt of Joy" program daily on the Charisma Podcast Network. Connect with Carol or inquire about her speaking to your group at .

Reasons You May Not Be Seeing Fruit in Your Life

We are designed to produce fruit in our lives, manifesting the ways of God through changed lives and relationships that display His ways. Yet there is nothing more discouraging than feeling as though your life is not producing any fruit.

If we are honest, we'll admit that accusation and condemnation can pummel the mind, keeping us wondering whether our life even makes a difference.

Although I never try to answer questions with pat answers, I do think there are two critical things to keep in mind if you honestly feel you are not seeing the fruit you believe God can manifest in your life.

1. Your investment needs more time. In the natural, we all understand when you plant a seed in the ground, it is utterly foolish to expect fruit the next morning. But we tend to treat our spiritual life as though the fruit should show right away.

It doesn't work that way in the natural, nor does it in the spiritual. Seeds need to grow into plants. Plants, over time, blossom and produce fruit. A lot of time and care go into the full process.

There are seasons for growing a harvest, and you need to know

what season of life you are in. If you are an overcoming believer, odds are you are planting seeds everywhere. You would never drop a seed in the ground and expect to eat fruit the next day. But we tend to do this with our spiritual life.

The quick-results mindset of today does not fit into the Kingdom of God. Most major changes often work through a lifetime of investment. Even bigger changes can take generations to take place. So we must keep the bigger picture in mind of what we are contending for long-term.

We also need to find who we are in the process of what God is doing. If we connect to our role effectively, the overall work God is doing will increase in effectiveness.

There is no overnight success, no matter what people may think. Those who appear to manifest overnight success have years of investment and faithfulness that brought about the fruit. It appears to others that fruit just appeared overnight. Yet behind the scenes, there was a lot of prayer, contending, disappointment and tenacity involved.

Fruitfulness takes steady perseverance, the ability to hang in there when everyone around you has quit. It also takes resilience, the ability to bounce back from falling down or being hurt.

The most fruitful people learn to live as overcomers. They don't let life push them back from their potential. They keep the big picture in mind and daily invest into that larger vision.

I have a hunch you may just need to stay the course and not quit. Millions start strong. A minuscule amount of people remain to see it through.

2. You are being pruned. As pruning helps a tree in the natural, the same is true in the spiritual. Our Father in heaven is the vine dresser who loves us deeply. He cares for

us so much that He prunes areas that do not represent the person God made us to be. He also prunes areas that can be hindrances to us producing the maximum amount of fruit over the long term.

Most believers hate pruning, but we don't need to dread this process. It's painful for some because the areas God is pruning have become so much a part of their lives that living without them becomes painful.

It's hard when God starts causing us to face our fears rather than running from them. We get pruned when God wants us to stop blaming other people and grow up into greater maturity. Pruning gets hard when we have to let go of our addictions as comforts for our life. The anger's gotta go. The false coping has gotta go. The pity parties have to stop.

God is so loving. He knows exactly how to prune us, because He is the perfect vine dresser. He doesn't condemn us, use guilt or accuse us into conformity. He knows in the beauty of love how to address the areas of our life that will hurt us in the long run. But most avoid this process at all costs.

Many of our coping patterns and areas of reliance become idols. We focus on them so much we cannot see God in our situations. We lean on them for life, but they are killing us in the long run. Our self-loathing, fears, unworthiness and addictions, to name some, seem to serve us but are destroying our fruitfulness.

Pruning only works well if you get to the root of that particular branch. Otherwise it just grows back. So many waste their time trying to clip the ends of the branches, when God needs to get to a deeper root system. When we hit the root system, we address the areas that get to the heart. It exposes what we live by to cope, heal and function. Our Father wants us firmly rooted in Christ and established in the love relationships He has for us as the perfect dad. Everything

else is a cheap imitation.

The issues God didn't create us with all need to die and burn away. As a planting of God, we must know there are areas of our life that are not in alignment with the person He made us to be. Pruning addresses this.

During pruning seasons, things seem slow, and fruit doesn't seem to be popping everywhere. But just wait. If you let the process of transformation have its effect, you will have more fruit than you will know what to do with!

Many people try to avoid or medicate away their pruning process. Instead of letting a loving Father teach them into the next stage of breakthrough. We wander around the mountain over and over.

Why avoid it, when amazing fruitfulness is right around the corner? {eoa}

Mark DeJesus has served as an experienced communicator since the 1990s. As a teacher, author, coach and radio host, Mark is deeply passionate about awakening hearts and equipping people towards transformational living. His message involves getting to the core hindrances that contribute to the breakdown of our relationships, our health and our day-to-day peace. He is well-versed on struggles that originate within our thoughts. Through his own personal transformation, Mark is experienced in helping people overcome and live fruitful lives. He is the author of five books and hundreds of teachings. He hosts a weekly radio podcast show called "Transformed You" and blogs at . His writings have been featured on sites like .

For the original article, visit .

Should Christians Celebrate Christmas?

(There is always an attempt to de-emphasize the true spiritual significance of Christian holidays and place emphasis on Santa, toys, bunnies, baskets and candy. That is a sincere cause for concern. This article assumes that is understood. I respect those who may disagree and who may have a valid cause for concern.)

Every Christmas season, I receive emails such as: "I'm sorry, but every time I tried to watch the sermon, the decorated Christmas trees in the background were disturbing to my spirit. I turned it off. I am discouraged and disappointed because of the trees."

Her statement begs the question, "Can we redeem holidays?" Redeem means to recover the ownership of something. Can we, in good faith, redeem Halloween, Christmas and Easter with their roots saturated in paganism, superstitions and the occult?

Redeem and celebrate are not unfamiliar to Christians. God redeems man from a state of darkness, and we celebrate this transformation of heart. Simply stated, it's about why, who and how we celebrate.

For example, Halloween, a mixture of Celtic pagan superstition and early traditions, is associated with witchcraft and satanic activity. This is not something to be celebrated, nor can it be redeemed as it stands, with themes such as horror, death and fear.

We have children, and we can't always avoid the gory and grotesque decorations, so we change the theme in order to redeem. We use the opportunity to redefine Halloween to "good overcame evil day."

We don't celebrate Halloween per se; we remember Jesus' victory on the cross and how He overcame evil. Many churches offer Fall Festivals and celebrations for this very reason—to redeem the theme of Halloween.

What about Christmas? Rooted in pagan practices, it is abused and commercialized, but can it be redeemed?

Christmas, unlike Halloween's message of horror and death, celebrates eternal life through the birth of Christ. Most Christians I know don't falsely worship the tree and the decorations referred to in Jeremiah 10:1-10; we worship the Creator of heaven and earth.

Early on, Christmas was a combination of "Christ's Mass" celebrating Jesus' birth and St. Nicholas Day. St. Nicholas was bishop of Greece and was portrayed as a man who saved kids from slavery and helped the poor. After the Reformation, many discontinued St. Nicholas Day because of its unhealthy fixation on saints. The Puritans did not celebrate Christmas for this very reason, but the Germans celebrated Kris Kringle (Christ child).

Eventually, Christmas morphed into what it is today: a mixture of religious and secular activities. I'm not aware of the early church celebrating Christmas; Easter was the Superbowl holiday.

Rich in symbolism, the Christmas tree can point to the cross: once a dead and barren tree, supporting a lifeless Savior, it now stands evergreen as the symbol of eternal life that darkness cannot overcome (cf. 1 John 1:5). In my opinion, Christmas is really a heart issue: Whom and what do we worship—consumerism or Christ?

Gift-giving can also represent peace and goodwill among men (cf. Matthew 2): "The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 6:23). It can, however, lead to extravagant spending and debt; this should be avoided.

Let's look at this another way. I am sure there are a number of Christians who do not acknowledge holidays because of how they originated, and I respect that. But let's follow that line of thinking in other areas: Should we not acknowledge days of the week whose names originate from false gods—Sunday from the sun god, Monday the moon god and so on?

Again, these issues are heart-issues. God does not desire superficial sacrifice and religiosity; He desires a broken and contrite heart. Pleasing God is the most important issue of the heart. We can avoid celebrating holidays, yet still be rigid, arrogant and judgmental. The heart is the main focus of this article.

Considering that liberty has its limits, if all that we do honors God, He is pleased. Again, the key is to avoid arrogance, judgmentalism and worshipping the wrong things. Strive to follow Paul's advice and not spend time "arguing over opinions," and "live peaceably with all men" (Rom. 14:1, 12:18). For example, what the previous-mentioned online viewer failed to realize was that I did not place the trees on the stage. The building was not ours. She neglected to err on the side of grace.

Whatever your position, the question to ask is, "Is my stance leading to love, joy, peace, contentment, gentleness and kindness? Or is it leading to rigidity, arrogance, legalism, divisiveness, criticism and anger over non-essentials?" The former is the filling of the Spirit; the latter is the slippery slope of judgmentalism. If not celebrating truly draws you closer to Christ, wonderful, but don't judge others who feel differently.

There are those who derail Christmas and its commercialism, yet purchase a \$3000 plasma TV on credit, book expensive vacations each summer and never serve the community or help those in need. Time is spent posting videos exposing the roots of holidays, but no time is spent in prayer, truly seeking

God. Others ridicule the secularization of Christmas and Easter, but allow their family to watch ungodly entertainment.

Again, celebrating holidays is often not the issue; the issues is what, or whom, we choose to worship—the attitude of the heart. Holidays, in many cases, are redeemed when the focus is on Christ. {eoa}

President-Elect Trump Wants to Get a Head Start

Last week, we told you that despite liberal mainstream media reporting to the contrary, President-elect Donald Trump was well ahead of the curve when it came to rolling out the nominations for his incoming Cabinet.

Friday, during an appearance on “Fox & Friends,” he suggested his work might well be done long before most presidents even start rolling out their nominations. The president-elect said:

“We have tremendous people joining the Cabinet and beyond the Cabinet, so you’ll be seeing almost all of them next week. You know, we’re getting credit for having one of the greatest Cabinets ever picked.

“These are people of great distinction, great success, which is what you need. You know, you’re negotiating with people. You can’t have people that didn’t know how to get there.”

So far, Trump has announced his nominees for seven of the 15 Cabinet positions and four additional Cabinet-level appointments. With an aggressive agenda planned, it’s likely the president-elect wants his Cabinet ready to hit the ground

running.

The eight Cabinet positions yet to be announced are:

- secretary of state
- secretary of the interior
- secretary of agriculture
- secretary of labor
- secretary of housing and urban development
- secretary of energy
- secretary of veterans affairs
- secretary of homeland security

Trump has yet to name appointees for the following Cabinet-level positions as well:

- director of the Office of Management and Budget
- administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. trade representative
- chair of the Council of Economic Advisers
- administrator of the Small Business Administration
- director of National Intelligence

In all, the Trump Administration has about 4,000 appointments to make prior to Jan. 20. Approximately 1,500 of those require Senate confirmation. {eoa}

Crucial Habits That Open Your Spiritual Ears to God's Will

Over and over I hear, "I just want to know God's will for my life." but the will of God is not complicated. When you are born again, the desire to do His will becomes part of your nature. As you grow in your relationship with the Lord, His

will for your life becomes a natural flow that leads you into the plans and purpose He has ordained for your life.

The Scripture is actually very clear on the will of God: “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Rom. 12:2). Your first step is to change the way you think. This is a work in progress throughout your life. There is only one way to change your thinking: you must understand how God thinks by reading His Word.

A key scripture in my life is Proverbs 4:20-23 (NLT)” “My child, pay attention to what I say, listen carefully to my words. Don’t lose sight of them. Let them penetrate deep into your heart, for they bring life to those who find them, and healing to their whole body. Guard your heart above all else for it determines the course of your life.”

“Above all else.” What does that mean? Above everything in your life. What’s in your heart determines the course of your life. That includes following God’s plan for your life. This Scripture is key to the Kingdom lifestyle.

If you want to know God, you must pay attention, listen carefully and not lose sight of His Word; then you will walk in His perfect will for your life.

As you read and study the Word of God, the Holy Spirit will open the eyes of your understanding, and the Word of God will become life to you (Eph. 1:15-23).

God’s will is not focused on what you eat for dinner, where you go to school, what you do when you grow up or whom you will marry. It is about what we do to position our heart with His heart to hear His voice. Jesus tells us in John 10:4b, “And the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.” Your heart needs to pick up the heartbeat of God.

I don't understand how it all happens, but I know only God can change a person's heart. Phil. 2:13 tells us, "For God is the One working in you, both to will and to do His good pleasure."

It is not about trying to do more but trusting more. As we learn to yield our heart by asking the Holy Spirit to work in us, He will work to revive, renew and regenerate us.

How do you guard your heart? As always the answer, is in the Word of God. Scripture speaks about our lifestyle as a child of God: "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (1 Thess. 5:16-18).

Rejoicing, praying and giving thanks are acts of our will, especially in times of trials and temptations. Thanksgiving draws attention from heaven. A heart of thanksgiving comes from a humble attitude which calls out to God, praying for His wisdom for your life. This is a lifestyle we develop, not a reaction during a crisis. Trials in our lives have a way of exposing the degree that our mind is renewed.

As Jesus was preparing the disciples for His departure, He gave them what I think of as the ultimate promotion: "I no longer call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master does. But I have called you friends, for everything that I have heard from My Father have I made known to you" (John 15:15). He has made known all things from the Father in His Word. This invitation is an open invitation for you and me today. God's heart desires relationship, and our heart must respond with thanksgiving. A servant does not know what the master is doing, but a friend knows and understands what his master is doing. A servant works to please; a friend enjoys His presence.

Our friendship and communion with the Lord is the power source of our life that connects us with our purpose in life. You do not have to try to figure out your life. When your heart is

yielded, your mind renewed and your body surrendered, you will walk right into that place called “there” for you in this life!

Thanksgiving is not a day; it is a lifestyle. It prepares the way for a miracle and is the voice of faith. Thanksgiving is the bedrock of Christianity from which you build your Kingdom lifestyle to do the will of God for your life. {eoa}

Joyce Tilney is the Founder of Women of God Ministries, teaching women today from women of yesterday. She is an author and Bible teacher. Visit for more information. Her book and workbook, *Why Diets Don't Work—Food Is Not the Problem*, share her testimony of how the Lord helped her lose 90 pounds. Visit the website: for information.

Billy Graham Answers: What's Wrong With a Few Drinks?

The topic of alcohol will split the Christian community in two as sides debate complete abstinence verses moderation.

Famous pastors such as Perry Noble and Clayton Jennings have fallen due to alcohol abuse.

One person asked Billy Graham: “I wish my wife would get off my back. She says I need to get treatment for my drinking, but I can stop any time I want to. What's wrong with a few drinks, anyway?”

Graham responded:

What's wrong in your case is obvious: your drinking is clearly interfering with your life and your marriage. If it

weren't, your wife wouldn't be so concerned—but she loves you and she is concerned about you, and she hates what alcohol is doing to you.

But something else is wrong in your case: alcohol is distorting your judgment by making you believe something that simply isn't true. You say you can stop at any time—but why don't you? I suspect the real reason is because you can't; you've become too dependent on alcohol to see you through. Instead of facing your problems, you find it easier to dull your mind and avoid dealing with them. In reality, however, you're only making your situation worse. The Bible warns, "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging, and whoever is deceived by it is not wise" (Prov. 20:1).

Don't misunderstand me, however, or assume I'm only trying to make you feel guilty—because I'm not. The most important truth I can tell you is this: God loves you, and He wants to help you. This is why I urge you to face honestly your need to overcome your alcoholism, and seek God's help.

Begin by asking Jesus Christ to come into your life—and He will. He'll not only erase the past, but He'll give you a new love for others and a new desire to live as you should. And if you need professional help to deal with your problems, ask Him to guide you to the right program in your community. May God bless you. {eoa}

Presidential Transition Team Responds to Weak November Jobs Report

Only one can be true: either the liberal mainstream media are incapable of reading a basic jobs report, or they're incapable of telling the truth about the government, regardless of who is in charge.

While they parrot the Democratic Party's falsehoods that the November jobs report was "good news," the underlying fact that went unreported is that labor participation has fallen to its lowest level since 1978. Meanwhile, manufacturing jobs continue to flee the country at an alarming rate.

The Presidential Transition Team's chief economic adviser, Peter Navarro, issued the following statement in response to the Obama Administration's November Jobs Report:

The November jobs report showing a decline in the labor force participation rate further demonstrates an urgent need for President-elect Trump's America First economic plan. We have not seen levels this low since 1978. The 4,000 manufacturing jobs that disappeared last month come on top of the over 300,000 that have been lost under President Obama.

Even before taking office, President-elect Trump has proven that protecting and creating jobs will be among his highest priorities as president. His determination to save 1,000 Carrier manufacturing jobs in Indiana, announced this week, is just a preview of his agenda of prosperity for all.

Furthermore, the Cabinet picks of Steve Mnuchin for Treasury Secretary and Wilbur Ross for the Department of Commerce signal a seismic and transformative shift in trade

policy—one that works for American workers and domestic manufacturers, not for the multinational corporations shipping jobs offshore. {eoa}

Putting the Holocaust Into Its Proper Context

We live at a time when Jewish people are being accused of dwelling unnecessarily on the memory of the Holocaust. But at the same time, we are seeing swastikas being painted on doors, walls and even tombstones across the globe.

Mahmoud Abbas was unanimously reelected as leader of Fatah, and the West is supposed to get excited about the man they believe could make peace with Israel. Let us not forget he is a Holocaust denier who wrote his thesis in 1982 on that very topic under the title “The Connection between the Nazis and the Leaders of the Zionist Movement.”

Populist parties are gaining tremendous ground in Europe as the desire to stop and control the migrant crisis becomes a priority. With them, they bring the deep rooted European racial antisemitism we thought was defunct.

Only a couple of years ago on the streets of Paris, I heard people marching and chanting, “Jews to the ovens.” It seems a lot of people are either denying the Holocaust, wanting another one or worse, are clueless about the first one.

I don't think we speak too much of the Holocaust, but we don't think about it in its proper context.

Scholars, philosophers, theologians and historians have all

grappled with the Holocaust, trying to come to terms with the immensity of its evil in strength and scope. Some within classical Jewish religious thought believe the Holocaust was God's retribution or payback for Israel's sins. In other words, it was God's desire to discipline Israel for her sins and, as such, was part of God's plan all along.

The common name for it is *Mi-penei hata ' einu* (Hebrew for "because of our sins we were punished.") It refers to divine punishment for the sins of Israel. It is true that the Tenach is replete with stories about the sins of Israel and their consequential discipline from God.

Holocaust survivor and Nobel Prize laureate, Elie Wiesel, wrote in 1962 of the religious Jewish reaction to the Holocaust in *Commentary Magazine*: "The feeling of guilt was, to begin with, essentially a religious feeling. If I am here, it is because God is punishing me; I have sinned, and I am expiating my sins. I have deserved this punishment that I am suffering."

Wiesel, along with many others, feel that while the punishment inflicted by the Holocaust might not be proportionate to the sins committed by Israel, the two are related. Incidentally, if one believes that—as the Bible teaches—the price for our sins is death (Ezek. 18:4), then the Holocaust could be justified. But why would God wait almost 2,000 years to punish Israel, and why inflict pain and suffering on generations that are so far removed from the previous ones?

Others see Israel as the Suffering Servant of Is. 52:13-53:12. They will assign the suffering of the Holocaust to all Israel (all Jewish people.) Although it is beyond the scope of this article to discuss the meaning of Isaiah 53, let's state that this controversial passage definitely speaks of suffering, humiliation and death in no uncertain terms. But it can also refer to a person and not Israel as a whole. If indeed it refers to a person in particular, Yeshua of Nazareth is the

only one who would fit that description, especially since toward the end of the passage, after humiliation, suffering and death comes resurrection.

Some speak of *Hester Panim* ("hiding of the face,") also known as "the eclipse of God." Ps. 44:23-24 speaks of God hiding His face: "Awake; why do You sleep, O Lord? Arise; do not reject us forever. Why do You hide Your face, and forget our affliction and our oppression?"

Was God absent during the Holocaust? From the standpoint of protecting the victims from suffering and death, it would certainly appear to be true. Each and every one of the six million innocent victims—if they could speak—would most likely testify of God's absence or lack of involvement.

Yet, when we speak of the eclipse of God, we must recall what an eclipse is all about: a visual disappearance while the physical presence remains. In other words, God might have been eclipsed or might have been hiding His face during the Holocaust, but He was always there and always within reach. Not only was He there, but He felt the pain of the victims as Isaiah 63:9a tells us: "In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the angel of His presence saved them; In His love and in His mercy He redeemed them."

Many religious people, Jewish and Gentile, wound up in the camps. If God was silent, some of His people weren't. The eclipse of God was not because He didn't care, but possibly because for a time, He removed Himself from the affairs of men, leaving the fate of many in the hands of a few. At the very least, He allowed for the Jewish people not to be under His protection, as He had done repeatedly in the long history of the children of Israel.

Isaiah tells us God cared as He suffered affliction for His people. Additionally, God took no pleasure in the death of the many. Even assuming Israel was being punished by the Holocaust

for being wicked—a case that cannot be made with absolute certainty—the prophet Ezekiel speaks of God when he writes, “Say to them: As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live” (Ezek. 33:11a).

The Holocaust prompted many Jews who survived the Holocaust to come to the conclusion that God is dead. Again Elie Wiesel, this time in his seminal work *Night*, depicts the agonizing hanging of a young boy:

“Where is God? Where is He?” someone behind me asked ... For more than half an hour [the child in the noose] stayed there, struggling between life and death, dying in slow agony under our eyes. And we had to look him full in the face. He was still alive when I passed in front of him. His tongue was still red, his eyes were not yet glazed. Behind me, I heard the same man asking: “Where is God now?” And I heard a voice within me answer him: “Where is He? Here He is—He is hanging here on this gallows.”

But if God died during the Holocaust, why did it come to a halt in 1945? The Nazi war machine was well-oiled and extremely efficient. The liberation of the camps and the capitulation of Germany would militate towards God not being dead and, on the contrary, being instrumental in the end of World War II. This is also in line with His promise never to completely destroy Israel as found in Jeremiah (Jer. 31:35-37.)

I could continue to look at the Holocaust and wrestle further with causes for it. Regardless of how many approaches with come up with, we will most certainly come back to evil being at the core of the catastrophe.

This leads us to the problem of evil. The existence of evil in the world is a topic that is highly debated. Very few believe evil doesn't exist. The Holocaust and how low humanity could

bring itself proved evil exists.

Hitler wasn't insane. Insanity would exonerate him of all responsibility for the so-called "Final Solution to the Jewish problem." But Hitler was pure evil. But even when we recognize that, the source of all evil must still be identified.

I don't believe we can properly do such a thing without building our case on a biblical foundation. Morality is based on the balance between good and evil, which is best brought forward by looking at what the Tenach says.

Good and evil cannot exist independently of one another, since one defines the other. Going back to the first book of the Tenach, Genesis, we find out that one of God's most special angels, Satan, rebelled against God and fell from grace. From that point on, he has been working very hard at hating what God loves and loving what God hates. That puts the Jewish people and Israel directly in his crosshairs.

Satan knows that through the Jewish people, more specifically through the tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:10), will come the Redeemer of mankind, the Messiah of Israel. His goal is to stop that from happening, because at some point in the future, Messiah will put an end to Satan's career, and he doesn't care for his retirement plan.

I am often asked if the birth of the modern state of Israel is a direct result of World War II and the Holocaust. I believe the answer is a resounding no. Rather, the Holocaust was an attempt by Satan to destroy the Jews right before they would start fulfilling one of God's most amazing prophecy about their return to their biblical land (Ezek. 36-38.)

There is no doubt in my mind that Satan was aware of the return of the Jews to Israel in the end times. He had to stop it, or at least try, thus the Holocaust. He used Pharaoh to try to stop Moses from being born, he used Herod to try to stop Yeshua from being born and he used Nazi Germany and

Hitler to try to stop the Jews from moving back to Israel and fulfilling God's covenantal promises. Satan exploited the fact that the Jewish people weren't under God's protection and were more at the mercy of the nation to attempt their total eradication. He almost succeeded, but God is greater. Not only God is greater, but He is interested in every single soul that exists. God wants to draw them to Him, one soul at a time. So again, it is not that we speak too much of the Holocaust, but maybe that we speak of it in the wrong context. {eoa}

Olivier Melnick is the author of *They Have Conspired Against You*, a book on the rebirth of worldwide anti-Semitism and how to fight it, as well as the novel *The Rabbi's Triad*, an evangelistic thriller. He is also a guest commentator on *WorldNetDaily*, *Times of Israel* and other websites such as his blog site at . Olivier serves as a Regional Director in Washington state. He also serves on the Board of Directors of Chosen People France.