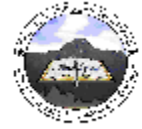




# On The Frontier



“For The Glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel”

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## Approaching The Nadir Of American Culture

Though some will dispute it, our Nation's heritage is a godly one. The Founders chose Scripture as the model for framing the documents that master our Government. Consequently, American culture (diverse though it may be) was hemmed in by godly dictates for many years. That is, cultural practices were regulated and circumscribed by law and that (the law of the land) was delineated by Scripture. Amazingly, the Founders were wise enough to demand that no single denomination be permitted to hold sway. But at no time did they even remotely consider a belief system developed on anything other than God's Holy Word. Furthermore, the notion of believing on anyone other than the Lord Jesus Christ was to them inconceivable. They knew of the birth of Jesus Christ and so Judaism would not have been thought of in any way as a viable alternative. Islam and the rest would have been assessed as pagan or heathen and subsequently not a factor in planning government. Perhaps this sounds incredible to you. But it's true nonetheless. These our United States of America represent the **ONLY** government whereby the foundational documents guarantee the freedom to worship God (in the name of Jesus Christ) openly. Make no mistake, the underpinning of our Country is a Christian one, **NOT** Judeao-Christian and certainly **NOT** Muslim, Buddhist or any other form of paganism. Because Christian ethic

is at the root of our government, people of all “faiths” may worship freely. This cannot be said of nations formed upon other belief systems. Christians have been persecuted to the death in many of the same lands where Muslims and others now living on American soil were born. Only in a Christian nation are the belief choices of others respected. Notably only in the USA is the pursuit of one's religious belief not only honored but protected. The only exceptions would be if the beliefs of a given group violated the person, property or the pursuit of happiness of others. These wonderful ethics have been the very basis for the stability of our Country and its culture for many years.

Sadly the application of Christian ethic in our culture has been eroded. Why? Because others of lesser convictions have been permitted access to the execution of representative politics, legislature and law. Consequently, concessions have been made for the sake of advantage and that at the expense of principle. Little by little, long held ideals have been worn away. Today our culture bears little resemblance to its origin. Christian ethic is no longer the sole standard for acceptable behavior. What was once a God-centered culture is now a self-centered culture. Little wonder when you consider the following:

II Timothy 3:1-9

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters,

proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,

Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate [not wanting to retain the knowledge of God and thus void of sound judgement] concerning the faith.

But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all *men*, as theirs also was.

The Word of God is timeless! Isn't it? This passage in Timothy could have been written today! What an astounding record and how sad that the tenants of our culture are today supplied by reprobates! Of course the Scripture must be fulfilled. But I'm

sure glad that we aren't the fulfillment of what we just read! Aren't you?

You just have to love the analogy with which He ends the passage.

Verses 8,9

Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.

But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all *men*, as theirs also was.

Quite the distinction given Jannes and Jambres, eh? Just who might this ignoble pair be and to what is such infamy owed?

Exodus 7:8-13

And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying,

When Pharaoh shall speak unto you, saying, Shew a miracle for you: then thou shalt say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and cast it before Pharaoh, *and* it shall become a serpent.

And Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh, and they did so as the LORD had commanded: and Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh, and before his servants, and it became a serpent.

Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers: now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments.

For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods.

And he hardened Pharaoh's heart, that he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said.

These men, Jannes and Jambres were Pharaoh's wise men and sorcerers. They were the magicians of Egypt. They endeavored to withstand Moses and in doing so they withstood God. I sure wouldn't want to be compared to them. Would you? Yet the record in Timothy is making that comparison with explicit reference to those who fill the description of "reprobate concerning the faith."

When Pharaoh refused to let God's people go, Moses had Aaron to cast his staff down and it became a serpent. This was simply a light demonstration of God's power. All God wanted was Pharaoh's compliance. What did the magicians do? They attempted to counterfeit this miracle by casting down their staffs which in turn became serpents. However, Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods illustrating the ineffectiveness of "magic." But they were not easily dissuaded as testified to by the balance of the record.

Verses 17-ff

Thus saith the LORD, In this thou shalt know that I *am* the LORD: behold, I will smite with the rod that *is* in mine hand upon the waters which *are* in the river, and they shall be turned to blood.

And the fish that *is* in the river shall die, and the river shall stink; and the Egyptians shall lothe to drink of the water of the river.

And the LORD spake unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and stretch out thine hand upon the waters of Egypt, upon their streams, upon their rivers, and upon their ponds, and upon

all their pools of water, that they may become blood; and *that* there may be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in *vessels of* wood, and in *vessels of* stone.

And Moses and Aaron did so, as the LORD commanded; and he lifted up the rod, and smote the waters that *were* in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh, and in the sight of his servants; and all the waters that *were* in the river were turned to blood.

And the fish that *was* in the river died; and the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink of the water of the river; and there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt.

And the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, neither did he hearken unto them; as the LORD had said.

And Pharaoh turned and went into his house, neither did he set his heart to this also.

And all the Egyptians digged round about the river for water to drink; for they could not drink of the water of the river.

And seven days were fulfilled, after that the LORD had smitten the river.

When Aaron brought forth frogs:

Exodus 8:7

And the magicians did so with their enchantments, and brought up frogs upon the land of Egypt.

What was the benefit? More frogs! Is there a pattern developing here? Sure there is. Whatever the True God did they would immediately counterfeit.

What next, lice? Yes! Aaron brought forth lice. What did the magicians do?

#### Verse 18

And the magicians did so with their enchantments to bring forth lice, but they could not: so there were lice upon man, and upon beast.

Ahhh, just when they were doing so well too. Tsk, tsk, they hit the wall, their folly was known. Guess what, sooner or later the folly of all those who oppose God will be known. Isn't that awesome! But consider, if you will, the folly that was there all along. Where? In the lives of those who followed the counterfeit.

These men, Jannes and Jambres, offered no benefit to Pharaoh in his time of "need." Rather, they exacerbated his problems exponentially. This has been true of evil right from the start.

#### Genesis 3:1-5

Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

But of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes

shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

Just what was the serpent offering? They already knew good, what else did they need to know? Evil? The serpent offered nothing of benefit because he had and has nothing of benefit to offer. Adam and Eve brought sin, sickness, suffering and death upon all mankind because they lusted for the knowledge of evil. They wanted to be gods. Frankly dear reader, mankind has changed very little. On the contrary, the Word of God describes some of the men of our day (the 2002 year of our Lord) with graphic detail.

#### I Timothy 4:1-11

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

Not the kind of fellows you would want with you on your next camping trip, are they?

#### Verse 3

Forbidding to marry, *and commanding* to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

Here follows some great guidance:

#### Verses 4-11

For every creature of God *is* good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:

For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.

But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself *rather* unto godliness.

For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

This *is* a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance.

For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.

These things command and teach.

You bet I'll command and teach those things! How about you? Truly these are perilous times and as such perfect for the furtherance of the Gospel.

Remember, the Devil promises "Nirvana" while leading man to "Nadir."

#### II Timothy 4:1-5

I charge *thee* therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they

heap to themselves teachers,  
having itching ears;

And they shall turn away *their*  
ears from the truth, and shall be  
turned unto fables.

But watch thou in all things,  
endure afflictions, do the work of  
an evangelist, make full proof of  
thy ministry.

If these shoes fit dear brethren, I  
suggest we wear them.

II Peter 3:3-ff

Knowing this first, that there  
shall come in the last days  
scoffers, walking after their own  
lusts,

And saying, Where is the  
promise of his coming? for since  
the fathers fell asleep, all things  
continue as *they were* from the  
beginning of the creation.

For this they willingly are  
ignorant of, that by the word of  
God the heavens were of old, and  
the earth standing out of the  
water and in the water:

Whereby the world that then  
was, being overflowed with  
water, perished:

But the heavens and the earth,  
which are now, by the same word  
are kept in store, reserved unto  
fire against the day of judgment  
and perdition of ungodly men.

But, beloved, be not ignorant of  
this one thing, that one day *is*  
with the Lord as a thousand  
years, and a thousand years as  
one day.

The Lord is not slack concerning  
his promise, as some men count  
slackness; but is longsuffering to

us-ward, not willing that any  
should perish, but that all should  
come to repentance.

But the day of the Lord will come  
as a thief in the night; in the  
which the heavens shall pass  
away with a great noise, and the  
elements shall melt with fervent  
heat, the earth also and the  
works that are therein shall be  
burned up.

*Seeing then that* all these things  
shall be dissolved, what manner  
*of persons* ought ye to be in *all*  
holy conversation and godliness,

Looking for and hasting unto the  
coming of the day of God,  
wherein the heavens being on fire  
shall be dissolved, and the  
elements shall melt with fervent  
heat?

Nevertheless we, according to his  
promise, look for new heavens  
and a new earth, wherein  
dwelleth righteousness.

Wherefore, beloved, seeing that  
ye look for such things, be  
diligent that ye may be found of  
him in peace, without spot, and  
blameless.

And account *that* the  
longsuffering of our Lord *is*  
salvation; even as our beloved  
brother Paul also according to  
the wisdom given unto him hath  
written unto you;

As also in all *his* epistles,  
speaking in them of these things;  
in which are some things hard to  
be understood, which they that  
are unlearned and unstable  
wrest, as *they do* also the other  
scriptures, unto their own  
destruction.

Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye  
know *these things* before, beware  
lest ye also, being led away with  
the error of the wicked, fall from  
your own steadfastness.

But grow in grace, and *in* the  
knowledge of our Lord and  
Saviour Jesus Christ. To him *be*  
glory both now and for ever.  
Amen.

We must strive to remember what  
we've just read and to grow in grace.  
We must make it our solemn duty to  
grow in the knowledge of our Lord and  
Savior Jesus Christ. Only then can we  
escape drowning in the iniquity which  
surrounds us.

Our culture is coarsening and  
becoming more depraved with each  
new day. The anti-hero is celebrated  
and rewarded handsomely for  
insulting us and for violating our  
children. We pay top dollar to bring  
perverse concepts into our homes by  
way of the electronic idols which adorn  
our desks, offices and family rooms.  
The television networks program the  
most repugnant things despite the  
protests of millions of American  
parents. Television provides a  
dangerous environment for our little  
ones for the network moguls have seen  
to it. The first amendment no longer  
protects truth, instead it has become a  
sanctuary for foul language and rancid  
concepts. Women and children are  
debased without debate. Men are  
reduced to lust crazed self-indulgent  
animals. Music (I use this term very  
loosely) has become a medium for the  
advancement of materialism,  
misogyny, sexual promiscuity, crime,  
mayhem and murder. All the while  
paying the "artists" obscene amounts  
of money for what previously would  
have earned them jail time. They are  
free to "express" themselves, our  
culture guarantees it. Such "freedom"  
causes men to think they are living in

"Paradise." This is exactly what the Devil wants! He promises to bring man to his Zenith but instead brings him to his Nadir. And since he is a spirit he must enlist people to do this for him.

#### II Peter 2:18-ff

For when they speak great swelling *words* of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, *through much* wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.

While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.

For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known *it*, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog *is* turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

Little by little the arrangement of marriage has been corrupted. Who is it that invented marriage? God! Once our culture supported God's plan for man and an unmarried couple living together would have been castigated. Nowadays "shacking-up" is commonplace. God instituted marriage for the proper continuance

and well-being of mankind. How can men and women flourish together without the commitment, covenant and bond of marriage? And how can man continue, that is procreate, if there is a conjoining of like gender? Culture endeavors to validate these sins with semantics. And so the person with whom no commitment is made becomes a "significant other" and members of a vile homosexual alliance are known as "life partners." Now culture can sanction the adoption of innocent children to these sinful individuals because the correct jargon has been applied. This is disgraceful!

Fatherhood and motherhood alike are slighted in print as well as lyric. Even childhood is in jeopardy. If you think I'm exaggerating, review our educational system's philosophy and practice. In word they welcome parental involvement and ridicule the parent who is non-participatory. Yet, in practice they make it as difficult as possible for a concerned parent to actually be involved. They reject anything and everything that challenges them. That has been my experience which is why my child is now home schooled. If that has not been your experience then you should be very thankful because the majority of parents will corroborate me. Again, none of this comes as a surprise to those of us who are familiar with Scripture. God has given ample guidance in His Word so that none of us should be caught off guard.

These are indeed perilous times we live in as testified to by the coarseness of our culture. Even humor has suffered! What's even worse is the abhorrent manner with which God's Word has been handled. Primarily with those who've made themselves teachers and secondarily among the many who have taken His Word for

granted. A sad day indeed. But also a reminder of how much closer we are to our Lord's Return!!! Furthermore, God knows how to deliver the godly from temptation, so we have nothing to fear. With your heart in the Word and the Word in your heart you will be victorious!

#### II Peter 2:9

The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

Isn't that refreshing! Our God is magnificent! His Christ is awesome! His Word . . . matchless!

#### Isaiah 5:18-24

Woe unto them that draw iniquity with cords of vanity, and sin as it were with a cart rope:

That say, Let him make speed, *and* hasten his work, that we may see *it*: and let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw nigh and come, that we may know *it*!

Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

Woe unto *them that are* wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!

Woe unto *them that are* mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink:

Which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him!

Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, *so* their root



shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the law of the LORD of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

That being the case the answer is a simple one:

Proverbs 23:23

Buy the truth, and sell *it* not; *also* wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.

Psalms 55:22

Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.

The culture of our Nation is no longer what it should be. These are facts we must live with for denial will change nothing. The world in which we live and the cultures of it are not going to get better. On the contrary, they shall indeed grow worse. This we are taught by Scripture. The good news is, Jesus Christ is coming back. When that happens then **AND ONLY** then will this world begin to change. **NOT** before, no matter how hard we pray.

Isaiah 65:17-ff

For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

But be ye glad and rejoice for ever *in that* which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy.

And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying.

There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.

And they shall build houses, and inhabit *them*; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.

They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree *are* the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they *are* the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them.

And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD.

Isaiah 2:2-5

And it shall come to pass in the last days, *that* the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.

And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and

he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the LORD.

We cannot change our culture. But we can refine ourselves by living God's Word and bless the people we come in contact with by introducing them to Jesus Christ. You will never change the Churches but God can change the people that go to them. Therefore, keep your heart in the Word and the Word in your heart. When you do, the negativity which surrounds you will dissipate like fog in the morning sun.

The great secret to radiant living is to take your eyes off yourself and your circumstances and put them on the God of deliverance and His Word!

. . . come ye, and let us walk in the light of the LORD.

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**WELCOME TO THE FAMILY  
MALACHI ANDREW MATHIS  
ARRIVED: SEPTEMBER 11, 2002  
WEIGHED IN AT A HEALTHY  
NINE POUNDS & ELEVEN OUNCES**

**CONGRATULATIONS  
LINUS & JACKIE**