

Sept 3, 2022

LCF Message Notes

(pg 2)

Deut. Details Our Divine Duties #6, Chapt. 6

"We Keep God's Testimonies To Take Jurisdiction, Train Children & Thrust Out All Enemies"

John 1:1-3 1 In the beginning was the _____ (_____, the Word in the _____), and the Word was with God, and the Word _____ God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. _____

Acts 17:24 The _____ who _____ the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man,

Rom 1: 22-27 says, Polytheism / Idol Worship Exchanges The Glory of God for the gory behaviors of the created things, animals, bugs, natural phenomenon, weather, the sun, moon, stars etc...

Leviticus 26: 1-13 The "If-Then" Conditional Blessings For Obedience, Include _____

Let's ask God to work in our hearts so we fulfill ...

Deut. 6: 16-25 By Keeping God's Testimonies, to Take Jurisdiction (the official power to make _____ decisions and judgments) to Train Children & Thrust Out All Enemies

Psalm 33:12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!

The nation is the Lord's when the individual _____ of it make the God of the Bible their Lord! (Deut. 7:6 & Psalm 65:4)



Sept 3, 2022

LCF Message Notes

(pg 1)

Deut. Details Our Divine Duties #6, Chapt. 6

"We Keep God's Testimonies To Take Jurisdiction, Train Children & Thrust Out All Enemies"

Part 1 Deut. 6: 1-6 Keeping God's Commandments Is The Key To Generations of National Stability

Deut. 6:-5, Matt 22:37, Mark 12:30 - You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

To L-O-V-E God First & Most We ...

L = _____ Those who love listen,. (Rev 1:3 & Luke 11:28)

O = _____ & _____, as Obedience results from observing & obeying (1 Sam 15:22) _____

V = _____ = demonstrate we value & support the truth by putting into _____! Those who **Value** right do right

E = _____, persevering to keep faith while on the path, regardless of appearances. (2 Cor 5:7, 2 Cor 4:18, Heb 11:1)

Listen = _____ to pay attention. _____ yourself to hear God's Word. Get yourself to where you can hear & learn the Word of God. _____

_____ them. The proof we are being attentive in our **hearts** is that we are _____ of the Word. (Psalm 119:11)

"We Keep God's Testimonies To Take Jurisdiction, Train Children & Thrust Out All Enemies"

Loving God = Being Doers of his Word

The 3 H Process of Becoming Doers of the Word (Rom 10: 8-11)

- 1) We hear the Word in our _____ (Rom 12:2) _____
- 2) Then the Word moves & transforms our _____ (Ezek 18:31 & 36:26, 11:19, Heb 8:10) _____
- 3) Then the Word motivates our _____ sand feet to take action. (James 2:18, Psalms 37:31, Psalm 40:8, Luke 9:62) _____

Deut. 6: 7-11 A Nation's Future Condition (Its Trajectory) Is Determined By How It Teaches Children

Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go; even when _____ is old he will not depart from it. _____

Train up a child in the way HE should go... means ...

- a) God has a specific will for each child
 - b) God's Biblical way is the way everyone should seek to go
 - c) Parents must follow God to be able to help children find His will for their lives
 - d) Christian parents automatically will raise Christian children
- Parents, care givers & teachers, shape the _____ God puts in young people

Children Must Learn 3 Categories That Define Customary Behavior: Deut. 6: 1 This Is the **Commandment**—the **Statutes** and the **Rules**—That the LORD Your God Commanded Me To Teach You.

- 1) Commandments = ordered _____ authorized by God (based on God's authority!) _____
 - 2) Statutes = legislative actions (_____) prescribed to define customary practices to _____ the Commandments
 - 3) Rules = Case Law from making judgements during litigation which settles disputes to _____ Commandments!
- Commandments = _____ God Says
 Statutes = How our elected officials _____ & _____ what God says
 Rules = How the culture _____ what God says

Deut. 6: 4 "_____-Theism" Is More Problematic & Deceptive Than Atheism

Deut. 6: 4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is _____."

Polytheistic Idol Worship = Ascribing the Characteristics of the _____ to to Things That Are _____ the Trinity

Gen 1:1 the _____ of God was hovering over the face of the waters. 26Then God said, "Let ____ make man in _____ image

b 4 Or The LORD our God is one LORD; or The LORD is our God, the LORD is one; or The LORD is our God, the LORD alone



Sermon Reading Slides Notes

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE SLIDES

Today's Scripture Reading Slides

(For long passages, select for public reading the specific Scripture passages that will be discussed in this message)

Slide 1) Deut 6: 1-3a (ESV) Keeping God's Commandments Is The Key To Generational National Stability

¹Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the rules^a—that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, ²that you may fear the LORD your God, you and your son and your son's son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. ³Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you,

Slide 2) Deut 6: 3b-7 (ESV) If We Love God, We'll Talk About Him

^{3b}and that you may multiply greatly, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey. ⁴Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ^b⁵You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Slide 3) Deut 6: 8-11 (ESV) Prosperous People Must Prevent Forgetting God

⁸You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. ¹⁰And when the LORD your God brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you—with great and good cities that you did not build, ¹¹and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant—and when you eat and are full,

Slide 4) Deut 6: 12-15 (ESV) Polytheism Is More Problematic Than Atheism

¹²then take care lest you forget the LORD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ¹³It is the LORD your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear. ¹⁴You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you— ¹⁵for the LORD your God in your midst is a jealous God—lest the anger of the LORD your God be kindled against you, and he destroy you from off the face of the earth.

Slide 5) Deut 6: 16-19 (ESV) By Keeping God Testimonies We Possess The Land & Overcome Enemies

¹⁶You shall not put the LORD your God to the test, as you tested him at Massah. ¹⁷You shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, and his testimonies and his statutes, which he has commanded you. ¹⁸And you shall do what is right and good in the sight of the LORD, that it may go well with you, and that you may go in and take possession of the good land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers ¹⁹by thrusting out all your enemies from before you, as the LORD has promised.

Slide 6) Deut 6: 20-22 (ESV) We Train Children By Testifying Of God's Works

²⁰“When your son asks you in time to come, ‘What is the meaning of the testimonies and the statutes and the rules that the LORD our God has commanded you?’ ²¹then you shall say to your son, ‘We were Pharaoh’s slaves in Egypt. And the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. ²²And the LORD showed signs and wonders, great and grievous, against Egypt and against Pharaoh and all his household, before our eyes.

Slide 7) Deut 6: 23-25 (ESV) Persevering In God's Commandments Preserves Us

²³And he brought us out from there, that he might bring us in and give us the land that he swore to give to our fathers. ²⁴the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as we are this day. ²⁵And it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to do all this commandment before the LORD our God, as he has commanded us.’



TODAY'S MESSAGE & SLIDES

Slide 8) Message Map: Discovering Deuteronomy's Divine Duties #6 “We Keep God's Testimonies To Take Jurisdiction, Train Children & Thrust Out All Enemies”

- 1) **Deut. 6: 1-6** Keeping God's Commandments Is The Key To Generations Of National Stability
- 2) **Deut. 6: 7-11** A Nation's Future Condition Is Determined By How It Teaches & Trains Children
- 3) **Deut. 6: 12-15** Polytheism Is More Problematic & Deceptive Than Atheism
- 4) **Deut. 6: 16-25** By Keeping God's Testimonies, We Take Jurisdiction, Train Children & Thrust Out All Enemies

Slide 9) Part 1) Deut. 6: 1-6 Keeping God's Commandments Is The Key To Generations of National Stability

Deut. 6:-5, Matt 22:37, Mark 12:30 - You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Deut. 6: 1-6 says that by fearing to show a deep respect that motivates obeying God's commandments, we reap these benefits:

- 1- 2 that **your days may be long.** ³Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that **it may go well with you,**
- 3 and that you may **multiply greatly,** as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you,
- You'll **live “in a land flowing with milk and honey.”**

Deut. 6: 5-9 How We Keep God's Commandments by ...

- 6: 5 You shall **love the LORD your God** with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.
- 6: 6 **keeping commands “ on your heart.”**
- 7...You shall **teach them diligently to your children,** and shall
- 7... **talk of them** when you **SIT** in your house, and when you **WALK** by the way, and when you **LIE** down, and when you **RISE.**
- 8...You shall **BIND** them **as a sign on your hand,**
- 8... and they shall be as **frontlets between your eyes.**
- 9You shall **WRITE** them on the **doorposts of your house and on your gates.**
- x
- x

(Slide 10) Deut. 6:-5, Matt 22:37, Mark 12:30
To L-O-V-E God First & Most We ...

L = LISTEN Those who love listen... (Rev 1:3 & Luke 11:28)

- Revelation 1:3 Blessed is the one who **reads aloud the words of this prophecy**, and blessed are those who **hear it and take to heart**
- Luke 11:28 But He replied, "**Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey ...**

O = OBSERVE & OBEY, as Obedience results from observing & obeying (1 Sam 15:22)

And Samuel said, "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams.

V = VALIDATE = demonstrate we value & support the truth by putting into **PRACTICE!** Those who **Value** right do right

E = ENDURE, persevering to keep faith while on the path, regardless of appearances. Walk by faith not be sight (2 Cor 5:7, 2 Cor 4:18, heb 11:1).

- 2 Corinthians 4:18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.
- Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Revelation 1:3 Blessed is the one who **reads aloud the words of this prophecy**, and blessed are those who **hear it and take to heart ...** is written in it, because the time is near. God ...

Revelation 19:9 Then the angel told me to write, "Blessed are those **who are invited** to the wedding supper of the Lamb!"

Matthew 5:6 Blessed are those who **hunger and thirst for righteousness**, for they will be filled.

Revelation 22:14 Blessed are those who **wash their robes**, so that they may have the right to the tree ...

Psalms 119:2 Blessed are those who **keep His testimonies and seek Him with all their heart**.

Galatians 3:9 So those who **have faith** are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

... those who **rely on faith** are blessed along with Abraham

Matthew 5:4 Blessed are those who **mourn (for the right reasons)**, for they will be comforted.

Proverbs 8:32 Now therefore, my sons, listen to me, for blessed are those **who keep** my ...

... children, listen to me; blessed are those who keep my

"And so, my children, listen to me, ... all who follow my ways are joyful. "And now, ...

Matthew 5:10 Blessed are those who **are persecuted because of righteousness**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. God blesses those who are persecuted ... doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. " ...

Revelation 14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven telling me to write, "Blessed are the dead--those who ...

... say, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die ... the Lord from now on." "Yes," says ... Write this down: Blessed are those who die in the Lord ...

Psalms 106:3 Blessed are those who **uphold justice**, who practice righteousness at all ...

... Blessed are those who **act justly**, who always do what ... right. There is joy for those who deal justly with others ... always do what is right. Blessed are they who **observe justice** ...

Psalms 84:4 How blessed are those who **dwell in Your house**; they are ever **praising You**. ...

... Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ... praising you. What joy for those who can live in your ... , always **singing your praises**. Interlude Blessed are those who dwell ...

Luke 11:28 But He replied, "Blessed rather are those who **hear the word of God and obey** ...

... He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the ... of God and obey it." Jesus replied, "But ... more blessed are all who hear the word of God and put ...

Psalms 119:1 Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD.

... Blessed are those whose ways are blameless, who walk according ... the law of the LORD. Joyful are people of integrity, ... follow the instructions of the LORD. Blessed are those whose way ...

<https://biblehub.com/psalms/119-1.htm>

Proverbs 3:18 She is a tree of life to those who embrace her, and those who lay hold of her are ...

... who hold her fast will be blessed. Wisdom is a tree ... those who embrace her; happy are those who hold her tightly ... is a tree of life to those who take hold of her ...

<https://biblehub.com/proverbs/3-18.htm>

John 20:29 Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen Me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not ... and yet have believed." Then Jesus told him, " ... believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe ...

Isaiah 30:18 Therefore the LORD longs to be gracious to you; therefore He rises to show you ...

... is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for ... ! So the LORD must wait for you to come to him ... a faithful God. Blessed are those who wait for his help ...

<https://biblehub.com/isaiah/30-18.htm>

1 Samuel 9:13 As soon as you enter the city you can find him before he goes up to the high place to ...

... he comes, because he must bless the sacrifice; afterward, ... who are invited will eat. Go up now; you should ... him about this time." Hurry and catch him before he ...

https://biblehub.com/1_samuel/9-13.htm

Numbers 24:9 He crouches, he lies down like a lion; like a lioness, who dares to rouse him? ...

... them? "May those who bless you be blessed and those ... will rouse him up? Blessed are those who bless you, ... to rouse them? "May those who bless you be blessed ...

<https://biblehub.com/numbers/24-9.htm>

Psalms 84:5 Blessed are those whose strength is in You, whose hearts are set on ...

... Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts ... set on pilgrimage. What joy for those whose strength comes from ... LORD, who have set their minds on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem ...

<https://biblehub.com/psalms/84-5.htm>

Luke 6:21 Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, ...

... Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh ... you will laugh. Blessed are those hungering now, for you ...

<https://biblehub.com/luke/6-21.htm>

Psalms 37:22 Surely those He blesses will inherit the land, but the cursed will be ...

... those the LORD blesses will inherit the land, but those ... be cut off. Those who are blessed by the LORD will ... those the LORD blesses will inherit the land, but those ...

<https://biblehub.com/psalms/37-22.htm>

James 1:12 Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he ...

... Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having ... everyone who loves him. Happy are those who remain faithful under ... , because when they succeed in passing such a test, they ...

<https://biblehub.com/james/1-12.htm>

Genesis 27:29 May peoples serve you and nations bow down to you. May you be the master of your ...

... you be cursed and those who bless you be blessed." ... thee; those who curse thee are cursed, and those who ... bow down to you. May those who curse you be cursed ...

Slide 11) Deut 6: 5 Loving God =

Listen = LEAN IN to pay attention. **POSITION** yourself to hear God's Word. Get yourself to where you can hear & learn the Word of God.

LEAN UPON them. The proof we are being attentive in our **hearts** is that we are **DOERS** of the Word. (Psalm 119:11)

Your Word I have hidden in my heart that I might not sin against you. (Psalm 119:11 NKJ)

Slide 12) Deut 6: 1-6 (J. Vernon McGee) (Rom 10: 8-11)

- Rom 10:8-11 **8**But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); **9**because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. **10**For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. **11**For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame."

Loving God = Being Doers of his Word

The 3 H Process of Becoming Doers of the Word

- 1) We hear the Word is in our **HEAD**
 - Rom 12: 2 ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.
- 2) Then the Word moves & transforms our **HEART** (Ezek 18:31 & 36:26, 11:19, Heb 8:10)
 - (Ezek 18:31 & 36:26, 11:19).
 - Ezek 18:31 Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel?
 - Ezek 36:26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.
 - Ezek 36: 25- 27 ²⁵I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.^a ²⁸You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God. ²⁹And I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses.
 - Without Holy Spirit born heart transformation, we can be sincerely wrong, but Hosea 7:14 They do not cry to me from the heart, but they wail upon their beds; for grain and wine they gash themselves; they rebel against me.
 - Hebrews 8:10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

- By God's grace we obtain heart transformation. Jeremiah 24:7 I will give them a heart to know that I am the LORD, and they shall be my people and I will be their God, for they shall return to me with their whole heart.
- 3) Then the Word motivates our **HANDS** and feet to take action. (James 2:18, Psalm 37:31, Psalm 40:8, Luke 9:62)
- James 2:18 Faith is demonstrated by what we do: "...I will show you my faith by my works."
- Luke 9:62 Jesus said to him, "No one who **puts his hand to the plow** and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."
- Philippians 3:13-14 ¹³Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: **forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.**

We first take the appropriate actions towards God, and then we take the appropriate actions towards others, neighbors, coworkers, etc...

Psalm 37:31 The law of his God is in his heart; his steps do not falter. (BSB)

Psalm 40:8 I delight to do Your will, O my God; Your law is within my heart." (BSB)

Slide 13) Part 2) Deut. 6: 7-11 A Nation's Future Condition (Its Trajectory) Is Determined By How It Teaches Children

Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go; even when HE is old he will not depart from it.

(Slide 14) Children Must Learn (Be Instructed in) the Way God Wants Them To Go

Train up a child in the way HE should go... means ...

- a) God has a specific will for each child
- b) God's Biblical way is the way everyone should seek to go
- c) Parents must follow God to be able to help children find His will for their lives
- d) Christian parents automatically will raise Christian children
Parents, care givers & teachers, shape the **GIFTS** God puts in young people

Slide 15a) Children Must Learn 3 Categories for Defining Customary Behavior – Deut. 6: 1 This Is the Commandment—the Statutes and the Rules—That the LORD Your God Commanded Me To Teach You.

- 1) **Commandments** = ordered **MANDATES** authorized by God (based on God's authority!)
- 2) **Statutes** = legislative actions (**LAWS**) prescribed to define customary practices to **ADMINISTER** the Commandments
- 3) **Rules = Case Law** from making judgements during litigation which settles disputes to **ADJUDICATE** the Commandments!

Slide 15b) Children must learn 3 categories for defining customary behavior

Commandments = **WHAT** God Says

Statutes = How our elected officials **DEFINE & INTERPRET** what God says

- This is why it is important to get the who right to get the do right, because the who's have got to do the do!

Rules = How the culture **PRACTICES** what God says. Practices are administered by those who teach, grade, police and adjudicate what encourages the right do's and discourages the appropriate don'ts.

Slide 16) Part 3) Deut. 6: 4 “POLY-Theism”” Is More Problematic & Deceptive Than Atheism

Deut. 6: 4 “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is **ONE**.”

- Deut 6: 4 means God is manifested in 3 persons, who are of One Divine Essence, Motive, Unified Opinion & Action
- WWII Was Started & Perpetuated By Nations that Ascribed God-Like Status To Their Leaders

Imperial Japan elevated its emperor to a god status, making it easier for his high command to justify anything and everything. In the interwar years, Japanese authorities began reversing liberal policies on religious activity. **By the late 1930s, as Princeton University’s Sheldon Garon details, the regime was regulating religious activity, ordering religious groups to correct “discrepancies between their teachings and the imperial myth,” and subordinating all faiths to the cult of the emperor.**

Likewise, the Nazi regime desired “a complete extirpation of Christianity, with its mandate to Love God first & most!, and obey God over government authority!” as the U.S. government concluded after combing through Nazi records, but “considerations of expediency made it impossible” to do so in one fell swoop. So **Hitler employed a policy of gradualism: lying to church leaders about the Nazi program and then lying about church leaders to the German people, abrogating laws protecting religious independence, seizing control of church institutions, shuttering religious schools and seminaries, declaring certain denominations illegal, fomenting violence against church leaders, sending anti-Nazi church leaders to concentration camps and murdering others.**

The Soviet Union’s founding father, Vladimir Lenin, viewed religion as “a powerful and ubiquitous enemy,” and **purged those who refused to genuflect to the state and elevated government above all else.**

Johnson writes.

Virtually the entire clergy corps of the Russian Orthodox Church was liquidated or sent to labor camps in the 1920s and 1930s. “By 1939 only about 500 of over 50,000 churches remained open,” according to Library of Congress reports.

EW – The Surviving Russian Orthodox Church was compatible with & no threat to Lenin’s image!

Although Josef Stalin, in the grimmest days of World War II, permitted the practice of religion to rally the Russian people, it was a self-serving – and short-lived – response to an existential threat. As evidence, in 1953, Stalin ordered more than a million Soviet Jews deported to Siberia. They were spared only by his death.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS PROFESSOR WILLIAM INBODEN notes that “**every major war the United States has fought over the past 70 years has been against an enemy that also severely violated religious freedom.**” He sees a clear “correlation between religious persecution and national-security threats.” Indeed, today’s worst violators of religious liberty represent the most serious threats to U.S. interests.

North Korea stands out “for its absolute prohibition of religious organizations and harsh punishments for any unauthorized religious activities,” the State Department concludes. “Thousands of religious believers and their families are imprisoned in penal labor camps,” according to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), which consigns North Korea to the lowest tier – the bottom

eight – on its ranking of religious freedom. The religious are “arrested, tortured, imprisoned and sometimes executed.” Some 300,000 North Korean Christians have disappeared since the end of the war.

A special United Nations panel finds in North Korea a “complete denial of the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.” State-sponsored crimes include “extermination, murder, enslavement, torture, imprisonment ... persecution on political, religious, racial and gender grounds.”

Recognizing the “many parallels” between North Korea and Nazi Germany, panel chairman Michael Kirby concedes, “I never thought that in my lifetime it would be part of my duty to bring revelations of a similar kind.”

China also ranks in the very worst level on USCIRF’s review. According to USCIRF, “independent Catholics and Protestants face arrests, fines and the shuttering of their places of worship.” Tibetan Buddhists, Uighur Muslims, practitioners of Falun Gong, folk religionists and Protestant house-church attendees are subjected to “jail terms, forced renunciations of faith and torture in detention ... Protestants and Catholics who refuse to join the state-sanctioned religious organizations continue to face severe restrictions... and property destruction.”

Consider what’s happening in Wenzhou, a city in eastern China “known for its relaxed ties between church and state,” The New York Times reports. Too relaxed, it turns out. Xia Baolong, a regional Communist Party leader, saw a massive spire atop a new church and ordered government authorities to bulldoze the entire place of worship. A dozen other churches in the region were then forced to remove their crosses or face demolition. Importantly, Xia is a close ally of Xi Jinping, China’s president.

Or consider the story of Bishop Cosma Shi Enxiang, who recently died after 60 years in prison. His crime: refusing to renounce his allegiance to the Vatican – and refusing to bow to Beijing’s illegitimate form of Catholicism.

According to a 2015 Freedom House report, “hundreds of thousands” of religious adherents – many of them guilty of “simply possessing spiritual texts in the privacy of their homes” – were sentenced to labor camps or prison.

According to the State Department, Beijing prohibits teachers and civil servants from worshipping at mosques, fines individuals “for studying the Quran in unauthorized sessions” and positions the Chinese flag on mosque walls “in the direction of Mecca so prayers would be directed toward them.”

Moving from an atheist dictatorship to a fundamentalist theocracy, the picture in Iran is not terribly different. Iran is also ranked in the lowest tier on the USCIRF’s review of international religious freedom. The Iranian regime is in the midst of what USCIRF describes as “systemic, ongoing and egregious violations of religious freedom, including prolonged detention, torture and executions.”

According to the State Department, the Iranian government “deems conversion from Islam to be apostasy” (punishable by death), bars non-Muslims from engaging in public religious expression (punishable by death), bans the Bahá’í faith from public pensions and imprisons Christian church leaders for spreading “anti-regime propaganda.”

Considered “illegal networks” and “Zionist propaganda institutions” by Tehran, house churches are regularly raided. According to USCIRF, “Christians, particularly evangelicals and other Protestants, are subject to harassment, arrests, close surveillance and imprisonment.”

Shiite theocrats and Sunni autocrats may have different interpretations of the Quran, but the results are largely the same. Like Iran, Saudi Arabia is consigned to be the lowest tier on USCIRF’s survey. Saudi Arabia is a place where “not a single church or other non-Muslim house of worship exists,” where promoting “unbelief” is a crime, where even private religious

practice is not protected, according to USCIRF. Worse, high school textbooks “teach hatred toward members of other religions,” promote violence “against apostates,” and label Jews and Christians “enemies.”

According to USCIRF, religious freedom in Pakistan has “hit an all-time low due to chronic sectarian violence” targeting Shiites, Christians, Ahmadis and Hindus (actions for which the Pakistani government is not necessarily responsible) and due to the fact that “the Pakistani government failed to intervene effectively” to protect these groups (inaction for which it is very much responsible). For example, when suicide bombers attacked a church in Peshawar, killing 100 people, and mobs rampaged through Christian villages in Punjab, destroying at least 100 homes, “few, if any, perpetrators were held to account.”

Vladimir Putin’s Russia is a second-tier regime on the USCIRF rankings, among the 26 worst governments when it comes to religious freedom. The State Department cites Russia for “imprisonment, detention and degrading treatment of members of religious minorities.” The Russian government arbitrarily imposes restrictions that infringe on the rights of various Muslim sects, Christian denominations and other religions. A new blasphemy law curtails “the freedoms of religion, belief and expression,” according to USCIRF, which adds that the Russian government prosecutes Muslims without evidence, issues baseless fines against Protestant churches, and denies permits to Mormon, Armenian Catholic and Muslim houses of worship. INBODEN’S CORRELATION between religious persecution and national security is striking. The unsavory regimes noted previously, along with the transnational movements detailed ahead, represent some of the Pentagon’s gravest worries.

The United States is just a hair-trigger away from renewed hostilities with North Korea. China (in cyberspace and the South and East China seas), Russia (in cyberspace and Central and Eastern Europe) and Iran (in the Persian Gulf, Damascus, Baghdad, Manama and Sana) are waging proxy wars against the United States.

To be sure, both Saudi Arabia and Pakistan are technically, nominally, allies. But it pays to recall that Saudi Arabia is “the most significant source of funding to Sunni terrorist groups worldwide,” according to State Department cables. For years, Osama bin Laden hid in plain sight in Pakistan. Also, Pakistan’s intelligence agency midwifed the Taliban, which made common cause with al-Qaida.

Beyond the boundaries of any regime, transnational groups target faith freedom.

The Afghan Taliban, for instance, ordered Hindus to wear special identity labels, destroyed ancient statues of Buddha, executed those belonging to opposing sects of Islam, considered evangelism a “severe crime” and imprisoned foreigners who talked about Christianity. The Pakistani Taliban has targeted Christian churches. A 2001 attack killed 15, a 2002 attack killed five and wounded 45, and a 2013 bombing killed 81.

In short, no one should have been surprised when the Taliban allowed bin Laden to use Afghanistan as a launching pad for his war against civilization. The terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, were the natural endpoint for such a monstrous movement – or perhaps we should say “midpoint.” After all, the Islamic State has pushed the jihadist war on civilization to new lows.

ISIS (whose adherents are Sunni Muslim) has summarily executed hundreds of Shiite Muslims in Iraq, set fire to “apostate” homes across Syria and Iraq, executed independent imams and Yazidis, subjected Yazidi women to “systematic rape and sex slavery,” according to the Kurdish government, and orchestrated mass beheadings of Egyptian Christians. ISIS has given Christians a choice to convert to Islam, pay extortion to remain Christian or face execution. And in its self-styled

capital of Raqqa, Syria, it has installed sharia law, complete with public executions in the town square.

This is the enemy the United States has been fighting – not by proxy but at close range – for 14 years. But America is not at war with Islam. In the past quarter-century, U.S. forces have rescued Muslims in Kosovo and Kurdistan, Somalia and Sumatra, Kuwait and Kabul. However, the United States is at war with those who would force people to submit to Islam or any other faith. Now, as in Roosevelt's day, Americans long for a world where neither government dominates religion (like the People's Republic of China) nor religion dominates government (like the Islamic State or the Islamic Republic of Iran).

THERE'S A PARADOX at work here. Regimes that have no respect for religion naturally see no limits on their power and no moral constraints on what they do. Since they believe nothing is above the state, they can rationalize everything they do in the name of the state or the fatherland or the revolution. Consider Hitler, Stalin, Mao and the Kim dynasty. Yet regimes and groups at the opposite end of the spectrum – those that see themselves as exponents of a religion and instruments of their god – end up at the very same destination. Since they believe they are acting on behalf of their god, and since nothing is above their god, they can rationalize everything they do in the name of their god. Consider ISIS and al-Qaida, Hezbollah and Iran.

This isn't to suggest that the United States should go to war against every enemy of religious liberty, but Washington needs to be on alert when interacting with the enemies of faith freedom because even on those occasions when they share America's interests, they never share America's values. They are not friends of the United States and are not to be trusted.

As President Ronald Reagan once said, "It is difficult to imagine that a government that continues to repress freedom in its own

country, breaking faith with its own people, can be trusted to keep agreements with others."

Put another way, now is not the time to cut deals with Tehran, take Putin at his word, avert our gaze from the latter-day gulags in North Korea and China, or breezily conclude that we're "turning the page on a decade of war" – especially given that the enemy in this war is still viciously fighting and still violently opposed to religious pluralism.

Instead, leading policymakers should draw attention – relentlessly and repeatedly – to assaults on religious liberty. The White House should shame regimes that can be shamed, isolate the shameless, help willing governments back on a pathway to respecting human rights and provide a platform for persecuted peoples.

"A little less detente and more encouragement to the dissenters," Reagan concluded, "might be worth a lot of armored divisions."

Alan W. Dowd is a senior fellow with the Sagamore Institute Center for America's Purpose (sagamoreinstitute.org) and a contributing editor for The American Legion Magazine.

(Slide 17) Polytheistic Idol Worship = Ascribing the Characteristics of the TRINITY to Things That Are NOT the Trinity

Gen 1:1 the **SPIRIT** of God was hovering over the face of the waters. 2Then God said, "Let **US** make man in **OUR** image,

John 1:1-3 1 In the beginning was the **WORD (JESUS)**, the Word in the **FLESH**), and the Word was with God, and the Word **WAS** God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Acts 17:24 The **GOD** who **MADE** the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man,

Rom 1: 22-27 says, Polytheism / Idol Worship Exchanges The Glory of God for the gory behaviors of the created things, animals, bugs, natural phenomenon, weather, the sun, moon, stars etc...

Romans 1:22 - 27 22Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. 24Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, 25because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. 26For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; 27and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

Slide 18) Leviticus 26: 1-6 The “If-Then” Conditional Blessings

¹“You shall not make idols for yourselves or erect an image or pillar, and ... not set up a figured stone ...to bow down to it, for I am the LORD your God. ³“If you walk in my statutes and observe my commandments and do them, ⁴then I will give you your rains in their season, and the land shall yield its increase, and the trees ...shall yield their fruit. ⁵...the grape harvest shall last to the ... sowing. And you shall eat your bread ... and dwell in your land securely. ⁶I will give peace in the land... And ... remove harmful beasts ..., and the sword shall not go through your land.

Slide 19) Leviticus 26: 7-13 The If-Then Blessings Of Obedience

⁷You shall chase your enemies... ⁸Five ... shall chase a hundred, and a hundred ... shall chase ten thousand, and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword. ⁹I will turn to you and make you fruitful and multiply you and will confirm my covenant with you. ¹⁰You shall eat old store long kept, and ...clear out the old ... for the new. ¹¹I will make my dwelling^a among you, and my soul shall not abhor you. ¹²And I will walk among you and will be your God, and you shall be my people. ¹³I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of ... Egypt, And .. broken the bars of your yoke and made you walk erect

Slide 20) Part 4) Let’s Ask God To Work in our Hearts so We Fulfill ... Deut. 6: 16-25 by Keeping God’s Testimonies, To Take Jurisdiction (the official power to make LEGAL decisions and judgments) To Train Children & Thrust out all Enemies!

- We have to acknowledge Christians have lost jurisdiction in America. The true, Bible-believing Church was deceived by the concept of “separation of church and state,” into abandoning our 1st Amendment position to be the moral conscience and guide of society.
- The concept of “separation of church and state” communicates that the Bible has no relevance in social and civic affairs.
- And when government grabs a Biblical sin and calls it a human right

Psalm 33:12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!

(Slide 21) Deut 6: 24 “The Lord Commanded Us For Our Good”

Deut. 6:24 “The LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive!”

Before Pastor Earl lead us through Isaiah 63, let's read its 18 verses together from the slides on the screen.

As we read today's Scripture slides, I'll read the slide headers, and then we'll read the passages together.

