

Newsbytes

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“Let us be alert to the season in which we are living. It is the season of the Blessed Hope, calling for us to cut our ties with the world and build ourselves on this One who will soon appear. He is our hope—a Blessed Hope enabling us to rise above our times and fix our gaze upon Him.” Tozer

Cash No Longer King: Europe Moves To Begin Elimination Of Paper Money



In the shadow of Donald Trump's spree of controversial actions, the European commission has quietly launched the next offensive in the war on cash.

These unelected bureaucrats have boldly asserted their intention to crack down on paper transactions across the E.U. and solidify a trend that has been gaining momentum for years.

The financial uncertainty amplified by Brexit has incentivized governments throughout Europe to seize further control over their banking systems.

image: <http://www.prophecynewswatch.com/images/recent/waruncashjan302017.jpg>
News Image BY SHAUN BRADLEY/THEANTIMEDIA.ORG FEBRUARY 13, 2017

France and Spain have already criminalized cash transactions above a certain limit, but now the commission has unilaterally established new regulations that will affect the entire union.

The fear of physical money flowing out of the trade bloc has manifested a draconian response from the State.

The European Action Plan doesn't mention a specific dollar amount for restrictions, but as expected, their reasoning for the move is to thwart money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

Border checks between countries have already been bolstered to help implement these new standards on hard assets. Although these end goals are plausible, there are other clear motivations for governments to target paper money that aren't as noble.

Negative interest rates and high inflation are a deadly combination that could further destabilize the already fragile union in the future.

With less physical currency circulating, these trends ensure that the impact of any additional central bank policies will be maximized. If economic conditions deteriorate, the threat of citizens pulling cash out of their accounts and starting a bank run is eliminated in a cashless system.

So long as the people's wealth is under centralized control, funds can be shifted at will to conceal any underlying problems. But the longer this shell game is allowed to persist, the more painful it will be when reality overrides the manipulation.

Since former Chief Economist at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Kenneth Rogoff, published a paper last year advocating for the U.S. \$100 bill to be removed, governments around the world have pushed forward their agendas towards a cashless society. He wrote:

"There is little debate among law-enforcement agencies that paper currency, especially large notes such as the U.S. \$100 bill, facilitates crime: racketeering, extortion, money laundering, drug and human trafficking, the corruption of public officials, not to mention terrorism.

There are substitutes for cash--cryptocurrencies, uncut diamonds, gold coins, prepaid cards--but for many kinds of criminal transactions, cash is still king.

It delivers absolute anonymity, portability, liquidity and near-universal acceptance."

This announcement comes just months after the 500 euro note was discontinued, and it follows India's lead in subverting the financial independence of their citizens.

The incremental steps currently being taken may look trivial in isolation, but the ultimate end is to lay the foundation for an entire network for economic repression.

The German people have placed themselves in strong opposition to the action and previously pushed back hard against domestic legislation that would have limited cash.

Nearly 80% of all transactions in Germany are made with paper currency, putting Europe's economic engine in direct conflict with the vision coming out of Brussels.

The spillover effect has affected new forms of investment, like Bitcoin, which witnessed an astronomical rise over the last months and has been brought back into the discussion as a viable alternative to fiat currencies. Of course, the E.U. Commission is also attempting to impose similar limitations on crypto-currencies to make sure no transactions fall outside of their domain. The ECB and BOJ are working towards a trojan horse blockchain network that will serve only to entrap those naive enough to trust it.

Former Treasury Secretary Larry Summers wrote last year that the E.U. would likely be the trailblazer of the West towards this new digital model:

"But a moratorium on printing new high denomination notes would make the world a better place. In terms of unilateral steps, the most important actor by far is the European Union.

The 500 is almost six times as valuable as the \$100. Some actors in Europe, notably the European Commission, have shown sympathy for the idea and European Central Bank chief Mario Draghi has shown interest as well."

Since the public's attention has been drawn to emotional manipulations and political stunts, the threat the war on cash represents has gone unrecognized. Instead of feeding energy into systems meant to divide and conquer, individuals must educate themselves to secure their own financial futures.

By submitting to the hive mind and following the media down whichever rabbit hole they choose, the

most important issues of today will go unnoticed.

The value of advocating for decentralized and physical alternatives to the banking system may not be easily grasped by the activists of today, but few other things have the potential to erode freedom on such a massive scale.

Latest “Christian” Film blasted as Not So Christian

'No way on Earth this has anything to do' with the faith

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It's a “Christian” book featured on numerous bestseller lists for more than 100 weeks – an unprecedented accomplishment in publishing history. Almost 10 years after publication, it remains one of the top selling books at Amazon.com and a bestseller in several categories.

And now “The Shack” has been turned into a movie premiering next month that will bring its message to a whole new audience.

Some Christians might be tempted to rejoice.

But “The Shack” gives audiences false hope, telling them what they want to hear, say critics. And those who know the book and its theology contend it teaches heresy and is leading Christians astray.

Leading the effort to expose “The Shack” is James De Young, a New Testament language and literature professor at Western Seminary in Portland, Oregon, who holds multiple degrees from respected seminaries, including Dallas Seminary, Talbot Theological Seminary and Moody Bible Institute.

De Young is a former longtime colleague of “The Shack” author Paul Young who challenges the mega-bestseller in his blockbuster exposé, “Burning Down The Shack.”

De Young asserts “The Shack” promotes a heretical idea of “universal reconciliation,” the concept that all people will be saved.

“The danger from all of this is to distort the gospel, to give people a false hope of being able to change their destiny after death and to distort the meaning of Christ’s death,” he told WND.

“Indeed, the need for Christ to die a sacrificial death for people’s sins is dissipated and eventually erased. But the greatest danger is that universal reconciliation redefines who God is by insisting that the attribute of God’s love trumps his other attributes of justice, holiness and righteousness. Love limits his other attributes. In so doing, some attributes are not fully expressed or perfect. In this way God ceases to be God. Instead we have a man-created, man-centered god.”

Indeed, De Young contends “The Shack” essentially tells Christians their feelings are more important than the Bible. Sadly, according to De Young, it is a message many believers want to hear.

“In the postmodern spirit of our age, the authority of the Bible takes second place to a personal sense of what to believe, who God is, or what God does or approves,” De Young said. “Each person comes to believe and do ‘what is right in his own eyes.’ Ignorance of the teaching of the Bible is widespread. The influence of liberal theology and a culture where entertainment, sport and wealth rule leave Christians heavily oppressed and weakened to withstand such an onslaught against the truth. People prefer what feels good rather than the truth which may hurt.”

Is one of the most successful “Christian” books in history actually promoting anti-Christian beliefs? Don’t be fooled. Find out the terrible true story behind “The Shack” and uncover the heretical doctrines being promoted. Your soul could be at stake. “Burning Down The Shack” by James DeYoung, available now in the WND Superstore.

Other critics have similar concerns.

“Although I have not seen ‘The Shack’ movie, I have read the book – and found it to be beyond disturbing for its thoroughly anti-biblical portrayal of God,” said Joseph Farah, founder of WND. Of course, if you want to think of our Creator as Oprah, you’re welcome to do so, but you will be chagrined on Judgment Day. We don’t serve a do-your-own-thing God. We serve one who invites relationship and offers grace through repentance and eternal life, but He does have rules and demands obedience and accountability to them.

“I was invited to see the movie. I declined. I would rather spend the time reading the Word of God or even watching a movie like ‘I’m Not Ashamed’ or some biblical epic. I hope people will not be led astray by the heretical message of universalism – everyone goes to heaven, from Hitler to Stalin to serial rapists and murderers – that pervades the book.”

“No way on Earth this has anything to do with Christianity,” he said.

Jan Markell, founder and president of Olive Tree Ministries and an evangelist featured in the film “Trapped in Hitler’s Hell,” echoed Farah’s criticism.

“The missing art of evangelical discernment is one of the primary problems in the church today,” said Markell. “It suits society today to have a God who is non-judgmental and who suggests that all humanity is redeemed. But the spiritual wreckage that has come from this is shocking, and it is about to get a lot worse with the release of the film. Expect a tidal wave of confusion thanks to the ongoing nonsense propagated in both the book and film.”

Markell is especially concerned because of the greater power of film compared to books to communicate a dangerous message by playing on the audience’s emotions.

“Heart strings are pulled much more so in films than in books,” she warned. “Viewers will visibly see the agony on (main character) Mack’s face when he learns of his daughter. They will identify with him if they are going through a great trial. They will want this man to get some comfort from his emotional pain. Imagine your kid being raped and murdered. They will not care that he gets counsel and comfort from a woman who plays the role of God in this twisted novel that millions of Christians have bought into.

“For some reason many Christians give fiction or fantasy-fiction a pass. They should not with ‘The Shack.’ This twists the issue of salvation so that all can be saved in the end.”

DeYoung also believes the movie may do more damage to Christians than the already hugely influential book.

“The real danger of the movie ‘The Shack’ is that it portrays in a visual way the broad theology of the novel,” he said. “It imprints on the mind and memory more permanently and graphically the teaching of the book. And the teaching of the novel is a very subtle and submerged propagation of the ideas based in universal reconciliation.”

DeYoung said the “history of what Paul Young has written in the past, how the novel first openly articulated this universalism and was rewritten to hide it and make it palpable to most Christians is essential to understanding how this universalism can be recognized in the novel and movie.”

“It is also essential that a person becomes knowledgeable about the beliefs of universal reconciliation.”

In “Burning Down The Shack,” DeYoung provides detailed criticisms of the flawed theology contained within “The Shack.” He provided some especially egregious examples in an interview with WND.

According to De Young, the most unbiblical statements include (with God speaking):

“I am not who you think I am”

“I don’t punish sin”

“I don’t condemn most to an eternity of torment”

“[M]ercy triumphs over justice because of love”

“I am now fully reconciled to the world”

Besides its universalism, De Young also condemns “The Shack” for having God say, “I don’t create institutions.” Marriage, the church and the government are described as the “man-created trinity of terrors that ravages the earth”

“It’s all false,” he said.

“In asserting this, Young takes on the mantle of a terrorist, anarchist and subverter of the home and marriage,” De Young said. “He is anti-church, anti-marriage and the home, and anti-American.”

De Young also condemns the book for other “heretical doctrines,” including that the whole Trinity was crucified (patripassianism), and that the whole Trinity became incarnate (and not just Jesus Christ).

Pastor Carl Gallups, author of several books including his latest, “When The Lion Roars,” believes the movie’s entertainment value will conceal the disturbing messages within it.

“As far as pure entertainment value, and serving as kindling for heated theological discussion starters, this movie will be hard to beat,” he told WND. “But the serious-minded Christian and almost every student of solid theology will be more than disappointed. So much in the book regarding the fundamentals of the Christian faith is severely inaccurate and could be dangerously misleading.”

Gallups sees “The Shack” as yet another attempt to water down the Christian message into a vague, “New Age” type of spiritualism.

“It distorts the biblical understanding of the Trinity, the divinity of Jesus, the clear gospel message of salvation, the absolute necessity of Jesus Christ for salvation and the biblical balance between God’s love and His holy judgment that is to come upon the world,” said Gallups. “Brought forward in the book version are the unmistakable teachings of universalism, New Age mysticism and elements of Eastern mystery religions.

“To quote the ‘Jesus’ figure in the book: ‘Those who love me come from every system that exists. They were Buddhists or Mormons, Baptists or Muslims, Democrats, Republicans and many who don’t vote or

are not part of any Sunday morning or religious institutions.’ Then, the book’s character of Jesus declares, ‘I have no desire to make them Christian, but I do want to join them in their transformation into sons and daughters of my Papa [the book’s name for God], into my brothers and sisters, my Beloved.’

“Of course, the very definition of the word Christian means to be a follower of Christ. So the book has Jesus asserting that He doesn’t want to make anyone ‘followers of His,’ He just wants to make them all to be ‘brothers.’ This is the core message of universalism, but it’s not the message of the Word of God.”

De Young argues Christians need to turn to the Bible to truly understand their faith. Only then, he says, will they be able to recognize distortions and heretical teachings when they appear.

“Christians who have embraced the teaching of the cross for personal salvation should be jealous to protect the gospel from corruption,” he said. “They need to become informed more deeply with the teaching of the Bible, be willing to confront error where it appears no matter what the cost, and read both the questionable literature and the responses to it. They need to exercise critical thinking and deepen their relationship with, and their love for, God and our Lord. Jesus and the Apostles exhort us to contend for the faith.”

Hamis Picks Convicted Murderer as Its New Leader in Gaza

by TheTower.org Staff | 02.13.17

A Palestinian terrorist with multiple murder convictions has been elected as Hamas’ new political leader in the Gaza Strip, an official for the Islamist group confirmed on Monday.

Yehya Sinwar, in his mid 50s, is an influential and unpredictable hardliner who helped found the al-Majd intelligence unit, an early prototype of Hamas’ Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades, The New York Times reported. He was sentenced to life in prison by an Israeli court in 1989 for killing Palestinians suspected of working with the IDF, but continued directing terrorist attacks while incarcerated. He was released in a 2011 prisoner swap to free Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit and added to the U.S. terrorism blacklist in 2015.

At the time of the prisoner swap, Sinwar was “most senior prisoner released, and clearly destined for leadership,” the Times noted. Since returning to Gaza, Sinwar has “consolidated his power and his harsh reputation.” He is believed to have orchestrated the arrest, torture, and eventual execution of Mahmoud Ishtawi, a senior figure in the al-Qassam Brigades.

A profile on the al-Qassam Brigades’ website describes Sinwar as “Silent, active, and [possessing] a unique ability to dialogue and persuade people to revert back to Islam as a way of life.”