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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

With the Alex Jones kerfuffle this week over his getting booted off of YouTube, FB, and Spotify, I thought it a good time to run this. Christians are getting bent out of shape about something called “censorship” which is not to be confused with what the bible calls “persecution”.

Alex Jones’ situation doesn’t concern me one bit. It doesn’t scare me, I have no sympathy. He isn’t even on my radar. Look, he’s an entertainer. He’s made millions keeping people hooked on his unprovable theories. He’ll lawyer up. He’s not teaching the bible. He’s not suffering for the gospel. The bible says nothing about conservative politics and persecution, and God’s not wringing His hands over any of it.

If we’re not persecuted it means we aren’t shining a light. The bible says all those who desire to live godly will suffer persecution. Period. And politics shouldn’t have anything to do with it. Does Jones desire to live godly? I have no idea. Is he suffering for the gospel? I don’t see that. A lot of Christians are concerned but I don’t get that. Christians suffering in some ridiculous culture war? No. Let’s make sure our priorities are straight.

A Conspiracy of Evil

by Mary Danielsen



My first encounter with an “urban myth” of sorts that took on a life of its own was back in 1969, when I was in elementary school and caught up, like much of the rest of the youth-driven western world, with the “British Invasion”.

That was the summer that the *Paul-Is-Dead* hoax took the teen world by storm, complete with album cover clues for Mop Top fans to obsess over day and night. As the story goes, Paul McCartney himself was in a fatal car accident in 1966 and was replaced with a double so the “show” could go on.

British Intelligence had been forced to cover it up so as to prevent hysteria (over the Beatles?! What?) and a wave of suicides among young fans. The “Abbey Road” cover included clues, my favorite of which was depicted on the license plate of a car parked

alongside the road which said, “28IF”, meaning Paul would be 28 if he were still alive.

Twenty-eight sounded so old to me at that point. Not exactly rocket science, this pop culture urban legend stuff. And we ate. it. up. But we were children, impressionable and immature.

Now, not long ago, Paul himself admitted the Beatles concocted the entire thing (surprise!) and I was never fooled by it in the first place. It was primarily a conversational piece. Come on, they were barely out of their teens themselves so obviously they found this appealing. And since Paul is still touring this suggests that such things have a shelf life.

But, in a generation that at one time also clamored after “backward masking” clues found on vinyl records played backwards (1980s now), why would it not surprise me that social media today has become the go-to spot for fake news and bunny trails?

What exactly is fake news? What is an urban legend? Does anyone even know a hoax when they hear one? And more importantly, what might the Christian response be to the endless stream of conspiracies, fabrications, and distractions that the explosion of media outlets offers us 24/7?

Now, not every Christian will share my view on what is to follow. Let’s face it, as we are neck deep in false teachers, false teachings, doctrines of demons and wolves in sheepy attire, there has to be a healthy dose of skepticism about the church’s ability to tell true from false, let alone right from wrong. The very people besides the Jews entrusted with the truth do not always live up to the calling of preserving it, let alone handling it right or handing it down.

So for our purposes here, I am going to put urban legends, myths, fake news, chain letters/posts, fabricated heart-tugging viral email stories about kids/dogs/veterans, hoaxes and conspiracy theories all in one pot, stir gently, and see what we can glean from the bible about the Christian’s position on such things. Considering the depth and breadth of our immersion into social media, I think so far the Father of Lies is winning the truth war but this ought not to be – in the church at least. I expect nothing of the world in this aspect but there is a high calling for believers to dwell in the light.



If you are a Facebooker, you are constantly exposed to news and human interest stories. The process you engage in when deciding to post an article or something close to your heart is complex and varied, but in there somewhere should be some sort of discerning/vetting process. Is what I am posting true? Is it praiseworthy? Does it serve to inform, enlighten, edify or bring cheer to a dark corner? PRIMARILY, is it true?

The impulsive nature of FB posts and responses tends toward engaging the emotions first and foremost, so every post needs to pass some sort of standard or test. Oftentimes however, the post-er has not even looked into an item to see if it is true or false and by the time it goes around the world in 60 seconds, we have added to the gargantuan pile of falsehood that the world is already following after and discussing somewhere in the universe. Does this make you cringe? It should.

Much of what goes into the FB permanent record can be classified as a hoax (“a {famous celebrity} fixed my flat tire and got saved on the spot after buying me lunch”) or an urban myth (Wisconsinites especially will understand the bizarre ‘Slenderman’ myth which will likely send two young teens to prison for a long time based on a delusion/lie), chain posts (“if Jesus makes you happy pass this post along to all your friends and God will be obligated to give you a special blessing”) nonsense; and fake news (a counterfeit story designed to damage or destroy someone or an agency).

On any given day, millions of people are reading a good deal of this junk and with varying degrees of gullibility, literacy, emotional maturity, and ignorance by which to filter them. And Christians, while often engaging in apologetics and encouragement on social media and connecting with far away family and friends, still end up on the gullible end of things all too often.

If we are going to be using the internet, email, and other outlets to pierce the darkness, what are our obligations in these matters where truth is concerned, lest we end up adding to the darkness ourselves?

And what about conspiracy theories? Now there's a can of worms that really needs to be inspected. While we all eventually grew out of the McCartney silliness, there are plenty of conspiracies that find a home in the hearts and minds of adults, such as:

the JFK assassination
Oklahoma City
Blood moons, eclipses, star alignments
the Moon/Mars missions
crop circles
flat earth theory
hidden meanings on money and in architecture
global warming
chemtrails
the final Pope
Georgia Guidestones
Illuminati
9/11 inside job theory
mandatory chip implants in the health care bill
Skull and Bones society
Area 51/Roswell/Aliens
The Clintons
Elvis' death...Diana's death...Michael Jackson's death...
...and so much more.

My purpose here is not to address these topics per se, and I have no interest in hearing about the nuances of their veracity or authenticity so please don't engage me in the finer points, I will not get mired in "cleverly devised fables" (2Peter 1;16). What I am interested in is, are they worthy of our time? How does pursuit of these topics affect our hearts and devotion to Christ? How do they affect our witness? What does the bible say regardless of how we feel about it?

So why do Christians find conspiratorial plots interesting in the first place? I don't think that's hard to understand at all.

Many years ago as a young believer I heard about a man named Alex Jones, a famous conspiracy theorist whose radio program is syndicated on over 160 radio stations and whose YouTube channel has gotten over a billion hits. People who follow him see him as an alternative to left wing media domination. One of his favorite theories is that the Sandy Hook shootings (in which 20 children and 6 teachers lost their lives) was a "hoax" and a "false flag" for gun control activists, much to the deep pain of the parents of these victims who are accused of covering up the truth. And of course, he and his loose-cannon followers aren't going to just leave it at that. You can do a web search of Jones for yourself and see what he promotes, it's far too extensive to detail here. Jones is a sacred cow to those who tend toward conspiratorial thinking.

So as a believer, I now had a real desire to know and spread the truth and cut through lies, whether it was a governmental whopper, a scientific fabrication (such as evolution and it's vast stable of untruth), or

maybe some threat to home and hearth such as global warming.

Armed with an indignant posture about all the spiritual lies I had been fed pre-salvation, combined with not a small cynical streak running through my veins since birth, I found that Jones and others like him appealed to this new desire to get to the bottom of every philosophy and theory life had to offer, to re-examine and fine-tooth-comb the junk I had learned and get started on the un-learning process.

Being freed from the clutches of the Father of Lies is no small thing, and the ideology of youth is a powerful motivator to go out and right every wrong. Unfortunately, here is where danger lurks.

First of all, Alex Jones is a dangerous man, and I'm going to tell you why: as a (very wealthy and high profile) fabricator of often inflammatory and unprovable theories, he appeals *not* to the truth seeker in us, after all. Think about it: people who are convinced that everything is a conspiracy of lies look to a man to tell more potential lies from his or her own perspective. Fabrications upon fabrications. The unprovable becomes even more unprovable still!

Both he and another conspiratorial bastion, Coast to Coast radio, a late night purveyor of paranormal and conspiratorial stuff, have hit a nerve where the need for alternative news intersects with a mainstream media that assaults us with constant fabrications - *of another kind*.

So let's be honest, coming against the mainstream media is one thing, if it's truth being dispensed; it's another altogether to invest oneself in what exactly IS being peddled – for money and ratings in the process. Therein lies the heart of the matter. Conspiracy theories on their own have a life of their own because of how they affect our hearts and minds, especially if they aren't completely true. The fact that they are patently unprovable seems lost on those who spread them. This grieves me no end and should grieve you as well because as believers, we are never to bear false witness about anything...or anyone.

The Alex Joneses, Tom Horns and Steve Quayles of the conspiratorial world all have certain things in common, not the least of which is sensationalism (daily headlines they toss out need to reach a certain level of alarm and sensationalism or they would be out of a job) and tend to proliferate the notion that we need to be saved from something – and we must do our own saving. Food supplies? No problem, buy from our sponsors who keep us on the internet. They are entertainers.

Now, I think for myself, and having done hours and hours of homework for myself, I do believe there are worldly threats to us and our kids. I'm not the anti-gullible type and for the sake of full disclosure, I don't like big pharma or vaccines or a lot of what passes for food these days. I know first hand they damage the human body and four words tell us what we need to know: "side effects may include". Only God can truly heal and what they peddle is counterfeit, and I despise counterfeits and how they harm humans. I think there's plenty of information available to provide proof of this very thing, that's the key. Proof. God gave us a brain and He expects us to use it.

But most of what comes under the banner of conspiracies are thoroughly unprovable (see list above and tell me if any of these have been solved over the last 50 years) and that's the hook of it all, the appeal, the conversational and lifestyle aspect of genuine conspiracies.

Now for the spiritual danger to us all when people invest in these ideas and encourage others to invest as well:

If we put as much time and energy into the truth about these "truths" as we put into entertaining these half-truths (is there such a thing?), then by the Holy Spirit we would be able to say we diligently searched out a matter - and we are obligated as believers to do so. Here's some truth for you:

1. The god of this world cannot tell the truth. When we listen to unbelievers or marginal Christians about things the world follows after or holds dear, we are doing his bidding. John 8:44 tells us:

You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

That's pretty straightforward and leaves no wiggle room. Also consider when Satan offered Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if He would only worship him:

Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." (Matt 4:8)

What should strike us is the truth here that Satan could even offer this in the first place, what an eye-opener that is!

This, along with 1John 5:19, tell us that the enemy of our souls temporarily rules the world system until all things come under God's authority when the kingdom of Jesus Christ is ushered in:

We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.

The whole world. There's your conspiracy on the big screen. Conspiracy with a capital "C", the one that affects souls for all eternity. The one we should care about because 100 years from now, who will care a whit about crop circles or whether or not an MI-5 agent claims he killed Princess Diana and covered it up? Seriously?

Remember, Jesus did not come to solve all the problems that sin has wrought in this life, there are still consequences for sin and there is still mass tragedy all around us. Rather, He came to forgive us and release us from its power, and this is available to whosoever will call upon His Name and repent of their sins. For now, the prince of the power of the air rules the world's systems and that includes every corrupt system we interact with every day including but not limited to the dissemination of information, first and foremost.

2. *What we can know and what we are not to know.*

The Lord has given us all we need to know about the future in the form of bible prophecy. Unless an event or ongoing systemic failure on this earth is part of what is outlined in prophecy, it is NOT prophecy and should not be given our time and energy, or presented as a sign of His return. Period. Ever. There is way too much to do for the kingdom to get bogged down in speculations.

And as such, Bible prophecy should never inspire fear because we know that God is in control of all these things. Conspiracies on the other hand, by their very nature, inspire fear and encourage us to stop certain things from taking place by fighting them. Biblically speaking, stopping the New World Order, for example, is fighting God if we believe all that the bible teaches about a coming world dictator and his plans to do the devil's bidding and overthrow the kingdom of Christ when He returns. Revelation 17:17 tells us clearly,

"God hath put in their hearts to fulfill His will, and to agree and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled."

Why would any believer fight things that God has said must take place? What side does that place us on?

It really can't be any clearer than that. Add to that the verse in 2 Timothy 3 that tells us that *"evil men and*

seducers will wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.”

We must be on our guard that we do not end up on the giving or receiving end of that prophecy, that's pretty serious stuff. The world is going to go crazy, so what's the question?

God ordained the prophets for a special office, to warn and direct God's people according to His divine plan. God also knows the end from the beginning, that's how we know the bible is true. To take on either a prophetic office or to claim that a certain event in this world is on a par with prophecy when it clearly does not fit any of the prophetic parameters is not rightly dividing the Word, and it's giving unnecessary heed and attention to a matter that has nothing to do with God's revealed plan, thereby putting the temporal on a par with the eternal. American Christians in particular, who often tend to hold on to this world fairly tightly and view everything subjectively as to how it affects them (including star alignments, eclipses, and blood moons), must learn to view current events through the lens of prophecy, not politics. The blood moons were a hoax, yet has any Christian author given you your money back for his deceptive book?

If Christians can't tell the difference between prophecy and a newscast, they risk deceiving and being deceived themselves.

So, here are my conclusions.

1. The God of the bible knows us well; the Lord Jesus Himself warns us of “rumors of wars” - spreading fear and panic as they see the day approaching. But let us not be involved in the rumor mill as far as it is up to us.

2. There will always be conspiracies and conspirators, who can keep up? Christians are conspired against by other Christians. Absaloms are still with us. Wannabe politicians conspire against the job they wish they had. Dictators throughout history have overthrown each other for sport; It's been going on for millennia.

Consider the leftist party in our own nation, if you look at their shenanigans and ideology alone, you might conclude there is a conspiracy of ignorance and civil insanity at the very least. At the worst, it appears their intent could be to overthrow our current administration. But even if it is, does this thought cause you to lose your peace? If it does, check your heart because your actual source of peace may be suspect. Do not let your heart be fearful or dismayed because God has not given us a spirit of fear, that comes from somewhere else. Anything you pursue should be tested in this manner.

3. While the pursuit of truth is commendable, you won't find it “out there” in the world. Ever. That infamous tag line from “The X-Files”, *the truth is out there*, could mean one of two things: that we can always figure out what is really at the heart of a matter if we look hard enough, or, it's saying that “the truth is OUT THERE”, meaning it's far wackier than originally suspected. Either way, there is only one source of truth, and it has nothing to do with Alex Jones. It's in the bible. And the bible condemns a type of hidden knowledge that puts us above the Word or each other. It's called “gnosticism” and Christians need to test themselves in this honestly.

Regarding truth seeking, Ephesians 5:11 tells us, *“...and have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.”* But look at verse 12: *“For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.”*

So how might we even then expose them? Not by spreading falsehoods, that's for certain, something Christians should never ever engage in. And not by speculating in endless rabbit trails and what-ifs.

Even Christian commentators are not necessarily in the business of conspiracies to bring you the truth, if they don't guard their hearts how is the listener supposed to? It's a black hole of deception at the end

of the day, I'm afraid. Rather, we shine a biblical light on things, and let God handle it. We don't fight battles we are not called to fight, and the light will automatically make the darkness flee. 2Thessalonians 2:7 concerns the working of lawlessness in the world, ultimately leading to mass rebellion against God. Paul tells us it works secretly in this present age; everyone knows it is at work but nevertheless, he refers to it as a mystery, and there is a reason for that. The revelation of what I call "ubiquitous iniquity" will go along with the revelation of the Antichrist. The word "mystery" here is the Greek "mysterion" which interestingly means to "shut the mouth".

4. Watching and waiting for Jesus is to be commended and far too many Christians either ignore the command to do so or they have just joined the lefty-social justice crowd who believe that we need to eradicate poverty and racism before Jesus can return (dominionism). And yet the watching and waiting has to be according to the sure word of prophecy, not just random works of darkness and deception found at the base of conspiracies. **Conspiracy theories are not bible prophecy.** Bible prophecy revolves around God's judgment of the inhabitants of unrepentant earth dwellers and taking us from man's kingdom to God's kingdom. As we do so, we will experience great turbulence of every kind, but **not every event is a birth pang.** In other words, every birth pang is newsworthy, but not every news item is a birth pang. Prophecy is not subject to our own interpretation, but must go BY THE BOOK.

To help you do that, there are three main categories to watch for: global government, a global money system, and a global spirituality. All significant prophetic stories will fall into one of these categories, along with significant Israeli news.

Since we have that sure word of prophecy, our job is to rescue our fellow humans from the fires of hell and give them the gospel and point them to biblical signs. That's it, we are not to fight the coming darkness per se, again, simply shine a bright light. Never let 'em see you sweat what is coming upon the earth. It's our blessed hope! We are not appointed to wrath. We are watching for Jesus Christ, not the Antichrist!

Again, let me reiterate that there IS one true conspiracy, and that is the conspiracy of evil that makes every effort to continue the lie that started in the garden and ends with the one in Revelation that tells us that God's enemies have an end game in place to attempt to overthrow the Kingdom of Jesus Christ at His appearing. All the other day-to-day lies have to be sorted out with the help of the Holy Spirit in our lives because our hearts are deceptively wicked above all. And don't expect the lies to end until That Day.

Finally, Paul tells Timothy:

"Remind them of these things, charging them before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers. Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness." 2Tim 2:14-17

Yes, the truth is out there. Just be careful from where you get it and how you present it. All to the glory of God, of course.

Mary Danielsen

Well now, I did not get this memo:

Google Declares Angela Merkel 'Leader of the Free World'

Thanks to its reliance on information from Wikipedia, the top Google search result for “leader of the free world” is not the President of the United States, with whom the term is normally associated, but crisis-engulfed German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Searches for the term currently return a picture of Merkel as the top result, and two links to the Wikipedia page on “free world.” Immediately following those results is a CNN opinion piece stating that President Trump is “no longer leader of the free world.”

The top result scrapes information from Wikipedia, which notes that the English-language establishment media has increasingly used the term “leader of the free world” in connection with Chancellor Merkel. This is true — although it says more about the media’s bias than it does about Merkel, whose long dominance over German politics appears to be on the verge of breakdown.

The Wikipedia page also notes that German commentators, as well as a leading member of Merkel’s own political party, have largely disagreed with the western media’s assessment and that Merkel herself has “rejected the idea as absurd.” Strangely, none of that information made it to the Google results.

Google’s dependence on information from Wikipedia to populate the top of its search results has landed the company in trouble with Republican politicians in the U.S. after it resulted in the California GOP being smeared as a “Nazi” party in the top result of Google searches. Following this incident, a conservative activist demonstrated how easy it was to game Google’s search results when they successfully listed Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch as a “world-renowned lib owner” in search results. (“Own” is internet slang for the domination or humiliation of an opponent.)

Now Wikipedia has inadvertently presented Google with a diplomatic conundrum. Do they change the search results, and risk offending the Germans (perhaps not too much, seeing as Merkel has already rejected the “leader of the free world” title). Or do they keep the search results as they are, and risk the wrath of the president and his supporters? (As well as further confirming the company’s left-wing bias.)

Breitbart News has reached out to Google for comment. (Why bother? – MD)