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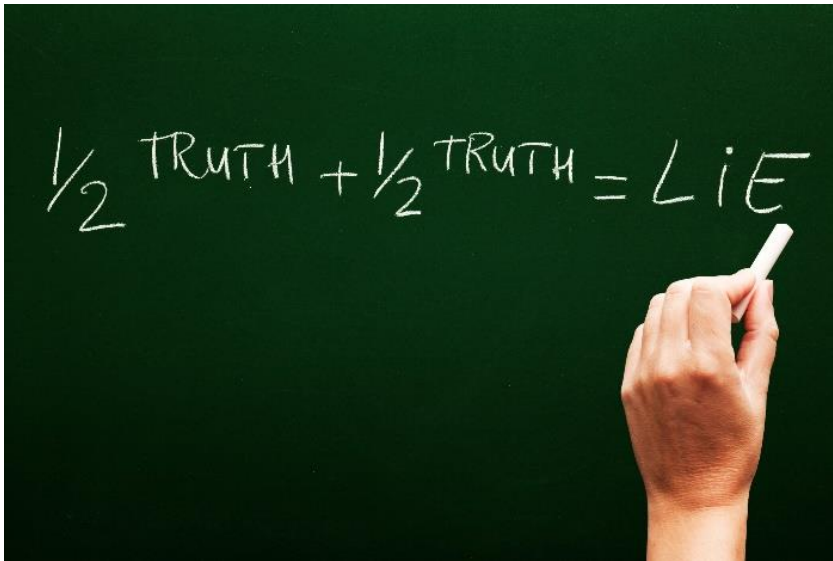
A ministry of Calvary Chapel of Appleton

“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

On Lying Liars and Their Lies

Mary Danielsen

June 15



No matter how you state it, disingenuous, mendacious prevaricators are everywhere. You can look it up, or you can just look at the day's headlines and you will know what all those thousand dollar words mean. You already know.

You know that lying and double-dealing define these times. It's gotten to the point where Americans have realized they can't trust one iota of information in the day's headlines and it doesn't seem like it will ever change. The reputations of those who claim to present news to us are long

trashed, they don't care, and does anyone really know what the "news" is supposed to look like anymore?

When I was a youth, our parents tuned in for a half hour of headlines at 5:30pm and it was never missed. I can still picture my dad sitting in his chair after a long day of work with his newspaper open and one ear attuned to Walter Cronkite while mom made dinner. Yes, those scenarios played out in millions of homes every weeknight, that's not just a figment of cultural imaginations or ghosts of weekdays past. Now, all these years later I realize the newsmen were mostly democrats anyway (we were not) but while "spin" today and "spin" back then were quite different, they were still building on a foundation of agendas and have paid it forward in spades. I often say that 24 hour news has murdered both truth and general civility, and it has. What's presented isn't even news anymore, it's opinion and persuasion.

Secular news hounds and influencers have found so many ways to deceive I wonder if anyone has found a way to quantify it all. Academia has their lies. The MSM has their lies. "Fake News" is in the eye of the beholder but the idea is that someone is saying something untrue and good luck figuring out who that might be. Congress has to keep holding hearings to find out who is lying. One party can say or do what they want without consequence but the party of the flyover states gets treated like enemies of The State. The State that arrests the opposition all too readily and if you're thinking "totalitarianism" you're not wrong. At all. And what's a "whistleblower" if not someone trying to cut through more layers of lies? People often just lie to cover more lies.

I remember my mom quoting, "Oh what a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive." (Sir Walter Scott, 1808). It's more true than ever.

And you know they're lying about UFOs too. Oh wait, are they? Well regardless, it's meant to distract from all the Lying Liars and their Lies. I guess we are working our way up to the "lying signs and wonders" portion of world history. We're well on our way.

Just a sampling of what the Lying Liars Lied about: the virus, the jab, the masks, the danger and the origins. The politicians are lying about Trump, Biden, Ukraine, Epstein, the environment, train crashes, food shortages, electric cars, gender, and gas stoves. And that's hardly a compendium of all the Lies or Liars. Add on to that deceit and general betrayal and more doors open up, more dark alleys and tunnels await.

And don't ignore the half lies which are often called half-truths but really are just garden variety lies all the same.

Lying is one of the deadly sins (Prov 26:28). Someone who is a serial liar cannot be trusted, and is so selfish they cannot possibly love the person they are lying to. And of course, we don't get far in the annals of the human race before we find the serpent caught in a whopper (Gen 3:4). And really, with all the verses about lying in the bible, all we need to know is that the Lord detests lying lips (Prov 12:22).

It's never good to be on the wrong side of what God loves and hates. For all those who insist God is love and don't read the verses about what God hates, their souls are likely in mortal danger.

But we also know that as things get darker, the lying will increase because there is no fear of God to be found. There is barely any faith to be found. It's understandable that Americans no longer trust anyone. The second part of Proverbs 12:22 says, "...but those who deal truthfully are His delight." Delighting God should be important to us.

Alternately, we find in John 8:44 that "the devil is a liar and the father of lies." Apparently he delights in all these lies.

At least we know without a doubt, black and white and with no shadow of turning, who it is the world is following.

Follow Jesus even more closely. And live.

'They are NOT your kids': Elon Musk calls out Biden's White House for targeting kids with Pride agenda

Joe Biden, who seems obsessed with gender dysphoric children who are confused as to their own biological sex, put out yet another message proclaiming that the children of America belong to the government. Elon Musk instantly took issue with that.

"These are our kids," Biden's video says, showing images of the White House bathed in Pride colors. "These are our neighbors. Not somebody else's kids; they're all our kids."

"You are the government," Musk responded. "They are NOT your kids."

"And our children are the kite strings that hold our national ambitions aloft. It matters a great deal how we treat everyone in this country," Biden said.

"LGBTQI+ Americans, especially children, you are loved. You are heard. And this Administration has your back."

Biden has spoken at length about "trans kids." He talks about how important it is to provide "gender affirming care" for kids, obfuscating that what that really means is giving kids drugs to stunt their growth, giving teens cross-sex hormones, giving teen girls double mastectomies, and bringing teens to the brink of adulthood where the primary options for continued care result in sterilization and the loss of sexual function.

Musk has said "'gender-affirming care for minors' is pure evil." Biden continues to tout it.

In 2022, Biden proclaimed that American parents should "affirm" their kids, meaning accept that their children were born in the wrong bodies and need medical intervention to make them appear as the opposite sex.

During his White House's Pride celebration, he also addressed gender dysphoric kids, saying, "I want to send a message to the entire community – especially to transgender children. You are loved. You are heard. You are understood. You belong."

The White House family-friendly Pride celebration featured topless trans TikTok models showing off their breast implants and mastectomy scars. Biden has also taken advice on sex changes for minors from avowed "bimbo" and trans TikTok star Dylan Mulvaney, who he invited to the White House just for the private consultation.

In April, he issued the same missive about children belonging to the country. "There's no such thing as someone else's child. Our nation's children are all our children." Many people took issue with that.

Also this year, he issued the "Proclamation on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex Pride Month" and derided states that have the common sense to prevent minors from undergoing sex changes.

Biden calls these bills "anti-trans," but in reality, doctors in those states who have banned the practice cannot provide puberty blockers, which stunt a child's growth and prevent them from maturing into an adult.

They cannot give cross-sex hormones, such as estrogen to boys and testosterone to girls, which produces the secondary sex characteristics, or those that are primarily visible, of the opposite sex, such as facial and body hair and deep voices for girls and enlarged breast development in boys.

For girls, the option to have their healthy breasts removed is often available to those as young as 13 years old, but not in the states that have banned the practice. Facial feminization or masculinization procedures are available. Most children's hospitals do not provide genital reconstruction surgery until the age of 17.

Biden's Department of Justice has gone after these states and is actively attempting to have the laws overturned.

In the UK, these procedures that Biden wants available to all American kids have been stopped. They have been stopped in other European nations as well, such as Finland, Sweden, and France. Musk, and many others, believe they should be stopped here, too, but for Biden, the only way forward is to "affirm your kids."

Watching For The Lord To Return Isn't Optional For Christians

June 14, 2023



Recently, I sat thru a sermon based on the principles of hope. The pastor gave a somewhat stirring message centered on living as a hopeful people in a society gone off the rails. His conclusion, summarized, was that as the world gets crazier and darker, people will turn to Christ because we are finally getting serious about our faith. To be fair, I didn't sit through the first three sermons in this series, however, I don't think, given the tenor of this last message that they were any better. This last sermon had four points to it with which, at least the first three I had no major issues. However, it was on his final point that he came out of left field and really turned his previous three points on their heads.

That's my beef with all of this prophecy jargon that's on the Internet. Let's look out here. Don't worry about the things that God has right in front of you to deal with because you worrying about all of that and focusing on all that and getting all the timeline just right...it's not gonna do anything other than get you distracted from what's right in front of you. These are the things God has called us to. The reason that the church, if it doesn't feel like the church isn't advancing, it is not because God isn't coming, it's because we're not dealing with the things that are important that He's called us to. We are not dealing with the responsibilities that are right there in front of us that God has called us to.

If this sentiment sounds familiar, it should. It is the overwhelming present-day consensus for the majority of messages billowing out of evangelical, catholic, and protestant pulpits every week. It's the proverbial either-or scenario. Pastors like this one, seem to think that mature Christians are incapable of both sharing the Gospel and also watching for the Lord's return. That's why I always like to emphasize (somewhat jokingly) that the reality is as mature/maturing believers, we can both walk and chew gum at the same time. It's not an either-or scenario.

However, this pastor's message seemed to indicate that the Church was somehow responsible for fixing all that ails the world. It's a mixture of Amillennialism's "we are the Kingdom" and Post-Millennialism's "we gotta fix this ourselves" sentimentality. I wish this sermon was just a one-off from some fringe church in the middle of nowhere, but it's not. It sounds like every other sermon coming out of a growing chorus of pulpits these days all across our fruited plain. It also sounds like this young pastor has pulled a lot of his talking points about getting 'busy' from books like *The Purpose Driven Life*. Who else embraces this dismissal of Bible prophecy? Quoting from Dr. David Reagan's article titled "The Abuse of Bible Prophecy," he lists the following:

1) Rick Warren In his book, *The Purpose Driven Life*, he mocks Bible prophecy when he states: "If you want Jesus to come back sooner, focus on fulfilling your mission, not figuring out prophecy." He goes on to characterize prophecy as a "distraction" and says that anyone who lets himself get involved in distractions like studying prophecy "is not fit for the kingdom of God."

2) Tony Campolo In his book, *Speaking My Mind*, he attacks believers in Bible prophecy with these words: "Rigid Christians who believe in the possibility of Jesus' soon return are a real problem for the whole world." He then proceeds to blame them for wars and a host of other evils.

3) Bill Moyers He is a PBS journalist who is also a Baptist seminary graduate. He gave a speech in 2005 in which he denounced Tim LaHaye as a "religious warrior who subscribes to a fantastical theology." He then claimed that those who believe in Bible prophecy desire environmental disaster "as a sign of the coming apocalypse."

4) The National Council of Churches In December of 2008, the National Council of Churches joined the chorus of scoffers by issuing a denunciation of all those "who consider the state of Israel to be divinely ordained and scripturally determined, with a central role in ushering in the end of history..."

5) Rob Bell He is one of the leaders of the Emergent Church Movement. Here is one of his many put-downs of Bible prophecy:

I would argue that in the last couple hundred years, disconnection has been the dominant way people have understood reality. And the Church has contributed to that disconnection by preaching horrible messages about being left behind and that this place is going to burn — absolutely toxic messages that are against the teachings of Scripture, which state that we are connected to God, we are connected to the earth, we are connected to each other.

6) Brian McLaren He is the leading spokesman of the Emergent Church Movement. Writing in *Sojourners* magazine in April of 2009 he stated that any theology that stresses a special end-time role for Israel is: "Terrible... deadly... distorted... biblically unfaithful... and morally and ethically harmful."

He further stated that those who take the end-time prophecies about Israel seriously, "use a bogus end-of-the-world scenario to create a kind of death wish for World War III, which — unless it is confronted more robustly by the rest of us — could too easily create a self-fulfilling prophecy."

Or consider this incredible statement from his book, *Everything Must Change*:

The phrase “the Second Coming of Christ” never actually appears in the Bible [Hebrews 9:28???] . . . If we believe that Jesus came in peace the first time, but that wasn’t His “real” and decisive coming — it was just a kind of warm-up for the real thing — then we leave the door open to envisioning a Second Coming that will be characterized by violence, killing, domination, and eternal torture.

This vision reflects a deconversion, a return to trust in the power of Pilate, not the unarmed truth that stood before Pilate, refusing to fight. This eschatological understanding of a violent Second Coming leads us to believe that in the end, even God finds it impossible to fix the world apart from violence and coercion...

If we remain charmed by this kind of eschatology, we will be forced to see the nonviolence of the Jesus of the Gospels as a kind of strategic fake-out, like a feigned retreat in war, to be followed up by a crushing blow of so-called redemptive violence in the end.

The gentle Jesus of the First Coming becomes a kind of trick Jesus, a fake-me-out Messiah, to be replaced by the true jihadist Jesus of a violent Second Coming. This is why I believe that many of our current eschatologies, intoxicated by dubious interpretations of John’s Apocalypse, are not only ignorant and wrong, but dangerous and immoral.

His reference to “the gentle Jesus of the First Coming” in this quote immediately reminded me of the words of Jesus in Revelation 2 where He speaks a strong word of warning to the church at Thyatira for tolerating a false prophetess in their midst. Speaking of her, Jesus says (Revelation 2:22-23):

Revelation 2:22-23 KJV – *“Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.”*

That statement alone should be sufficient to dispel the myth of the supposedly “gentle Jesus of the First Coming.”

McLaren also ridicules the teaching of the Rapture and the Millennial rule of Jesus, and he dismisses Dispensational teachings about the end time as ‘pop-Evangelical eschatology.’ Yet Dallas Theological Seminary (a Dispensational school) recently invited him to speak to all their students!

Conclusion

Clearly, the dismissal of Bible prophecy is a subject that has only grown in intensity in recent years thanks to the foolishness of infamous date setters such as the Millerites, Edgar Whisenant, Harold Camping, etc. However, I’d like to begin with several of my own rebuttals to this pastor’s sermon (and those like it).

First of all, “prophecy jargon” doesn’t come from the Internet. It comes from the Bible. Nearly thirty percent of the Bible is prophetic in nature, and to dismiss it out of hand as a *distraction* is both dangerous and foolish (see Matt. 16:1-4, 24:24-25).

Secondly, watching for the Lord to return isn't optional for Christians, Jesus didn't leave us that option. It's every bit as instrumental to our walk, faith, and responsibilities as is going out to make disciples of all nations.

Mark 13:32-37 KJV – *“But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.”*

Sure sounds like a command to me.

Thirdly, if he (and other pastors like him) are serious about getting their congregations on fire for the Lord and getting serious about their faith (as his sermon seemed to indicate) one of **the** best ways to do that, is to teach and study sound exegetical Bible Prophecy.

Why is that? Because

- 1) Bible prophecy (eschatology) ties every other biblical doctrine into it giving the believer a well-reasoned and complete understanding of God's word beginning with Genesis 3:15 all the way to Revelation 22:20
- 2) It loosens our grip on the things of this world- as it was intended to do (Luke 21:34-36)
- 3) When understood properly, Bible prophecy motivates the believer to get busy doing all the work the Church should be doing (2 Peter 3:10-12)

Lastly, to study Bible prophecy is to study Jesus Christ (Rev. 19:10). If you want a church full of on-fire believers, teach them sound Bible prophecy. When it finally sinks in for people that we as a nation are not going to just continue on with the status quo into some unknowable, distant future, believing Christians will begin to focus on what's important; which is saving souls because that is the only thing we can take with us into eternity.

The age-old trade of pinning Matthew 24:36 to every prophetic discussion was only applicable up to 1948. However, after Israel was rebirthed as a nation again after nearly two millennia of diaspora, we really can't use that excuse any longer. Say what you will, but the fact we have a Jewish Bible, written by Jewish men, about a Jewish Messiah, who foretold on numerous occasions that Israel would be revived as a nation in the last days, doesn't leave us the option to feign ignorance any longer.

Furthermore, Matthew 24:36 was not the final matter our Lord said about the subject (see Revelation 3:3). While it is true that no man (or angel) will know the **exact** time of His return, we are expected to know the **general** time of His return so as not to be caught off-guard or asleep (1 Thess 5:1-9, 2 Thess 2:1-8, Hebrews 10:24-25, Revelation 3:3).

The repercussions of dismissing Bible prophecy outright far outweigh any negative aspects of being “distracted.” It reminds me of an excellent article written by a Church of Christ professor some years ago in Pepperdine University’s *Leaven* magazine. In his *Eschatology: Essential, Yet Essentially Ignored*, professor Lynn Mitchell perfectly summarizes the ‘theological wasteland’ created by the *Church of Christ* denomination’s decades-long, systemic dismissal of all things prophetic. He writes;

All we have left is ah-millennialism. We are neither passionately radical nor invigoratingly hopeful.

You see, when you boil it all down, true, biblical Christianity really only has two options. Either it is all true (including Bible prophecy), and we must live as such, or none of it is true, and we are just random stardust floating in space. If the former, then the Church will exist/advance/be removed by the sheer willpower of God, and reality will bend according to His will. If the latter, then, well, what does any of it really matter? Because if the God of the Bible isn’t real, then our existence here is accidental and when we die, we will blink off into nothingness. The Apostle Paul addresses a similar argument to the church in Corinth.

1 Corinthians 15:12-19 KJV – *“Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: and if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: and if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.”*

Believers studied in sound eschatology will not live in fear or perplexity at the increased wickedness and lunacy that has currently taken hold of this world, because they will know that this is the way it is SUPPOSED to be at the end. It is this way at the end, NOT because we aren’t doing our jobs, but because God’s word already said it would (2 Tim 3, 2 Peter 3, Jude, James 5, Rev 3, etc.).

Things aren’t going to get better. The Church isn’t going to take over the world for Christ. If that were true, then Christ’s Second Coming would be unnecessary. While it is true the gates of hell won’t prevail against the Church (Matt. 16:18), that is not the same as saying Church is going to win the world over so Christ can return. There is a huge difference between a stalemate and a decisive victory. The victory isn’t going to be determined by how busy the Church gets in the here and now. The victory will be Christ’s alone because only He can bring the Kingdom. If the Church could win the world over for Christ, then why have we waited 2,000 years to do it? The truth is we can’t...nor where we supposed to. The Church isn’t the Kingdom, nor are we building the Kingdom here on Earth. The Kingdom is what Christ ushers in at His coming.

I suppose one of the things that irked me the most about this sermon I sat thru, was his usage of traditionally prophetically charged passages like Titus 2:11-13 and Hebrews 10:24-25 as talking points, but completely stripping the prophetic significance from them (see 2 Peter 1:20-21). Not that this pastor will ever read or listen to my reply (i.e., prophecy jargon on the internet) however, I would like to ask him a question. Since you used Hebrews 10:24-25 as your closing scripture for the sermon you preached, what “Day” should we see approaching if we are not supposed to be distracted by looking for this Day?

Hebrews 10:24-25 KJV – “and let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

I seem to remember Jesus seriously chastising the Pharisees for not being able to recognize the times. As a matter of fact, they missed His birth as well (see Matt 2 and why they didn't go with the Wise Men to see the Christ).

Seriously, I weep for what passes as a seminary degree these days.

Oh, I suppose I'm preaching to the choir here. Most of you have either attended or are attending churches like the aforementioned due to a lack of options where you live or for some other dire reasons. I think the human in me secretly hopes the Rapture happens on a Sunday, JUST so it could catch many of these prophecy-denying clergy in the act of dismissing the very thing they've built their careers off of mocking. I also secretly wish people would get raptured according to their own eschatology. Thankfully, God is not petty like I am. Nevertheless,

- Nowhere in the Bible does God tell us to dismiss the prophetic word.
- Nowhere in the Bible does God call Bible prophecy a “distraction”.
- Nowhere in the Bible (or history for that matter) does prophecy not go unfulfilled.

If the world is in the mess it's in due to its rejection of the one true God of the Bible, how much more will they be deceived by not knowing what is coming? Put another way, if the world truly knew the coming future, would it still be heading in the direction it's going? Verily I tell you, if Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, etc. knew for sure what was coming, the overwhelming majority would be turning away from their pagan gods to the One True Living God of the Bible. That is the power of the prophetic word. We serve the only true and living God, who had the graciousness to tell us what was coming before it does, so we can warn the world. So important is this final point that 1) the book of Revelation is the only book in the entire Bible that offers a special blessing (twice) to those who read and apply the words of it, and 2) Christ affords a special place and privilege for those who are found faithful in watching ([Luke 12:37-40](#)).

In closing, don't let any pastor or theologian (so-called) rob you of your crown of righteousness ([2 Tim 4:8](#)) by selling you a humanist, world-based philosophy designed to keep you distracted from what is really coming.

This age had a beginning (Pentecost) and will have an end (the Rapture). We are to be busy with the Lord's work, yes, but just remember you are created in the image of God. This means you can walk and chew gum at the same time.