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THE BAPTIST HERITAGE

VOLUME XXIV ISSUE 1

JANUARY 20, 2000

LOOKING UNTO JESUS
OR UPON THE CALENDAR

THE YEAR OF GRACE TWO THOUSAND

Y2K: Profiteering Preachers Promoting Panic

(Written December 15 and re-written now due to the delay in mailing—so I hope I caught all of the now incorrect tenses.)

If reason ruled, the advent of this new millennium (still in the future for the educated) would be newsworthy only in the western world and then only because the western world follows a calendar that is (loosely) based on biblical truth. The Jewish and Chinese calendars had their re-

In spite of all humanity's collective modern efforts to remove every vestige of His influence and every trace of recognition of His existence, Jesus Christ Himself remains the focal point of human existence.

(Continued on page 3)



this and that

Editors
 Jerald L. Manley
 Gary Roland
 Dorothy Gundersen

The dreaded Y2K will have come and gone by the time you are reading this. With that transition will come more alterations to our life than writing the year with three zeroes. The world is making much of this date change. There is a heavy emphasis on how much we will have to change ways of thinking in the new millennium. Chief of those changes will be the push to correct the thought patterns of the Bible based believer. Biblical Christianity (and there is a Christianity that is not biblical) has been blamed for all the evils of the world. In order to bring this world into a New Age, Christianity must be forever altered, the world's philosophers believe, so as to help and not hinder the progression of humanity.

As the last decade saw the demise of biblical morality in majority America, so this decade will strive to bury biblical Christianity. A lingering belief on the part of the collective American psyche in an authoritative Bible is a major hindrance to the advancement of the satanic/

Jesus Christ is going to return on the basis of God's calendar and not on the basis of Gregory's or yours or mine.

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this and that

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humanistic agenda propagated since the Garden.

Satan is 'dedicated' to the degradation of humanity. Humanity is 'dedicated' to the elevation of itself into deity. The two goals would seem to be self exclusive; however, the masterful genius of Satan is that he has persuaded so much of humanity that the pathway to elevation is that of degradation. Romans chapter one is not a discussion pertaining only to our distant ancestors. Romans chapter one is being played out every day in America. The agenda for this New Age is the same as that of the Old Age—to attack all that is decent and right, especially that which is scriptural. This is no time to let down the guard. It is a time to concentrate on living under the discipline of grace.

—Pastor Manley ☒

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What Changed America

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Christian truth. American politics is an exercise in emotions. Madison Avenue depends upon emotions to sell its products. The anti-gun crowd has nothing but emotions to use in its struggle to disarm

Americans and yet it is gaining ground rapidly. The abortion proponents have only an appeal to emotion—there is not a grain of morality or logic in any argument expounded by the (misnamed) pro-choice advocates and yet they dominate public opinion. Truth always seems to have a weaker appeal to average humanity than does emotion. Thus, it is important to establish principle as the foundation of life instead of being driven by emotion. We should be looking unto Jesus not upon the calendar.

--Pastor Manley

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spective 2000's long ago. Please take note that no prophetic or mystical connection has ever been associated with the change of the centuries or millennia on those calendars.

It is a pleasure to realize that every time an atheist signs a check or writes a letter, that God-denier gives an autographed testimony to the existence of the Jesus Christ.

Such connections only are made with the western calendar and that because of a very specific reason. According to the theory behind the Gregorian (the one used in the western world) calendar, two thousand years have come and gone since the birth of *the* (used to mean "unique and exclusive") Incarnate Son of God, Jesus of Nazareth, *the* promised Messiah of Israel, *the* Saviour of the world. Though the 'acceptable and correct' way to label the year is no longer AD (Anno domini, Latin for "in the year of the Lord") but rather CE (English for "Common Era"), the starting point for the calendar the western world uses remains the (presumed)

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time of that singular event, the prophesied and angel attested virgin birth in Bethlehem. One should note that the western calendar is the calendar of record for the entire world because of the military and economic strength of the west. The effect, therefore, is that the world bases its reckoning of time in its relationship to the Incarnation.

When one considers the contemporary, universal, anti-Christian bias of the world system (the interconnection of governmental, philosophical, educational, commercial, and religious interests), it is astounding to observe that undeniable relationship does continue to exist. In spite of all humanity's collective modern efforts to remove every vestige of His influence and every trace of recognition of His existence, Jesus Christ Himself remains the focal point of human existence. Actu-

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“. . . the world bases its reckoning of time in its relationship to the Incarnation.”

*I'll Say It Again: A Reprint.**(Continued from page 16)*

to cache water and to accumulate medical supplies. They must look out for themselves, because (in their warped thinking) they have no Heavenly Father who cares for them. However, why and how are believers bitten with this same virus of practical atheism? That question needs exploration and explanation.

When one finds preachers profiting from a predicted (by the preacher) crisis then a loud trumpet sounding, warning ought to be heard in the heart. No God called, God honoring, God led preacher will use the needs of people to make personal profit.

The only answer is that believers accepted the same philosophy as did the unbelievers. Preservation of wealth and life was considered as the responsibility of the individual rather than accepted as the prerogative of God.

In short, emotion became a stronger factor than faith. Emotion nearly always wins in any battle with truth or faith or even logic. This is evident in areas not directly connected with

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for a year. I know of some who sold homes and relocated in anticipation of Y2K. I am told of some that quit employment to 'move to the hills.' Life insurance policies were cashed and savings depleted to provide supplies for the dark days of Y2K.

Particularly repulsive was the profiteering by certain preachers. Special survival packets were sold by the thousands. When one finds preachers profiting from a predicted (by the preacher) crisis then a loud trumpet sounding, warning ought to be heard in the heart. No God called, God honoring, God led preacher will use the needs of people to make personal profit.

I understand the motivation that caused humanistic survivalists to make such investments in their self-preservation efforts. They firmly believe they are the masters of personal destiny. It is reasonable for them to hoard food, to stash cash, to stockpile unnecessary weaponry,

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ally, nothing happens in this entire world that is not connected to the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. Every newspaper, each postmark, even this publication is a vivid testimony to His reality, since they all bear a date uniquely tied to His virgin birth. It is a pleasure to realize that every time an atheist signs a check or writes a letter, that God-denier gives an autographed testimony to the existence of the Jesus Christ. When the blasphemer or the degenerate unfolds their newspaper, the top of every page is a rebuke to their life and its 'style.' How frustrating this must be to these who so hate His very name. Each time the Supreme Court of this land hands down a decision that God cannot be mentioned in the schools, the document declaring that He cannot be mentioned, carries a vivid attestation to the influence of Jesus Christ and mentions Him in spite of their desire. How long will it be before someone in the ACLU catches on to this and brings a lawsuit forcing

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the removal of calendars from the public schools?

Setting aside the ever-present irritant that the very dating of each day itself must have to the mind of the ungodly, I find it amusing to see the concern that has been expressed over the arrival of the year 2000. To the unconverted world the selection of the birth of Christ as the commencement of the calendar is (and can only be) an arbitrary choice with no valid connection to reality. If that premise were to be true, then to attribute any significance to any single date on the calendar because of the use of arbitrary, random numbers involved in that instant of time itself is without genuine purpose or sincere meaning. The dawning of any so-called new millennium on the western calendar is, if Jesus Christ did not exist, a non-happening. Yet for months one of the primary news stories has been the coming of this new millennium. It is as though all future existence

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One is saddened to consider that believers likely learned nothing from the pre-millennium madness that increasingly engulfed much of both fraudulent and genuine fundamental Christianity during the last several years.

happened is an interesting fact. Why it happened is a sad fact. What could motivate blood-bought, heaven-bound, children of a loving Heavenly Father to waste time, energy, and money on a worthless

fail-safe? Baptists need to anchor to the Book of God and not be so attracted to the excitement of date setting nor so susceptible to the wiles of the false prophets. The cost from the failed prophecies is staggering. I heard one person describe a friend as being prepared for Y3K. More than one *Christian* family in Pensacola will not be buying bathroom tissue for the next year. Many local families will not need to buy water for potential hurricanes until the label expires on the bottles stored in the garage. Some homes have enough MRE's laid aside inside to feed a Kosovo village

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expecting the Lord Jesus to come. She gave no consideration to the thought that she needed to live until the year 2000 to experience the Rapture. She was looking unto Jesus and not upon a calendar. Have all the preachers died off who saw the foolishness of 1988? Are only a few of us left who watched the Jupiter Effect affect so many? Does no one recall the comet Kohoutek? Have the sad results of William Miller in the 1800's been forgotten? Will we Baptists never learn from our past? Are we always subject to repeating our mistakes?

One is saddened to consider that believers likely learned nothing from the pre-millennium madness that increasingly engulfed much of both fraudulent and genuine fundamental Christianity during the last several years. Prophecies and predictions filled fundamentalist religious publications and doomsday books lined the shelves. Millions of dollars were drained from sincere *Christians*. That this

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Geopolitical agencies have used this event to advance the cause of globalism. The full extent of this wickedness only will become apparent in the months that lie ahead.

is now to be framed in terms of this (what must be in their reasoning) fabricated transition from 1900 to 2000.

Yet, instead of discounting the significance and ignoring the change of date, the entire world (western and eastern) are engaged in the observance of the arrival of the New Millennium. Plans were made and effectively executed to celebrate the arrival of the year 2000 in all twenty-four time zones. It was a world wide web of events that marked the change from 1999 to 2000.

Commercial enterprises obviously have a desire to sell 2000 in every way possible. This is a ripe opportunity to make a buck. Every excuse for a holiday or an event is a source of income. Each New Year's is an occasion of connecting to the dollar flow and to have a millen-

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What was in 1999 a makeshift conglomeration identified, as a world wide web in name only is becoming in 2000 a world wide web in reality.

nium must be considered an excellent opportunity (one might say a once in a thousand years' opportunity).

From simple party items, countdown

clocks, and special occasion clothing to exotic trips and elaborate activities, western commerce certainly took advantage of millennium madness. This enterprise will not cease on January 2. The selling will continue right through January 1, 2001.

Geopolitical agencies have used this event to advance the cause of globalism. The full extent of this wickedness only will become apparent in the months that lie ahead. The widely publicized, universally expected, world stopping computer malfunctions were used to develop a global network system. Under their unsuspecting noses and with their aid and assistance, those who fear Big Brother

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I marvel at the extreme diversity of those centering attention on this change in the calendar. The only common denominator appears to be a fixation on dates that attributes magical or spiritual power to the very date of the calendar itself. What power, other than psychological, could a calendar, in and of itself, possess? What power, other than psychological, could a given day, in and of itself, possess? Students of the Bible and history know that Pope Gregory's calculations were faulty. While good men disagree as to the extent of that error, all seem to concede that he missed the year of the birth of Christ by four to six years. The actual two millennia from the birth of Christ

took place half a decade ago. If there were any prophetic significance in the precise two thousandth year, it happened then. The day my Mother died, she was

For the media it was and is the opportunity to ridicule true believers and to discredit biblical prophecy.

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many and the mockers have ample new ammunition to use against truth. Way back in the end of the 1900's this paper warned of the danger of this deviation from truth. Y2K was termed by The Baptist Heritage as YUK.

Last week I visited a local, more-commercial-than-Christian bookstore. It was impossible to withhold a smile as I passed a rather large stack of books with a drastic markdown. The titles were diverse; the topics were not. It seems the owners had accumulated an overstock of titles that no longer had marketability. Apparently, since the millennium did not have a meltdown, the dollar did not die, the financial world did not collapse, Y2K was not 666, and the hospitals are still functioning these books no longer captured a full price. Among the authors were men (and women) representing a wide spectrum of theology. There were at least two that have been identified as fundamentalists in the past.

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the most were used to encourage the world's governments to unite to upgrade and to unify the computers of the world into an effective universal connection. The announced intention was to prevent power blackouts and nuclear weapon launches, to keep airplanes flying and cars running, to allow currency to be exchanged and medicine to be practiced. The result actually desired was something entirely different. What was in 1999 a makeshift conglomeration identified, as a world wide web in name only is becoming in 2000 a world wide web in reality. What was a terrible potential of governmental supervision and control a decade ago will be the practice in the new millennium, having been accomplished through the careful manipulation of 2000 fears.

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manipulation of 2000 fears.

Occult communities are anticipating this calendar change to produce the paradigm shift that will move them to the main stream and make them the controlling forces in the destiny of the nations. It defies rational belief to read of the expectation of occult leaders for the arrival of 'cosmic agencies' to usher in a 'new age of messianic harmony.' These benighted, deluded followers of satanic forces expect the New Year to produce unbelievable changes in human nature. Peace, light, and love are on the horizon waiting only the dawning of the new calendar digits. Science fiction—harmless enough with Jules Verne—has become the instrument of preaching the New Age ever since the appropriation of the style by H. G. Wells. No one has mas-

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tered this technique better than L. Ron Hubbard or George Lucas. Evangelist Luke Skywalker has well prepared a people for the advent of the cosmic messiah, the one the Bible terms the man of sin and the anti-Christ. Buck Rogers was fantasy; Star Trek is religious.

Erratic, fringe religious groups of varying theological bases predicted cataclysmic reconstruction of the earth and society. Sadly, because they used the name of Jesus or of Christ, these deviants received the full attention of the media. For the media it was and is the opportunity to ridicule true believers and to discredit biblical prophecy. Weaker elements of Bible-based Christianity have focused

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on the prophetic implications of the arrival of the year 2000 to the point of extremism, if not stupidity. January 1, 2000 must have been a gigantic let down for

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