

RESTORATION MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

Prophetic Insight

7/5/2020 "Therefore we must pay much more careful heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away"

Sharing Inconvenient Truths Takes Courage (Part 3)

Dear friends in Christ Jesus our Lord,

We know that this statement may sound farfetched to some, but **2020 could be the summer of our own collective destruction**. Only heartfelt humble repentance may forestall the chastisement our Father has in store for us as a nation if each of us continues to rebelliously clamor only on behalf of ourselves while thrusting aside the God-given responsibility to care for the well-being of others.

We're writing this email so soon on the heels of our previous two emails because of **July 4, 2020**. Last night we watched a movie which portrayed circumstances leading up to the Continental Congress signing the **Declaration of Independence**. At that period there was deep division and hatred in the Colonies between the pro-King George forces and the pro-Freedom patriot colonists. Choosing because of conscience to rebel against a powerful monarchy with a highly trained army was a supremely sobering venture for the colonists who could no longer abide British injustice. Each family had to decide if they were truly willing and prepared to pay the ultimate cost of their independence — the likelihood of death for the combatant and his family alike.

Sue's ancestor, Josiah Bartlett of New Hampshire, was one of the courageous men who counted the cost and signed the Declaration of Independence. Siding openly with the colonists who favored independence from British tyranny, Bartlett secretly trained militia in his attic and had his house burned down by British-supporting Tories as a result. Serving the people of his state as its first Governor, Bartlett was deeply concerned for the human toll which he knew war with England would demand. When he signed the Declaration document, it wasn't to represent just himself and his family. He took great precaution to make sure that the state's entire citizenry on whose behalf he was signing were crystal clear about what the cost would be.

Means of public communication were pretty limited 250 years ago. The most effective way to disseminate information which townspeople needed to know was through the town meeting. Governor Bartlett had been so impressed by the clarity and wisdom of Thomas Paine's insightful pamphlet Common Sense that he called upon every town in New Hampshire to publicly read and discuss its content every Wednesday evening at a town meeting. Not only did Paine's writing cause deep soul-searching discussion among those who would have to fight. These open discussions also led to the conviction of New Hampshire's residents to lay their lives down for freedom. These were life-impacting discussions, not a platform to casually exchange political opinions! Lives were at stake, and those who had counted the cost were ready to fight and to die if necessary on behalf of freedom. (Incidentally, cherishing freedom is still a commonly held virtue in New Hampshire. The State motto is, "Live Free Or Die!")

Because of what we'll propose to you later in this email, we want to repeat an anecdote from our December 2002 Newsletter, Acquire The Character Of Jesus.

[https://restorationministries.org/download/200212characterofjesus%20\(1\).pdf](https://restorationministries.org/download/200212characterofjesus%20(1).pdf)

Biblical “Common Sense”

Mike: Shortly after Sue and I returned from Israel in 1994, I received a letter from a woman we'd known from our retreat center ministry. She wrote that as she was at work one day she kept hearing the Holy Spirit saying, “Mike Dowgiewicz is Thomas Paine.” She didn't even know who Thomas Paine was, so she went to the library and sent us a brief history of the man. As I read it I cried and cried.

I took a break from working on this newsletter and turned on the TV. Who was the show about? Thomas Paine. Paine wrote about politics and religion, and his writings greatly influenced the leaders of the Revolutionary War. Thomas Paine's pamphlet, *Common Sense*, did much to help clarify the issues of the Revolution and the cost of freedom. As Paine aptly warned,

“These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the summer patriot will, in this, shrink from the service of his country. . . Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered.”

Well aware of the trials and suffering that achieving freedom would exact, a greatly impressed General Washington ordered that the pamphlet be read aloud to his soldiers. At a time when hope was most needed, Paine's bold, clear words encouraged the Continental Army during the darkest days of the war.

Those among the patriots who were called to lead on a spiritual level during that arduous time did their part to make the issues known. Colonial clergy who sided with the revolution as a just cause also conveyed to the populace a clear understanding of **God's vertical view** on waging war with England. Some of those sermons inspired the people to see far beyond the present pressing matter of the Kings' tyranny vs. colonial freedom. Ultimately, the men whose lives were based on biblical standards would represent the spiritual and political leadership of that time at the war's end. Collectively these men would later write:

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

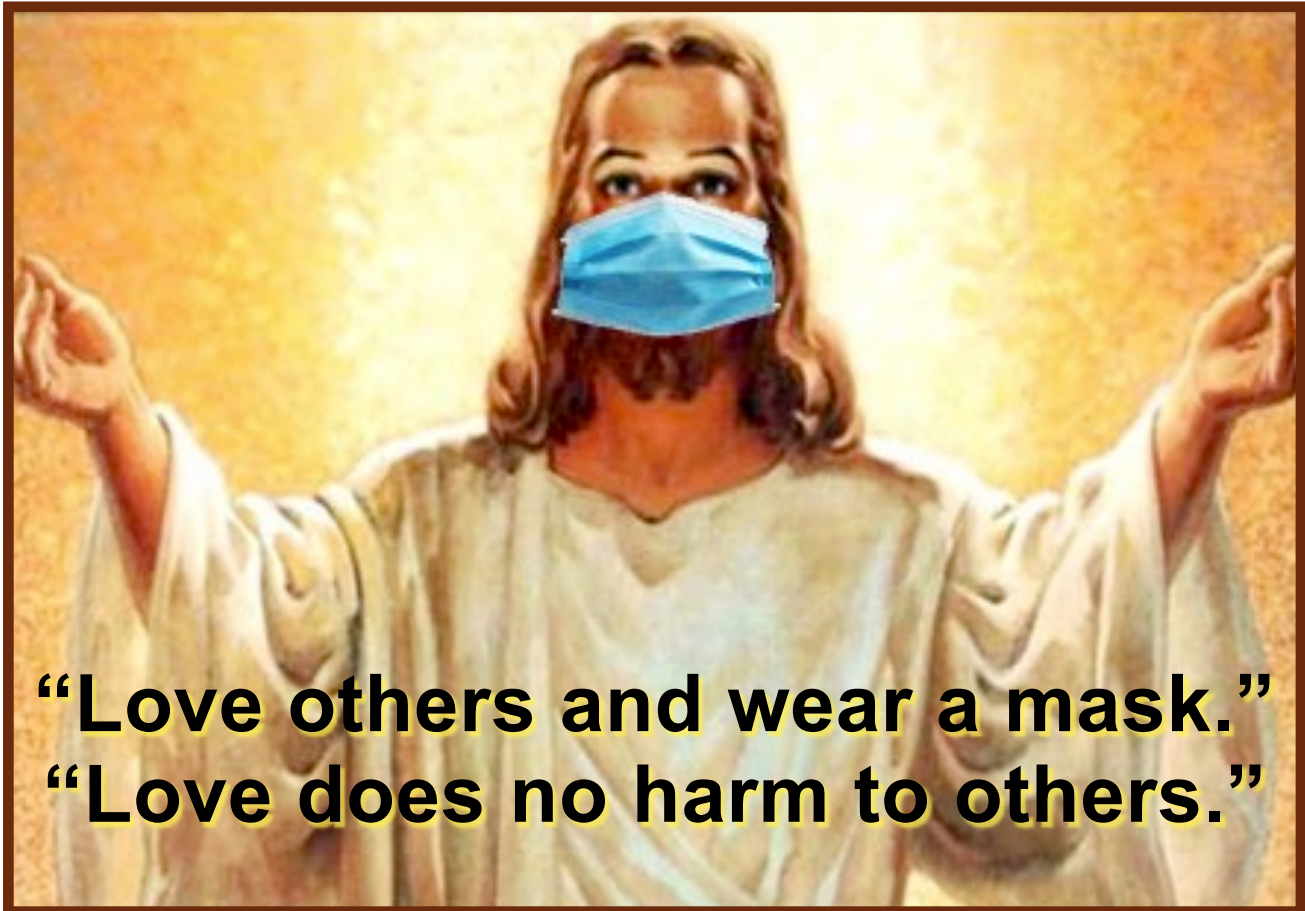
Who Did The Founders of the United States Envision As True Patriots? *Our Issues Today Don't Differ That Much From Those Facing The Colonists*

During the past months in which our land has been battling the Covid-19 virus, our Father has been revealing to this nation an **antagonistic political system** that's on par with the communication barriers which confronted supporters of King George and the Colonists respectively: one party refuses to discuss issues with the other for the common good. And in contrast to the patriotic spiritual leaders of Revolutionary times who earnestly sought the Holy Spirit and God's Word to unify fellow patriots, religious leaders of today resist publicly calling for national repentance through the Holy Spirit and God's Word. Instead **they have taken sides with either political party**, deepening the polar division and denigrating their opponents through social media. Sadly we don't hear bells of freedom ringing jubilantly today; rather we cringe over the manure pile-level of hostility which is polluting our nation. Dung! Dung!

Two choices face us today: **hatred** or **love**. Hatred assassinates the character of other people, while love treats ALL people with the dignity of being made in God's image. In the eyes and heart of Jesus, every human is beloved enough to access His redeeming shed blood in repentance and trust. On our website you'll find a pdf copy of an illustration, next page, we've

put on our website. You'll also find pocket-sized pdf copies of the picture for you to hand out to people. We were able to share two copies already today with people we encountered on our daily walk around the local melon patch! We plan to print it on t-shirts for ourselves very soon.

“No one dies because you didn’t care.”



The Biblical requirements of our Lord Jesus to all Christians:

“Love your neighbor as yourself” (Luke 10:27).

“Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the Law” (Romans 13:10).

“Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets” (Matthew 7:12).

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves” (Philippians 2:3).

“Hatred causes disputes, but love covers all sins” (Proverbs 10:12).

•For a pdf copy of the above for you to pass along:

[https://restorationministries.org/download/jesus-with-covid-mask-copy-2%20\(1\).pdf](https://restorationministries.org/download/jesus-with-covid-mask-copy-2%20(1).pdf)

•For a pdf copy of a pocket-sized handout for you to pass along:

<https://restorationministries.org/download/jesus-with-covid-mask-copy.pdf>

"For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14).

Mordecai's challenging wake-up call to Esther is also a wake-up call to everyone in this nation who loves and follows Jesus as Lord. The young woman may have felt that she was conveniently protected as Queen in a secure palace. But her wise older uncle understood the real reason she was in a position of influence for that very time — to save her people.

For many who are clinging to their comfortable and familiar systems of western Christendom, the passivity and complacency that are produced by Nicolaitan dominance have prevented too many husbands and fathers from applying God's commands to their own family. They've been prevented from the spiritual responsibility of courageously upholding His commands. This is a longstanding denial of personal responsibility before God! By the 4th century, ecclesiastical and political power had merged to commandeer all authority. Individuals who were trying to cling to God's Word as authoritative were hunted and punished. But to maintain supreme control over commoners, for over 1100 years church authorities restricted the Bible to Latin, a dead and unspoken language. Even the Reformation, which Protestant clergy and theologians alike extol for its restoration of key scriptural truths, kept access to those truths within the hands of the educated class to disseminate. Thousands of God-loving, Spirit-impelled followers of Jesus were martyred for wanting to live personally responsible for applying God's commands to their own way of life—SOMETHING WE STRONGLY NEED TODAY!

For example:

In 1517 in Coventry, England, five men and two women were burned at the stake for the heresy of teaching their children the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments in English. At great risk to many lives was birthed the great spiritual awakening. And as history has proved, the sacrifices of men and women who were wholly obedient to their God were used by Him to rekindle faith in Christ's ultimate sacrifice.

As T.S. Elliot expressed in his influential work, *Murder in the Cathedral*, "Martyrdom is no accident. A martyr is always made by the design of God for his love of men, to warn them, and to lead them back to his ways." Many who are reading this email as well as others you know have taken political sides during the time this virus has been spreading. Please, it's time you went VERTICAL, COMPLETELY VERTICAL UNTIL YOU REPRESENT OUR LORD JESUS AND HIM ALONE IN YOUR PERSPECTIVE AND RESPONSE! And we encourage you to have the loving courage to pass along to others the information and illustration we've provided you.

Fireworks filled the sky after the Continental Congress signed the Declaration of Independence. Why don't you offer joyful, public "fireworks of praise" as you display the face of Jesus with the Covid mask for all who call themselves His own. Countless men and women in the past have laid down their lives so that we today might enjoy the fruits of spiritual and political freedom. Isn't it time for you to take up their mantle of love-grounded holy boldness in Jesus and humbly but firmly point others to Him alone as the only One Who can bring about heart change in this nation?

Mike & Sue