



BLUEPRINTS

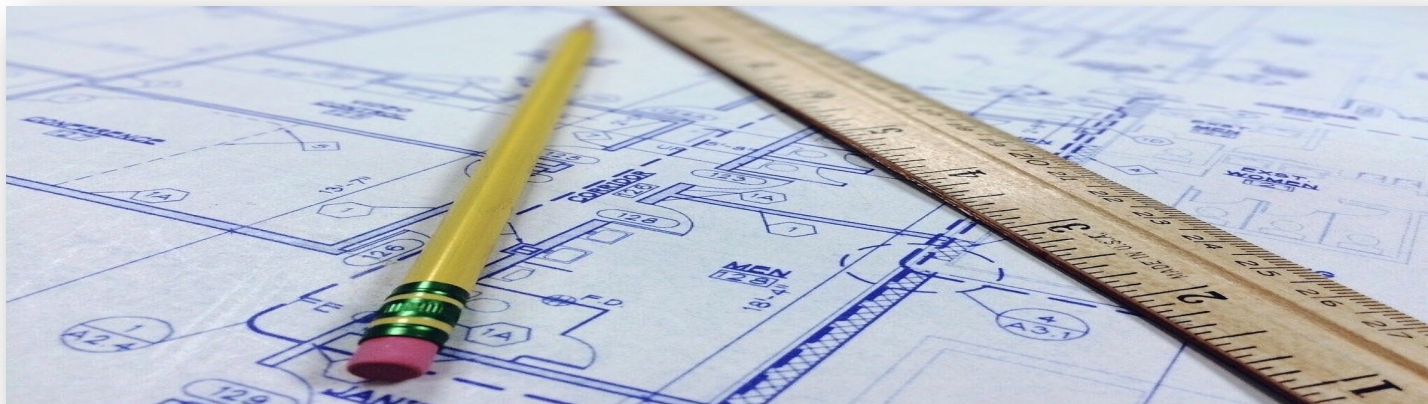
Reflecting God's Image Outside of Eden

October 2023



“Exploring why Politics is more Divisive than Religion
(when it should be the other way around)” p. 12

Ruben Constante, Jr.



Blueprints

October 2023, Volume 5, Issue 8

Blueprints offers a bold message of original intent, which is that plan, purpose, and design God has inscribed into the heart of His men and women.

Credits

President & Managing Editor: Ruben Constante, Jr.

Layout & Design: Ruben Constante, Jr.

Staff Writers: Ruben Constante, Jr., Guillermo Quinones, Jr., Joe Carrillo

Contributing Writers: Steven Cervera, Brittany Gray, Jason Cole, Israel Garza, Adrian Pasillas, Michelle Regino, Penny Constante

Blueprints for Living Ministries, Inc.

Ruben Constante, Jr.

P.O. Box 1465

San Marcos, TX 78667

Guillermo Quinones, Jr.

P.O. Box 180642

Dallas, TX 75218

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Blueprints For Living Ministries, Inc. was birthed out of a preaching firestorm that occurred in "God's Country" (aka Hondo, TX) in 2011. Led by Jason Cole and Ruben Constante, Jr., this preaching revival stirred hundreds of men to seek God's will and purpose for their lives.

Two years later, Ruben created this ministry's newsletter, called *Blueprints*, which would become its first outreach platform.

By 2015, Ruben finalized this ministry's current curriculum, which is neatly organized into five blueprints. During those four years, God had initiated Ruben through a rigorous testing and refining process, which placed him in several crises of faith. These trial periods became pivotal moments in which he learned to cultivate God's design for his life.

Blueprints For Living Ministries, Inc. now stands as a clear voice in a world that has erased and redefined God's blueprint for humanity. What began as a few sermons from behind a prison pulpit is now a team of dedicated men who are driven to impart spiritual and secular education that promotes positive change and personal growth and development.

It is a call for a return to original intent.



Five Blueprints For Living

1. The Blueprint of God's Image
2. The Blueprint of Gender Design
3. The Blueprint of Marriage
4. The Blueprint of the Church
5. The Blueprint of Discipleship



PILLARS OF TRUTH

Because Blueprints For Living Ministries, Inc. is dedicated to standing on and proclaiming God's original intent for life, we center our worldview on the only standard which reveals original intent: the Holy Bible.

Aside from affirming the Nicene and Apostle's creed, we adhere to the Reformed positions of the Christian faith, those doctrines which the reformers believed were central to Christianity. We stand alongside Martin Luther, who boldly refused to recant the clear teachings of Scripture. Therefore, we stand on the Five *Solas* of the Protestant Reformation:

1. Sola Scriptura ("Scripture alone"): The Bible is our highest authority.
2. Sola Fide ("faith alone"): We are saved through faith alone in Christ Jesus.
3. Sola Gratia ("grace alone"): We are saved by the grace of God alone.
4. Solus Christus ("Christ alone"): Jesus Christ alone is our Lord, Savior, and King.
5. Soli Deo Gloria ("to the glory of God alone"): We live for the glory of God alone.

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From the Desk of Ruben



It isn't as if God hasn't spoken or that He isn't working.

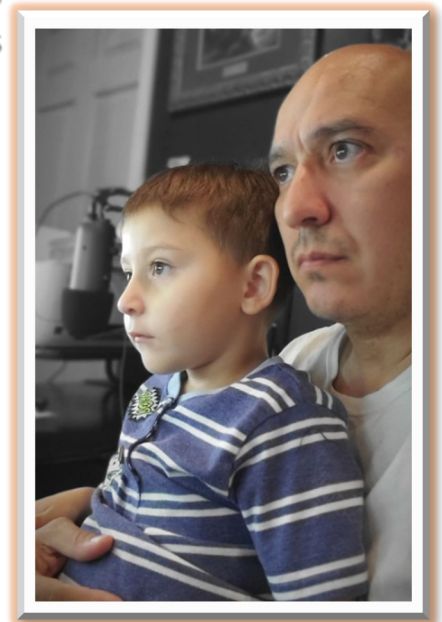
We just misunderstand His methods. This is something I have always struggled with. See, I am often guilty of planning for God. With my silly brain, I think I can work it all out. With my puny genius, I think I can make things happen. But I always fail.

Always.

As we prepare for the holiday season, I am doing my best to rest more in God's timing and get away from my stubborn plans. (Trust me, it's hard.)

What about you? Do you find yourself trying to "advance the kingdom of God" only to discover that your plans never work out? Or, maybe you're not into ministry but just want to get on your feet and fight hard to make things happen and nothing pans out. If this is you, welcome to the donkey club, where I serve as president.

Ruben Constantino Jr.



God's Name in Your **HEART**

Michelle Regino



When you are confused about the future, go to your Jehovah-Raah, your caring shepherd.

When you are anxious about provision, talk to Jehovah-Jireh , the Lord who provides.

Are your challenges too great? Seek the help of Jehovah-Shalom, the Lord is peace.

Is your body sick? Are your emotions weak? Jehovah-Rophe, the Lord who heals, will see you now.

Do you feel like a soldier stranded behind enemy lines? Take refuge in Jehovah-Nissi, the Lord my banner.

Meditating on the names of God reminds you of the character of God. Take these names and bury them in your heart.

God is the shepherd who guides, the Lord who provides, the voice who brings peace in the storm, the physician who heals the sick, and the banner that guides the soldier.

“The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.”

Proverbs 18:10

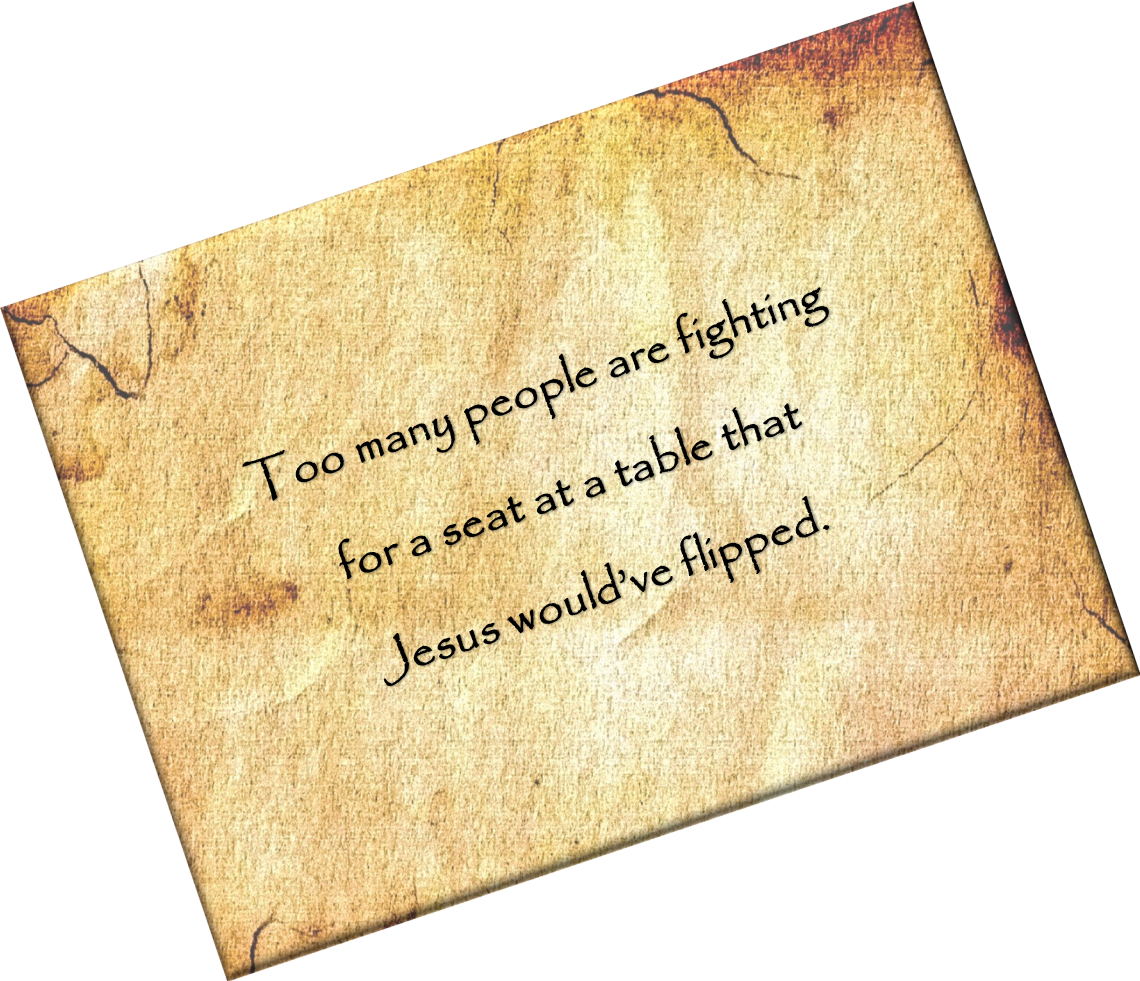
In case you missed it...



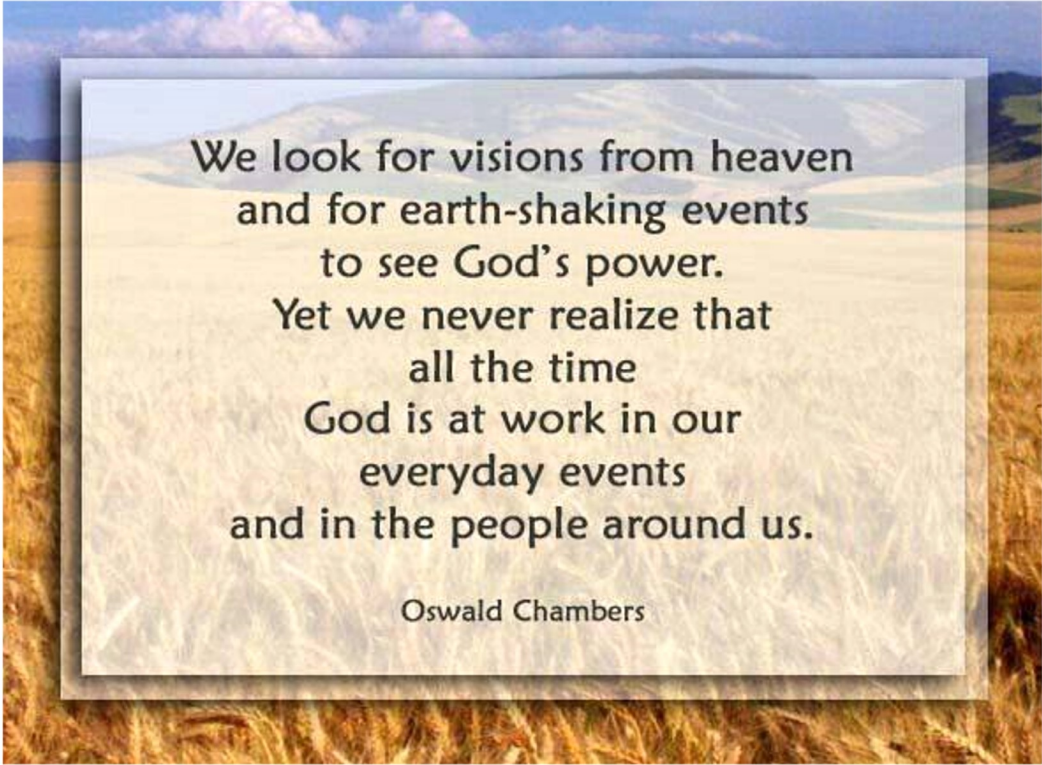
**Prayer is
not a
back-up
plan**

**Prayer
is the
battle
plan!**

100



Too many people are fighting
for a seat at a table that
Jesus would've flipped.



We look for visions from heaven
and for earth-shaking events
to see God's power.
Yet we never realize that
all the time
God is at work in our
everyday events
and in the people around us.

Oswald Chambers

Congratulations to our
6th graduation class!!



GIVE GOD YOUR WORRIES

Michelle Regino

Ask yourself two questions:

Is there any unconfessed sin in my life?

Confessing is telling God you did the thing he saw you do. He doesn't need to hear it as much as you need to say it. Whether it's too small to be mentioned or too big to be forgiven isn't yours to decide.

Your task is to be honest: Are there any worries in my heart that are not surrendered?

"Give all your worries to him, because he cares about you" (1 Peter 5:7).

The German word for worry means "to strangle. "The Greek word means "to divide the mind." Both are accurate. Worry is a noose on the neck and a distraction of the mind, neither of which is befitting for joy.

When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away, and I groaned all day long. Day and night your hand of discipline was heavy on me. My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat.

Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, "I will confess my rebellion to the Lord." And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone.

Psalms 32:3-5 NLT

EXPLORING WHY POLITICS IS MORE *Divisive* THAN RELIGION

(when it should be the other way around)

Ruben Constante, Jr.



The world needs a measuring stick.

Whether you're a carpenter, a welder, a plumber, or an electrician, measuring tools are critical to each trade. The need for definitive standards applies even to white collar vocations. Architects need rulers; software programmers need algorithms; scientists need objective data; and lawmakers need a moral framework from which to judge right from wrong.

Measuring sticks are a must.

In fact, it doesn't take much for us to see when one isn't being used. When a construction contractor doesn't measure properly, walls become crooked and cement slabs will be askew. When such an anomaly is present, we don't question whether the materials are defective.

We question the craftsman's experience.

The same is true of how we present ourselves to the world. For example, if I say I am a follower of Christ, but my worldviews aren't shaped by a solid Christian framework, then you are free to question the validity of my claims. I might *say* I'm a Christian, but my actions tell you otherwise.

To push this issue even further, most would-be Christians hide behind ecumenical slogans and do not make much fuss over real issues that affect our world. If left alone, these nominal Christians would never be known for their hollow professions of faith. But something exists in our world that exposes these phonies like nothing else.

And it's politics.

Two people can claim allegiance to Christ and never experience any significant rupture in their fellowship, but ask them which candidate they support for office, and a sharp divide will appear. They can "love" others and quote Scripture effectively, but once you ask them about their political views, you will see who they truly are.

But why?

It's because politics exposes what we truly believe. Politics is an extreme form of mental combat that leaves no room for compromise. There are hardly any gray areas in the political arena. You are either for border security or not. You are either for energy independence or not. You are either for abortion or not.

For Christians, however, such issues can be lost in a kaleidoscope of theological sound bites. These are the God-is-good-all-the-time-all-the-time-God-is-good people. They are the ones who promote charity and altruism under the banner of "God is love." Bumper sticker theology rules this faith mob, and political issues always expose who these camouflaged folks truly are.

But it shouldn't be that way.

The reason why politics divide family and friends more so than the sword of Truth is that most professing saints don't understand who the Rock of offense is and what He came to do (cf. Matt. 10:34-38). They sincerely believe Jesus did not come to judge the world much less grant us permission to do so ourselves. They think He came to love and be nice and chant cute slogans and promote world peace. As such, they redefine the Great Commission.

They create a new measuring stick.

As a result, they can hide under the banner of counterfeit charity and avoid tackling the real issues that sinister politicians advocate, because all they think they're supposed to do is love and not judge. Sadly, contemporary Christianity has become a haven for emotional and mental asylum seekers who do not want to rightly divide the Word of Truth. They don't want to confront. They don't want to offend. They just want to get along and pretend to love others by saying,

"We are no one to judge."

For them, Christianity is all love, not hate—yet we must hate that which threatens love. For them, Christianity is all grace and mercy—yet neither can exist without dealing with the sin that makes them necessary.

This is the tragic reality we witness today. Family and friends who claim Christ as Lord and Savior will always have their shallow faith exposed when a political topic is brought up, because political issues do not abide by the "love" doctrine these folks adhere to so religiously. Politics is black and white—and so should be Christianity.

But it's not.



Christianity has become a cornucopia of nice words and charitable deeds and has lost its salt-like quality. It's bland and lacks real power. It is like an expensive car that has no engine—like a well-painted tomb that conceals a decaying corpse.

But it shouldn't be like that.

The only way to undo the mess that has become of our Faith is to completely toss out the diluted substance that has so weakened the Church. You can't compromise with humanitarianism, and you can't make deals with the Devil. Either side with the Rock of offense and allow His truth to rule supreme or continue advancing your own kingdom. But make no mistake, in each instance, you will choose a standard. You will use a measuring stick.

The question is: Which one will you choose? 🖱️



Five Essential Disciplines of Faith:

Stewardship

Adrian Pasillas



Whether you know it or not, understand it or not, or even like it or not, there is a widespread cynicism towards giving in our post Christian, postmodern culture, with no thanks especially to the proliferation of “sow-your-best-seed” supposed Christian televangelists that are unabashedly and continually giving tithing a bad name. Yet we as Christians are commanded from the Bible to be good stewards.

The Tithe in the Old Testament

Tithing’s first mentioning is found in Genesis 4:4-5 (ESV), by the brothers Cain and Abel:

“...and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering He had no regard. So Cain was very angry and his face fell.”

God accepted Abel’s offering, but not Cain’s...why? Abel’s offering was a blood sacrifice—an animal—whereas Cain’s was merely fruit from the ground. But the Old Testament is teeming with examples of God’s provisions of such offerings that were quite acceptable to Him. Also, there is no indication in sacred scripture that any particular part of agriculture was holier than another.

Hebrews 11:4 provides helpful insight:

By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks.”

Evidently, God was pleased in the manner as to how Abel gave...which was *in faith*. Conversely, with Cain’s He rebuked his seemingly cavalier attitude (v. 6), which fomented a murderous rage within Cain that manifestly broke out against his brother (v. 8).

Remember, in our past study of Worship, God seeks those who will worship Him in Spirit and in truth. Abel’s offering in faith was the *sacrifice of praise*...the very essence of worship.

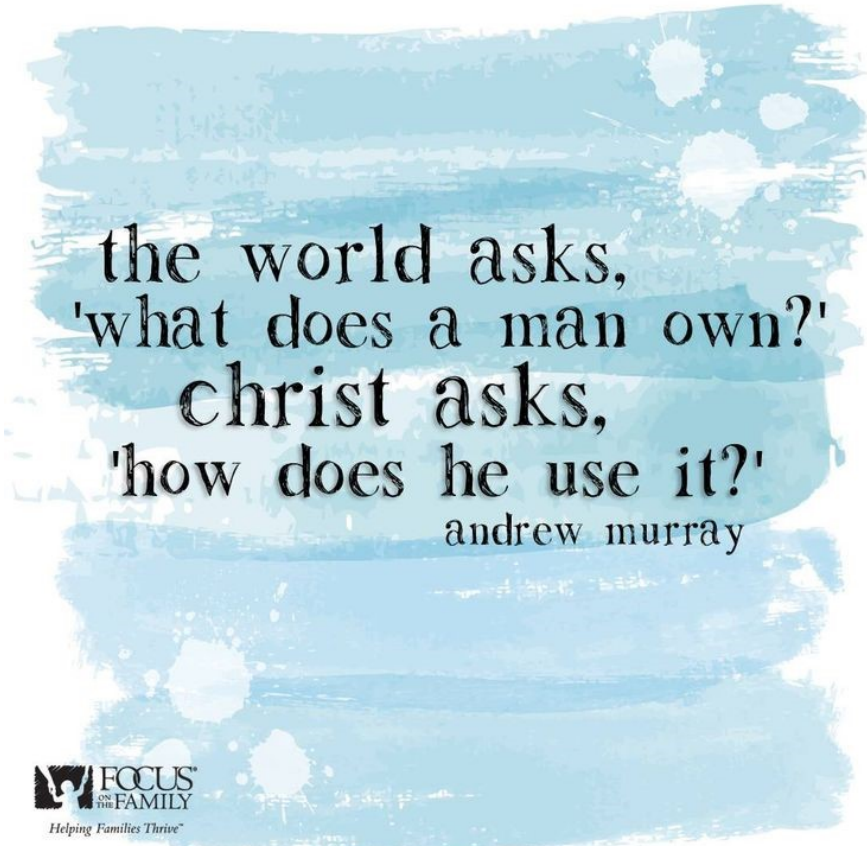
The notion of sacrifice goes to the very heart of biblical faith. The incipency of the redemptive work of Christ in the Old Testament was focused upon the sacrificial system, as the first article of “furniture” a priest saw while entering the Tabernacle was the altar of burnt offering.

Christ has taken away the need of burning altars, animal sacrifices, et al. He was/is the perfect, once-for-all sacrifice:

For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleaned, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. (Hebrews 9:24-10:3)

Next: Stewardship: The Tithe in the Old Testament, part 2



the world asks,
'what does a man own?'
christ asks,
'how does he use it?'
andrew murray

Yes, all genders can menstruate.

Unlike gender, menstruation is about your body. Anyone with a typically functioning uterus and vagina will menstruate, regardless of their identity. For example, a trans man who has a typically functioning uterus and vagina will menstruate. That's just a biological reality. So yes, men can have periods. In fact, anyone of any gender can have a period.



This is what our world has come to. Utter insanity. Utter confusion. And celebrated, at that!

Well did Isaiah write, “Woe to those who call evil good and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!” (Is. 5:20).

Well did Paul write, “Professing to be wise, they became fools” (Rom. 1:22).

The Church of Jesus Christ must present Truth in love and resist this insane attack on reality. We must speak up and speak out on all that assaults the image of God. Wouldn't you rightfully defend your parents' name if someone were to bad mouth them?

So, why aren't you doing the same when someone bad mouths God's image?

Fighting the Good Fight

Brittany Gray

This is going to be a long one, but a lot has been on my heart this week so I know God will push back every wavelength and algorithm designed to block this message and get it where it belongs.

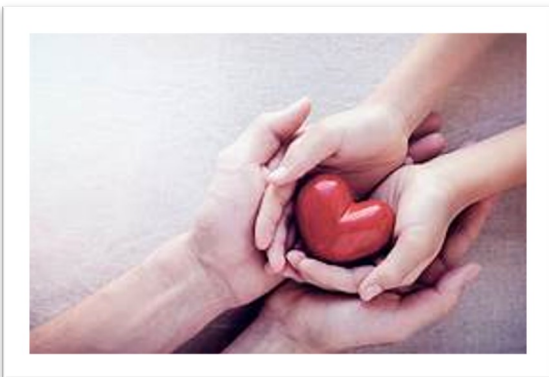
I've been in many encounters in life where I was attacked while my back was turned. For example, I was jumped for no other cause but for being white. I had a gun held to my head for refusing to listen to an abusive ex's orders. I've had friends turn on me in the heat of very fragile moments. I've come home to find a past partner in bed with someone else. I know there are many of you out there who can relate. I know you can also relate to the saying "hurt people, hurt people." And that is just what I did for years out of my own brokenness. There are plenty of reasons if I chose to give up on myself and ultimately my Creator. But I chose to keep going.

I know talking about those things can many times bring anger or hate that starts to grow back up deep from the dormant cells in your chest. There are thousands of people who sit behind bars today for things that they were "provoked" to do and perhaps it was the one time they ever lost their cool, and their life on earth was altered forever because of their flesh-led reactions. We are all human. In time, we will all fail and be faced with the decision and choice to get back up or keep ourselves down.

As I revisit some of my own life experiences, I have realized how much I took personally by choice. Jesus said, "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first" (Jn. 15:18, NIV).

Yes, when one is bullied or taken advantage of, the pain is very real and hard to leave behind. It is much easier to put those emotions in a frame that we wear on a badge on our chest and say, "This happened to me; that is why I'm this way." It is much easier to leave a church or friend that lets you down, than it is to accept the challenge as a reason to restore vision and unity from within.

That, my friends, is called a cop-out. No one with a victim mindset can win or overcome in life, unless they cheat or victimize others to get there. And that is always a temporary season as the Word says, "Pride goes be-



fore destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall” (Pro. 16:18, NIV).

Our society is dying as a whole because of victimization. Everyone has a story but only a few let that become a testimony. The victim mindset is an illness and disease like no other because you attract others with that same mindset. You find yourself “comfortable” in rooms filled with trauma and disappointment. None of us want to feel or live alone. And this world preys on those who feel they have a reason to remain sorry for themselves.



“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.” (Pro. 4:23, NIV). I believe in this scripture God was talking about so much more than just who we decide to give our heart to but also *what*. Our heart can trick us into a lot of danger if we are not careful. And by heart, I mean emotional tangibility. When we experience heartbreak, we become so damaged that our vulnerability blinds our willingness to see if others’ or even our own intentions are pure. We take our own bad and often exchange it for even worse because we simply refuse to give that hurt to God. Look today in the world how many people seem lost or confused. If you spend enough time with them, they always have something that happened to them that clouded their worldview.

“For God is not a God of disorder but of peace—as in all the congregations of the Lord’s people” (1 Cor. 14:33, NIV). It’s not enough to go to church, we will find broken people there too.

It’s not enough to read the Word if we don’t truly ask God to deliver us from our own sinful thoughts and actions. It is called the Living Word because we must be alive in our faith to truly receive the message. We will find things to mock and misinterpret simply because we do not want to accept our own behavior as short of godly. Though we all sin, we want to believe our brother’s sin is worse than our own. It just doesn’t work that way, friends. Sin is sin. And we are called to help those in the struggle, be set free. Not because we are better than them, but because God has shown us how to heal!

Even after we have walked away and asked God to renew our stinking thinking, we must be prepared to stand strong and fight the enemy’s attempts to give us reason to choose darkness again. He loves nothing more than when we convince ourselves we are so unworthy that we imprison each other in guilt, shame, and self-destruction. And by the good grace of God above, do everything you can to not take it personally when a friend or family member comes for you in anger or resentment because you chose to recover and get better from your own illness. That is the enemy and as personal as it feels, it isn’t about you at all.

I know this life is short and it will be filled with unforeseen upsets and let downs, but it

is also filled with light, love, forgiveness, and opportunities to free oneself from eternal damnation. I can personally attest from talking with a person before they went to blow their brains out and from helping to encourage women to walk away from an abuser or their own self-inflicted abuse. What we say and do to reach others *will* make a difference. We are God's vessels, and He will use us for His and only His glory.

None of us are exempt from helping our brothers and sisters find their way back to peace. Keep in mind though, if God doesn't send you into the battle, you will not be ready for that war. So go with guidance and love and be sure in your heart it's the space God wants you in at that time.

I don't know who this was intended for, but I know when I am encouraged to write it is never only for me. So, as you start your day today, I encourage you to pray for someone you know who is under attack. Pray for someone you know is struggling to see God as an answer to their broken spirit or situation. Pray for someone you know is struggling with walking away or they keep looking back from where they came.

If you know the Bible, think of Lot and his wife. God made it clear: *I'm walking you out of the hell you lived around because you don't belong there, but don't turn around for you will turn to ashes.*

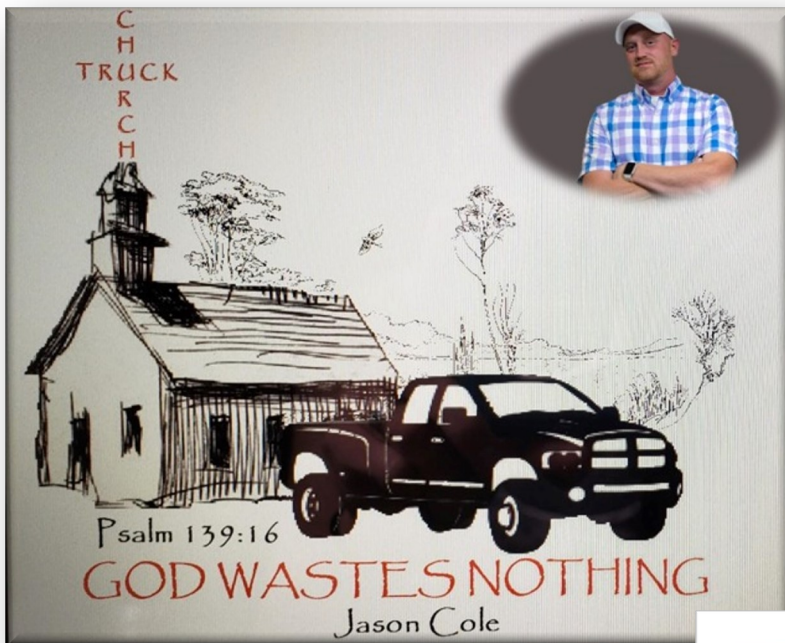
Many things we go through, God is stern with us in our deliverance that we must not return to it. Not because we don't have freewill but because our freewill can also get us killed. When God delivers you, it is because you are willing to go to the next place, He has for you. You are walking in the purpose of your existence.

Go in peace. But also go with caution. Some things are too big for us to solve on our own. So don't try to. Take up your cross and let God order your steps. Let Him decide which army you should stand next to. Because let's face it, if you love the Lord, you're being equipped for war. (Eph. 6:12-18).

As many of you already know, I am *always* here when a person needs a friend to remind them in hard times every reason there is to simply keep walking forward. Be blessed. 🌟

[#SilenceUnchained](#)

A special thanks to these faithful
ministries and organizations
who make our graduation classes possible!



Sometimes the
greatest test is how
you quietly handle
those who so boldly
mishandled you.



Question: "What does it mean to have a reprobate mind?"

Answer: The phrase “reprobate mind” is found in Romans 1:28 in reference to those whom God has rejected as godless and wicked. They “suppress the truth by their wickedness,” and it is upon these people that the wrath of God rests (Romans 1:18). The Greek word translated “reprobate” in the New Testament is *adokimos*, which means literally “unapproved, that is, rejected; by implication, worthless (literally or morally).”



Paul describes two men named Jannes and Jambres as those who “resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith” (2 Timothy 3:8). Here the reprobation is regarding the resistance to the truth because of corrupt minds. In Titus, Paul also refers to those whose works are reprobate: “They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate” (Titus 1:16). Therefore, the reprobate mind is one that is corrupt and worthless.

As we can see in the verses above, people who are classified as having a reprobate mind have some knowledge of God and perhaps know of His commandments. However, they live impure lives and have very little desire to please God. Those who have reprobate minds live corrupt and selfish lives. Sin is justified and acceptable to them. The reprobates are those whom God has rejected and has left to their own devices.

Can a Christian have a reprobate mind? Someone who has sincerely accepted Jesus Christ by faith will not have this mindset because the old person with a reprobate mind has been recreated into a new creation: “The old has

passed away; behold, the new has come” (2 Corinthians 5:17). Christians are basically “new” people. We live differently and speak differently. Our world is centered on our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and how we can serve Him. Also, if we are truly in the faith, we will have the Holy Spirit to help us live a God-honoring life (John 14:26). Those with reprobate minds do not have the Spirit and live only for themselves.

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