

# GENTLE SHEPHERD MINISTRIES

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*CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH ~ MAKING DISCIPLES ~ EQUIPPING THE SAINTS FOR MINISTRY*

## THE JUDGMENT OF VANITY (The Lost Generation)

### Part Three

By Rayola Kelley

For the past couple of months we have been considering the vain wayward way the visible Church and this nation have been going. I made mention of how the Church will challenge, inspire and/or reflect the true spiritual environment of a nation. Obviously, our present nation's leadership reveals a totally corrupt and tyrannical environment.

We know that judgment begins in the house of God (*1 Peter 4:17*). As we consider what the judgment might reveal about the condition of the Church, perhaps we need to consider the fruits that are apparent in this environment. How much of the corrupt leadership in Washington D.C. represents the visible leadership of the Church? What percentage of the dirty deals and the back door agreements that have enabled the present government to gain power have also occurred between the wolves and heretics of the wicked system that operates behind the visible Church, which likewise appears to dominate much of our TV and radio airwaves with error and lies? It is clear that much of the Church has become soft on sin, creating an environment where corruption against truth and righteousness can create its own propaganda machine and indoctrinate and delude followers.

Clearly, idolatry reigns on both the political and religious fronts. When idolatry becomes rampant, especially among God's people, it will not only signal a massive breakdown in every area of a society, but it will often mark what we consider the "lost generation."

A generation that is considered lost in this text did not just happen overnight. Such a generation is the result of prior generations moving

away from the center of what is true and right. Even though this shifting away from true righteousness is not obvious at the start, it will sow destructive seeds that will become more visible in the following generation. As each generation gets further from the center, it will sow greater seeds of destruction. This form of destruction is much like the waves of the ocean ebbing away the shoreline.

As each generation succumbs to its particular age of darkness, it will produce not only a lost generation which has less of a sense of character, responsibilities or the seriousness to soberly consider or discern its present state, but such a generation will often prove to be the last generation for that nation or country.

As Christians, we know the last generation in the Bible will signal the countdown to the great battle of Armageddon. However, what kind of judgment would the last generation signal for this nation? Perhaps we can get a small glimpse into the judgment this nation could be presently facing. When asked what he thought of our country's present situation, a WWII veteran described America as being nothing more than a "gulag." For those who do not know this term, a "gulag" is a prison or labor camp in which the former Soviet Union placed all political prisoners. This description of America could very well explain the treacherous attitude of some of the leaders in Washington D.C. towards the opposition against present policies that are sweeping the country.

As I consider the condition of America, I can see that many in America are prisoners. I don't know if we are political prisoners right now, but many are prisoners to the idols of this nation. Sadly, those who are part of the professing church are also enslaved to these same idols. Granted, these idols may be clothed in doctrines or titles such as "Positive Confession", "Word of Faith", "Kingdom Dominion" and the "Emergent Church" but they all represent worldly false

ways that are leading people down the idolatrous path of destruction.

Before we can consider the idols, we must consider the environment that has produced the present atmosphere in our country, and how it is manifesting in this generation. The first fruit of this environment is *indifference*. I have mentioned this before, but indifference exists because there is a mixture present. A mixture simply means the things of God and the world have been combined, leaving no contrast or distinction. Without the contrast, anything goes or can be redefined or adjusted to personal preferences.

Indifference expresses itself in a lack of love. How many people, especially in the younger generations, understand what real love is? It is hard to find unfeigned love that is untainted by the lust and sentimental hogwash put forth by Hollywood and the heretical Church system. As a result, the love of some people has become very cold indeed. In this cold state, people will have the tendency to pursue any selfish desire without consideration for others. There is no sense of personal responsibility or sacrifice. Hearts that prove to be hard end up being filled with dissatisfaction that eventually turns into anger. This anger will rage and mock anything that dares to hinder or question selfish people's self-serving pursuits. The altar that is erected by such indifference is self-esteem. On this altar, all will be offered up that will not regard the selfish designs of such an individual, regardless of how right or wrong it may be.

*Perversion* is another fruit of idolatry. God's truth has been clearly perverted among His people. Perversion simply means people add or take away from the truth, thereby, compromising its integrity by adjusting it to their tarnished take on a matter. Perversion is out of control in our society. It is also rampant in the professing Church as many people chase after so-called "doctrines" that have been twisted to fit someone's evil agendas and pursuits.

This perversion is also rampant in homes. Often hidden behind closed

doors, people's practices and the imagination of the thoughts of their hearts are proving to be "evil continually" as they were in Noah's day. Partaking of gross fornication through adulterous affairs, pornography, homosexuality, incest, as well as other sex crimes against children, and so forth is the way that wickedness offers that which is pure to God on the altar of spiritual harlotry. Children, holy marriage, truth, and righteousness are just a few examples of what is being offered up to feed the profane appetites of those who use their bodies to come into an agreement with the unholy (*1 Corinthians 6:13-18* refer to *1 Corinthians 3:16-17*). For our young people this perversion has caused an identity crisis. They do not know what is true or where to turn to find something that has real substance and purpose.

*Worldly entertainment* is also a big part of this idolatrous environment. Some of the professing Church has become a place of entertainment, rather than a place of prayer and sacrificial worship. This reminds me of the unexpected tornado that hit the facilities where a popular church denomination was meeting to vote on accepting homosexuality as the norm. The tornado not only toppled the cross from the steeple of the old church building, but the tables and chairs were also overthrown. It reminded me of when Jesus went into the temple and knocked over the moneychangers' tables, stating that they had made the house of God into a den of thieves. I wonder how many of our churches would be considered dens of iniquity.

Entertainment appeals to the flesh. It encourages show rather than sincerity. It produces indifference to reality, while promoting emotional sentimentality or a Hollywood mentality towards God. It is divorced from reality that brings us to the altar of entertainment: that of fantasy. Since entertainment is divorced from reality, it has made people desensitized to what is real. In fact, reality is often ignored, criticized and rejected. For our young people it has destroyed imagination and made them complacent and lazy. They expect to be entertained, and become easily "bored"

if the entertainment does not catch and hold their attention.

Now that we have set up the environment of idolatry, let us now consider the idols that have been erected in this environment. Once again, these idols can be found in churches where some Christians appear to stand between two opinions and two distinct ways.

*Greed:* The biggest idol for most Americans is greed. Greed justifies pursuing the "good life." However, the lifestyle greed offers is not beneficial or lasting. It is an image or illusion of happiness and fulfillment that down the line will prove to be vanity. Christians, who put much of their energy and time into pursuing the god of greed, will end up throwing bones or offering leftovers to God. Such offerings are considered strange and unacceptable to Him, even though they may be capable of soothing people's conscience while they pursue their gluttonous ways.

Our young people are not impressed with this idol because their relationship with the family has been offered up on the altars of the world. Previous generations have sacrificed their relationship with their children in the name of giving them the material things they never had. However, this excuse simply covers up their personal selfish pursuits. The dominating presence and influence of greed in this nation has killed initiative in many of our young people. They do not see the need to earn what has been readily handed to them by their families and society.

*Pleasure:* Pleasure is another god many Americans pursue. Pleasure can also include entertainment. The Apostle Paul warned that in the end days pleasure would become an idol. The usual thinking behind people embracing this idol is that they have worked hard; therefore, they have a right to enjoy or take pleasure in their labor. I have no problem with people having pleasure, but when it becomes a god that is pursued, no matter the cost, then it is just plain wrong. Christians who seek after the god of pleasure will either tack Jesus on to activities or they will integrate their religious life into their brand of pleasure to justify their idolatrous pursuit.

Since young people realize that greed proves to be empty, their pleasure-seeking ways have caused many

of them to fall into other destructive lures. Because young people are indifferent to reality and disillusioned with greed, they often become bored with entertainment. This causes them to seek acceptance, purpose or sensationalism elsewhere. Hence, they fall into the destructive traps of such things as addictions and gangs.

*Security:* Many Americans work all their life so that they can retire while maintaining their American lifestyle. However, the recent crash of the market proves that the world cannot offer any real lasting security. In fact, everything in America is like a house of cards. Winds of judgment can make it all collapse in a matter of seconds, leaving us with nothing.

The reality of the false god of security is that it is people's way of avoiding putting their trust in God. This can apply to Christians who are trying to secure some kind of future in this present world for themselves. Don't get me wrong, I do not have a problem with people being wise about their future, but there will be no display of wisdom or vision when idolatry is present. These same people often put their confidence in the world's system rather than in God. From this premise, these people's idea of security is based on the world and not on God. Gambling or investing in the future of the economic system is a risky business. Granted, it might work out, and then again, it might prove to be sand caught up in the waves and winds of change.

Many of our young people have no vision. They are wandering in a sea of confusion, fear and uncertainty. They do not know where the waves or currents of life will take them. They have no purpose because they are lost, they have no vision because their worlds are consumed with selfishness, and they have no direction because there is no contrast with which to recognize that there are choices, opportunities and possibilities.

*Organizations:* When people went to the polls to vote for change in the last presidential election, many were putting their confidence into a man or the government to solve the problems of this nation. Many who voted did not understand the power that can be welded by leaders. If such leaders do not have maturity, character and integ-

## DOORS AND DEMONS

### By Jeannette Haley

Doors are something most of us take for granted, but consider what an important role they play in our lives. Who would purchase a home, however humble or grand, that had entrances without doors? After all, doors provide security for those inside while barring entrance of the world outside. Doors give us a sense of privacy, peace and security (or well-being), as well as a sense of control. If we prefer not to have an exchange with uninvited visitors ringing our doorbell, all dressed up in suits and ties, we have the option to keep the door closed.

Without doors, our environment would change drastically due to weather, temperature and the unwelcome intrusion of pests and people. Can you imagine trying to sleep soundly knowing that thieves, thugs, and killers could stroll unhindered into your house?

While doors, gates, walls and fences serve a vital role in our physical lives, how many of us take time to consider the importance of spiritual doors? The first mention in the Bible of doors refers to a spiritual door, the door to our heart. God said to Cain, *"If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? And if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door"* Genesis 4:7a. God was warning Cain that sin was waiting for him to open the door of his heart through one act of rebellion, through the sin of omission. For God to accept Cain, he would have to do what was right before God. In his case, that would mean bringing an offering to God that He could accept—an offering that cost him something, as well as cost the life of an innocent animal whose shed blood pointed to the cross. However, if Cain refused to do well, or right, then he was opening the door to sin. We all know what he chose to do.

Forgive me, but I just can't resist the temptation to compare Cain's ideology to some of the far out, left-wing loonies. Take, for example, the liberal politicians, Marxists, "Czars" and New Age earth worshippers of our day who have no qualms about murdering babies, the sick, and the elderly, while plotting to eliminate two-thirds of the world's population through toxic vacci-

nations, starvation, germ warfare, tainted food, forced sterilization and other means. Their mindset and ideology is reminiscent of Cain's. Cain had no fear or respect for God. He had his own "religion" which was made up of unbelief, rebellion and flippancy about sin and the results of that sin (death.) In his mind, God should accept whatever he threw at Him. Unlike his brother, Abel, Cain had no regard for God's promise of a redeemer (Genesis 3:15). Like one of Obama's powerful Czars, he did not believe in shedding the blood of animals, and was petulant towards the Lord for requiring a blood sacrifice. His anger and jealousy towards his brother culminated in hatred and murder. The insanity and hypocrisy we see in the world today is nothing new.

God gives us the freedom to choose. Cain could have chosen to humble himself, repent, and bring the proper offering. If he had done so, the door of his heart would have opened so that the glorious light, love and life of the Lord could come in, and the sin that "lay" there be vanquished.

We are admonished by God in *Proverbs 4:23* to *"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."* This means that we are responsible to guard the "door" of our hearts as to what comes in, and what goes out. Jesus said, *"O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things"* Matthew 12: 34, 35. So, what kind of treasure are you and I storing up in our hearts? Can we say with the Psalmist, *"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee"* Psalm 119:11? Is God's Word the treasure in your heart, or have you let down your guard and opened the door to evil through compromise with the world, the flesh and the devil?

The question isn't whether or not a Christian can "have" a devil (demon), but can a demon "have a Christian." By this I mean, if a Christian opens the door, can Satan (demons) gain a foothold in his or her life? If so, what are those doors? One door is found in *Ephesians 4:26-27*, which states, "Be

*ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil."* [Emphasis added.] Anger, which everyone experiences in his or her life, becomes a sin when it is allowed to enter one's heart in the form of hatred, which is murder. (See *1 John 3:15*.) The key is, to keep the door shut, to not allow anger to go unabated, and to simmer internally.

Another open door can be fear. In Paul's instructions to Timothy, he wrote, *"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."* As with anger, every one of us has experienced fear. However, if we open our heart's door to fear instead of standing on God's promise of power, love and a sound mind, fear can engulf us in such a way that we become paralyzed within its grip. There is a natural fear, and then there are actual spirits of fear. We have encountered many spirits of fear in our years of ministry within the lives of Christians.

Two prevalent spirits that found among Christians are a familiar spirit and a religious spirit. People, who are zealous, but ignorant of the ways of God, and Satan, can easily open the door for these spirits. *"But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him"* 2 Corinthians 11:3, 4. [Emphasis added.] A familiar spirit will counterfeit the work of the Holy Spirit, deceiving the person into believing that the "insight" or "information" he or she is receiving is from God. Not knowing how to test the spirits, such a person will not be able to receive the truth because of the deception and delusion that such spirits produce which feed one's pride.

Religious spirits likewise operate from the point of personal pride. People with religious spirits want to "be seen of men" (*Matthew 6:5*), and be exalted into places of importance or leadership. Religious spirits can cause others to become uncomfortable because of their "know-it-all"

bossy demeanor. They can also throw confusion on people because they give the appearance of always being "right" about matters. When Christians feel pushed or reticent to come into agreement with a religious spirit, Satan can deluge them with guilt. No wonder the Apostle John wrote, *"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world"* 1 John 4:1.

Satan and his demons know all about doors. Christians need to realize that the demons Jesus and the apostles cast out of people did not simply wander off to some remote corner of the Universe and remain there. They are not confined outside the borders of Westernized countries, such as America, as many people erroneously believe. Demons are not restricted by time and space as we are, and they definitely have some powerful doors through which to gain entrance into people in these end times. The command to *"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. . . . And these signs shall follow them that believe: In my name shall they cast out devils . . ."* (Mark 16:15b, 17a) has never been nullified by God. In addition to the previously mentioned doors, what I consider the four most powerful of these doors today are pornography, drugs, hard rock music and the occult. The common denominator that links these four "doors" together is their addictive nature. Once a person opens the door to sinful addictions, he or she will begin a journey into the dark, twisted, bizarre and terrifying realm of Satan, demons, delusion, destruction and death.

When dealing with people who are struggling with different degrees of obsessions, depression and possession, the Christian worker must be led by the Spirit of God in order to wade through the different levels, or layers, in which Satan has a stronghold. Not all people have opened one, or all, of these doors by their own free will; some have had their door forced open due to the wickedness of others, such as molestation or rape. Naturally, children are helpless concerning the type of environment in which they live. The great tragedy is that innumerable children have had their inno-

cence stripped from them because of the gross perversions rampant in our society. A few of the destructive things that they see and hear come through video games, television (including cartoons), demonic Hollywood productions, globalist (New Age) children's books and socialistic brainwashing in the school system.

Regardless of when or why a person opens the door at some point in their life to the forces of evil and destruction, what sets him or her up to fall into endless cycles of defeat are the resulting decisions that he or she makes. Decisions and conclusions are a stake, or pivot point, in a person's soul around which orbit one's worldview, perspective of God and life, fears, determinations or beliefs, justifications, and "touchy trigger points" of self-preservation.

Many people who love the Lord, but who have never been properly disciplined, are at risk to inadvertently opening the door to wrong influences and sin because they do not understand how to "put on the Lord Jesus Christ," and walk out His life. The "religious roadway" is littered with lost people—people who are weak in their faith, people who face overwhelming situations in life, and people who became lost searching for meaning and purpose, having never been made into disciples of Christ.

Once a person opens the door to any addictive habit or behavior, the last thing he or she needs to hear from well-meaning people are psychological formulas, or religious platitudes. Psychology is neither Scriptural nor scientific, yet most churches incorporate it into their counseling and teaching. This unholy mixture is about as spiritually helpful to hurting people, as mud pies are nutritious. You get the picture.

"Well," the platitude people might ask, "why don't Christians just read the Bible and obey it! Then everything will work out in their lives." In fact, a writer who is a member of a well-known ministry recently wrote, in part, "First of all, neither the God of the Bible, nor His instructions in Scripture, nor the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer is about fixing our daily mental, emotional, and behavioral problems." Really? I don't know about you but I thought that one way

we humans know we are alive is because we have the ability to think, feel, and act. He went on to say, "Every believer is a new creature in Christ, and his objective in life is to have Christ formed in him. That is the process of sanctification—being set apart from the ways, means, and lusts of the world to a life that is in submission to the Lord and in which choices are made that are pleasing to Him, the One with whom every true believer will spend eternity. It's a growth process, which at times involves sufferings and trials that the Lord allows in our lives to help us depend upon Him and mature in our relationship with Him. Yet most biblical counseling is trapped in a 'just fix the problem' or 'get rid of the symptoms' mentality and mode, along with other concepts that are contrary to the biblical way."

The author goes on to say, "Preaching, teaching, and evangelizing are gifts of the Holy Spirit. Counseling, however, is *noticeably absent* from among the gifts. Why is counseling missing, especially since high profile counselors and others in that position are arguably the most influential people, either nationally or at the local church level, in the evangelical community today? The answer is that counseling is not a biblical ministry. Those who function as counselors (biblical or otherwise) are erroneously involved in an activity that is primarily a function of the Spirit of Christ. He is our Counselor. More often than not, counselors supplant the Spirit of Christ as they try to do in the life of a believer what only God can do. They attempt to peer into the heart of the counselee, grasping for motivations, connections, sin inducements, and other insights in order to remedy troubling conditions."

While much of what the author wrote is true in certain situations, the problem is it is not true in every situation. Therefore, his conclusions cannot be applied to every Christian who finds him or herself trapped in endless destructive or defeating cycles. At this point, I have asked Rayola to step in and address the issue of biblical counseling since God has given her the gift of wisdom, the ability to "rightly divide the Word of God," and give wise counsel, which *is* "biblical"!

riety, this power will become abusive in their hands. We see the abuse of this power among those in Washington D.C. In fact, abusive power becomes cruel, indifferent and tyrannical.

This same abuse can be witnessed among those who call themselves Christians. Cult leaders, false apostles, prophets, and heretical shepherds and ministers abuse power given to them by their innocent and deluded followers. These leaders often become a substitute for God and His salvation.

These are just a few examples of the idols that have proudly stood even where the altar of God was once exalted. This brings us back to Christians. I have clearly been guilty of idolatry. The inward environment it set up in me caused me to fall into ruin. It was not until I cried out to God that I was delivered from this pit.

Clearly, the visible American Church is best represented by the lukewarm, idolatrous environment of the Laodiocean Church described in *Revelation 3:14-22*. The question that echoes through centuries of Church history and from the founding fathers of this nation is basically the same, "Will we step over the complacency of compromise and stand up for what is right and decent for all? Will we cease from being heavy with sleep because we have been drunk on the world for so long that we are now fighting addiction to it; and, will we begin to withstand with truth when opposed? When all is said and done to discourage and weary us, will we continue to stand because ultimately, it is the only right and sane thing to do?"

The indictment presented against this nation and the visible Church is overwhelming. As a nation founded upon God and His principles, and as a Church who proclaims the name of Jesus, is there any real hope in our dire situation to stay the judgment? Should we just quietly sit back and accept our fate because we are well deserving of it?

In the next and final article to this series, I will answer this question. It is vital as Christians that we cease to be divided as to what our

response should be, and not only agree with God's evaluation and instruction to us, but come into agreement about what is the godly and right response. †

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*"Doors," Con't. from Page 4*

(Rayola): "Through the years, I have been aware of how psychology has become the Church's solution to the emotional and mental struggles that people have in their life. The reason this worldly, humanistic philosophy has gained such popularity in the Body of Christ is that there was a need present that was not being fulfilled by the Church. As a result, well-meaning Christians looked elsewhere to solve the problem. Of course, Satan has his counterfeits, which look attractive and sound wise, available to replace the real or lasting work of God.

"In dealing with people, I have discovered that the problems they struggle with cannot be addressed from a logical, psychological premise because they do not stem from the mental or emotional arenas of a person, but from the spiritual. The mental and emotional fallouts that people have are often a result of four spiritual conditions: unbelief, personal reality, unresolved issues, and despair.

"When you consider these conditions, most of them they find their origins in the influence, workings and activities of sin. Sin is at the root of all problems that confront, challenge and destroy the resolve of people when it comes to the matters of life. For example, unbelief has great fear, but no faith; personal reality lacks truth and is often idolatrous; unresolved issues involve great losses; wounds, and confusion end in anger and bitterness; while despair has no hope and can harbor self-pity and depression.

"These conditions also correspond with the doors Jeannette made mention of. For example, unbelief opens the doors to the occult and the New Age, personal reality can easily embrace pornography to give it some type of sensation, unresolved issues are what often justifies the world of drugs, and despair often seeks other sources to numb the emotional dependency, such as pornography, drugs and music.

"These four conditions often serve

as the keys that will open destructive doors to the soul in which Satan's kingdom can find the necessary access to reinforce the person's present condition with lies. These lies create greater darkness of ignorance towards God, deception in regard to the present state, fear that drives or paralyzes, and despondency that is complacent. This brings us to the aspect of biblical counseling.

"If a matter is spiritual by nature, it must be dealt with from a spiritual premise (*1 Corinthians 2:10-14*). If the kingdom of darkness is involved in the oppression, it must be spiritually discerned and biblically confronted (*1 John 4:1*). Since it is spiritual, the Holy Spirit is the only one that can shine the light on the actual problem in order to address it in an effectual, meek way, with the powerful sharpness of truth that will surgically divide and separate (*Hebrews 4:12*).

"What has been lacking for many years in the area of Christian counseling has been the actual Counselor, the Holy Spirit. He has been replaced with unholy worldly 'degrees', so-called 'knowledge', humanistic 'philosophies', and 'techniques', lifeless pet 'doctrines,' and indifferent 'religious platitudes', creating a vacuum that makes both God and His Word appear obsolete and incapable of addressing these issues.

"The Holy Spirit is the one who reveals where a person is spiritually, in what way the kingdom of darkness is working, and how to effectively confront the person in his or her present state in order to minister the very life of Christ to him or her. He is the One who leads a person to all truth about Jesus: truth that will set a person free from emotional chaos and spiritual oppression. He is the one who brings pure wisdom to a matter, establishes what is righteous, does the work of sanctification in the believer, and seals the person until the fullness of his or her redemption is realized (*John 16:7-13; Ephesians 9:14; 1 Peter 1:2*). He is the One who brings us forth as the new creations we have been designated to become as we submit to His work.

"When the Holy Spirit is missing from the equation, the counselor will have no power, authority or life to back up what is being said. Since many Christians have not been properly disciplined in regard to the person and work of the Holy Spirit, they are not prepared to discern the heavenly wisdom of the

Counselor, obey the truth of His counsel, allow His counsel to separate them from that which is wrong in order to be separated unto that which is holy, and as a result, they fail to walk in the light of their redemption.”

As we can see, along with the free will that our Creator bestowed upon us, we are responsible, or accountable, for the doors we choose to open. Jesus said, “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me” Revelation 3:20. He also said, “I am the door of the sheep” and “I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture” John 10:7b, 9. Have you opened the door of your heart to Jesus? Have you entered in by Him into eternal life?

God help us to be as the wise virgins (Matthew 25:1-13) who will be ready to go in with him to the marriage before the door shuts. When that final door shuts, it will be too late. “And while they [foolish virgins] went to buy, [pay the price to be ready] the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh” Matthew 25:10-13.

The question remains: Which side of the door will you be on? †

## HAPPY THANKSGIVING

We at GSM wish every one of you a wonderful Thanksgiving—a time to thank God for His manifold blessings, and to seek His face for mercy on this nation. We also want to thank those few, faithful souls whose committed, selfless giving, and prayers, not only continue to lighten our burdens, but also enable this ministry to remain available to win souls to Christ, lift up the fallen, the lost and the hurting, contend for the faith, equip saints for ministry, and make disciples. May God bless you a hundred-fold as together we sow into the eternal kingdom of God before the night comes when “no man can work.” †

## RAYOLA'S Q & A CORNER

### ADVANCEMENT OF EVIL

**Q:** *Clearly, this world is going to hell in a hand basket, along with all the people that do unspeakable, terrible, terrible things. We get angry and want to shoot them all. Then I read in Matthew 5:44, “love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you.” Perhaps you want to elaborate on that one.*

**A:** There appears to be confusion over this matter and I do appreciate your question. There are different factors that determine how we are to react to issues challenging our Christian life. In Matthew 5, Jesus had two reasons for giving this instruction. The first was personally to avoid becoming so angry against personal injustice that it would turn into hate or bitterness. We must always guard our attitude towards those who personally oppose or offend us, and for the sake of our testimony, we are supposed to turn the other cheek, and for His sake, we must graciously endure persecution.

However, withstanding hatred directed towards us, and standing for what is right in order to stand against any advancement being made by the kingdom of darkness into our homes, churches and government is a different matter altogether. The Bible tells us to live as peaceably with others as we can, but nowhere in Scripture does it say we are to give up and let evil reign. We are called to be soldiers, and have been given an armor to fight the battle raging in the unseen world (Ephesians 6:10-17). Our battle is not with flesh and blood, but we must remember Satan uses wicked people to advance His darkness in this age. We are not to hate men, but we are to have a perfect hatred towards evil and to stand against Satan’s evil advancement for the sake of our families, the Church and our nation.

King Solomon put it best when he stated that there is a season and time for war, as well as a time for peace. It is obvious that the powers taking center stage in this nation, as well as in the world, are not interested in peace. As for the powers in Amer-

ica, they have subtly declared war on the Constitution, the American people and our way of life that has promoted religious freedom and common decency for all.

As Christians, we must discern the times we live in and be prepared to face the season that is upon us. In these last days, we need to be watchmen, ready to stand for righteousness, praying to withstand with truth, and to remain standing according to the faithfulness of God to save and preserve us. The reason we are to stand, withstand and to remain standing is because God is the only one that can fight and win this battle on our behalf. However, we must provide Him the avenues of faith, right standing, obedience, and boldness to allow Him to show Himself mighty on our behalf.

I do hope this brings the necessary distinction and answers your question. †

## LETTERS & EMAILS

“I truly believe the time has come—a time we’ve never seen. A scary, frightening and sobering time. Get your house in order. The so-called church is on drugs. They can’t see what is happening. My young adult children (4) all went to a church this Sunday and walked out during the sermon all about Money, give me...me... (and other non-essential babble). I was so proud of them that they saw through it. I pray more and more would do the same.” - AK

“Thank you so much for the wonderful newsletter. All articles excellent and right on!! I often wonder about some of these saved people. Probably not much in the line of repentance! Churches are catering to the youth and their wants. Lots of rock music!!” - B.C.

“I’m so sick of the religious institutions and their traditions of men and dogma attitudes. \_\_\_\_\_ said that it is so hard to find someone who has the knowledge, degrees and experience as her [pastor] does. Rayola could preach all of them in the ground and challenge them and give them DEEP things of God that they wouldn’t even get...[And] the fun church “come as you are a sinner and leave as a sinner”. You know what I mean?” - ID