

GENTLE SHEPHERD MINISTRIES

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

UNFEIGNED FAITH **Living In Precarious Times** **Part 1** **Rayola Kelley**

A very popular subject in the Christian realm that often proves controversial is faith. For years I have tried to come to terms with what it means to walk by faith and not by sight (*2 Corinthians 5:7*). I used to think the Scripture was in reference to a person having to actually see something with his or her eyes before he or she will believe it. However, the sight it often refers to is not necessarily based on what we see, but on what we perceive or understand about a matter.

I learned a long time ago that I can't really trust my physical sight, but I do put a lot of credence in what I think I understand. When I encountered Scriptures such as *Proverbs 3:5-7*: "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes; fear the LORD, and depart from evil," I did not in my initial Christian walk connect the dots that I was walking according to my own understanding that made me wise in my own eyes.

As Christians in America, we are coming into precarious times. We can tout, debate and argue about what constitutes unfeigned faith that was first delivered to the saints, but the harsh reality is that many of us have not had to live by faith (*Jude 3*). The abundance of the world we live in has afforded us various options. As a result, we can believe that we have been walking by faith in a matter, but in most cases, we are walking according to what we perceive to be our best option and trusting that God will see it our way and bless us in our endeavors. In all honesty, many Christians in America have not been prepared to stand in faith, with-

stand according to faith, and remain steadfastly standing because of faith during times of great trials and tribulations. In America, we have always had some type of option or world's system to fall back on as a solution to most matters.

Sadly, the prosperous environment we Americans have lived in has allowed Christians to develop, adopt or buy erroneous teachings about faith, such as "Positive Confession." This is where you confess something into being by using God's promises as a means to lay claim to the best God has to offer. Such methods are nothing more than futile attempts of trying to twist God's arm to get one's way, especially in regard to worldly wealth.

Although there have been many people who have been left spiritually shipwrecked in their faith by such heretical nonsense, it has financially served the preachers and teachers well who have shrewdly used this teaching to fleece the sheep for the last three or four decades. In some cases they have made their converts two-fold the people of hell than themselves. I shudder to think of the damnation these deluded fools are heaping upon themselves, and the great woe they are bringing upon those who innocently or foolishly believe and follow them.

It does not take a rocket scientist to see that all the world's systems are beginning to collapse around us. Retirement plans have dissipated before our eyes. Financial security is becoming a nightmare that is flinging many into a pit of utter despair. Hard work is now being mocked, playing by the rules is being taxed beyond comprehension, and trusting that it will all work out in the end because we live in America is being revealed as nothing more than a pipe dream.

We must ask ourselves where is the Church in this time? How much of it is asleep, or sitting back on its laurels waiting for Christ to appear and deliver it from the dark storm that is clearly looming on the horizon and is

about to consume America? It is hard to say where the Church is, but I can tell you what God is doing. He is shaking the foundations upon which this nation and the "professing Church" stands. He has warned us that such shaking would take place in *Hebrews 12:26-27*.

The reason for shaking is to reveal the stability of something. Is what a person or nation holds to as truth and righteousness truly built on and according to the fickle standards of worldly systems, or is it built on and according to the principles and truths of the eternal foundation that God has established? Such shaking will bring down any false structure of belief and cause all faulty foundations to crumble (*Matthew 7:24-27*).

As I consider the shaking taking place, I realize that it started small nudges that are now working up to earthquake proportions. I realize that God is trying to shake a sleeping nation awake, stir up a spiritually dulled down church to consider where it is standing, and alert people to the abyss of destruction that lies ahead of them if they do not change direction.

The one thing I have discovered about myself when I first wake up in the morning is that I must first get my bearings if I am going to function. Where am I and where do I need to be to accomplish what I must complete? When people are asleep, they are not aware of what is happening around them. If they do not get their bearings, they become confused and lost.

How long ago did we, as a nation, lose our bearings? The truth is we have been moving from center for a long time. For this nation, the center of who we are and what makes us distinct as a unique nation was our Judeo-Christian principles, our Constitution, and our generous spirit because we recognized this nation was blessed by God.

As long as we remembered what made us great as a nation, we would not lose our way. However, we failed to recognize that many in our educational system were actually enemies that opposed what made this nation great. Their ideology began to influence the

hearts and minds of the younger generation. As a result, the enemy can be found within many of America's homes, causing conflict, division, and despair while being reduced to rubble around us.

It is clear that America has been asleep to the cancer that has been growing under the cover of darkness. This cancer has various names, but we know it to be Communism, Marxist or progressive ideology. It attacks decency, morality and freedom. Sadly, the younger generation has been indoctrinated into it, thereby, standing ignorant, numb and indifferent to its destructive ways. The older generation has been medicated into accepting a false security while living in a state of denial that this nation is in trouble. In fact, it is fast becoming a third world country where there is a constant move for a despot to serve as a dictator at the helm rather than a president.

From all appearances many in America is waking up. But, consider the shaking that has been going on. The Lord has mercifully exposed and brought down the idols so many Americans have been unknowingly bowing down to, such as money, material wealth, and self-centered lifestyles. Many are losing their jobs, small businesses are becoming casualties, and others feel the oppressiveness of fear robbing their resolve, hope and their quality of life.

What can we perceive about this shaking where the church is concerned? As I consider the different reactions of those who call themselves Christians, I have seen a variety of responses. I would like to share my observation with you as to what I have observed.

The Jonah Syndrome: If you ask me what God's real aim is when He shakes nations, my answer would be that He probably is really after the sleeping, dulled down element of the Church. When God allowed a storm to grip the ship that Jonah was on, it was not because God was after the crew on the ship; rather, He was after Jonah.

As I watch and listen to the actions and reactions of many Christians, I have to admit I do not see much movement, even in the midst of the great shaking that is going on.

It seems as if the different churches around me are carrying on with business as usual. Their signboards often sport silly, worldly, cutesy little nonsensical sayings. It is as though they are Jonahs, hiding or sleeping in the hulls of their little religious pews while the storm rages around them. They are so asleep or living in such denial of the times that we are living in that they are unaware of or indifferent to the danger they are putting others in. After all, there are no cries of prayerful intercession or calls for repentance coming from their sanctuaries. There is no awareness of the seriousness of the times they are living in, and what it will mean for those who are sitting by them if they fail to properly prepare them, along with warning unsuspecting souls from without. The songs they sing and the claims they make are ones that make them appear as if they are living in some Disneyland fantasy; rather than soberly preparing for the events that are about to overtake the world.

My concern is when they are awakened as reality finally shakes them out of their indifferent or lukewarm state, will they admit that God is after them? Will they repent of their indifference and be prepared to offer themselves up as a living sacrifice or will they remain in self-denial, causing their particular ship to be lost at sea?

Johnny Come Lately Group: This group is often represented by the religious bigots. You might have met one or two of them along the way. You can always spot bigots by how small their religious worlds are and how big they have become in them. For example, these individuals know it all, are the final authority to all that is supposedly true, and judge all matters according to their "small" way of thinking. They are prideful about being immovable in their theology, mean-spirited towards those who dare to disagree with them, and will set out on a mission to shred apart anyone who will not submit to their way of thinking.

Such individuals are out of step with reality. To them the only reality that counts is their take on it. When something is happening of any real significance, they fail to respond because they miss the bigger picture or they come late and miss any real opportunity to be effectively involved with what is significant. God is shaking all

foundations and sounding the alarm through unlikely people. However, these individuals are like a soldier called to the war but who fails to show up at the right place. These unprepared individuals end up behind the lines, far away from the real battle. In an attempt to save face, these jealously driven people look around for some cause and begin a war of their own that often wounds allies.

In the end, such individuals end up standing unaccompanied to face the harsh reality that no one else is standing with them. They have rid themselves of any checks and balances that could bring reality and reason back into their small worlds so they could embrace a much greater, and more worthy perspective. Therefore, they alone will face an inevitable tidal wave of judgment because if they have not shot their allies, they have driven them away or left them wounded. Since their faith is based on their personal religious piety and standards, and not in Jesus Christ, their foundation and structures will be crushed by the wave of judgment and reduced to sand.

The Do Nothing Group: Even though the Christian Church is 20 centuries old, the members of it are not. The real Church of Jesus Christ must be constantly refreshed by each member being renewed daily in their inner man by the washing of God's Word and the ever abiding presence and guidance of the Spirit of God. Such people are not to live off yesterday's manna comprised of what was, but is now decayed, but they must daily seek their own manna. They must not be content to settle for man-made doctrines or traditions that may feed the mind to some extent, but have no real spiritual nutrition to inspire and sustain the spirit through times of testing. They are not to sit on their "past laurels" thinking they have it made because they are on their way to heaven.

Jesus was clear that we are to watch, be ready and pray that we will be found worthy to escape the tribulation that is coming upon the face of the entire world. We must discipline ourselves and learn how to possess our souls in patience. To watch requires one to be aware concerning the hour, sober about his or her responsibility to

LEAVING

By Jeannette Haley

We are all affected by “leaving.” As I write this, summer is slowly leaving, our once-great nation is leaving its status as the leading world power, and people are finding themselves forced to leave their jobs, homes, and lifestyles.

Have you ever contemplated the major role “leaving” plays in our lives? For example, consider those times when perhaps you were enjoying a special vacation, or heart-warming fellowship, or an inspiring speaker (or any other time that was “delicious” for you) and then the time came for you to leave. When the normal, mundane routines that make up much of our lives are punctuated by out-of-the-ordinary moments of pure joy and happiness, we wish those times would continue forever. Leaving to return to our world of duties, responsibilities and challenges causes us to want to cling to those precious moments when all was well, even if for only a few short minutes or hours.

However, life consists of 24-hour periods that quickly fade into the past. It is not so much that we leave time, but that time leaves us. When we are very young, time seems to move so slowly, but once we reach the “pinnacle” of our years, suddenly we find ourselves comparing time to an out-of-control freight train charging straight down a mountain. Our “leaving” this world frequently comes to mind.

With tongue-in-cheek I must say that sometimes leaving is a happy thing—such as when unwanted guests suddenly decide to leave, or when you get to leave the dentist’s office for at least another six months. The fact is, however, that most of the major changes in one’s life involve the process of leaving. To this day, I remember when I had to leave my mother’s side to attend kindergarten. It was a huge adjustment, as was leaving grade school for Jr. High School, then leaving that world for High School, and finally leaving my sheltered life for a totally new experience of adult responsibilities.

Life brings changes—both wanted and unwanted—that requires the act of leaving on our part. There

are times when we may leave jobs, careers, churches, friends, homes, family and loved ones, as well as beloved pets, or they leave us. Sometimes, against our will, we find ourselves propelled to leave, or abandon, dreams and ideas that we once held close to our hearts. Inevitably, we all experience the emotional spectrum that is woven into the fabric of “leaving,” especially when beauty, vitality, health, and memory leaves us!

When we go to God’s Word, we can find much on the subject of leaving that is enlightening, challenging, sobering, and encouraging, depending on the situation. In Genesis, we read of the first acts of “leaving” that took place, beginning with Adam’s act of rebellion and disobedience in leaving God in order to acquire his own independence. Of course, we all know that his deliberate decision brought death upon all humanity, (see Romans 5:12). We read of the expulsion from the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:22-24) when Adam and Eve had to leave humankind’s first perfect environment forever. Can you even begin to imagine what they felt like? Fear had to be their constant companion as they made their way into hostile and unfamiliar territory where, unlike the Garden of Eden, they had to learn how to work for their survival.

Also in Genesis, we read of the dispersion from Babylon of all the descendants of Sham, Ham and Japheth upon the face of the entire earth, (Genesis 11) and in Genesis 12 the departure of Abram (Abraham) from his home in obedience to God. We read in Genesis 17-19 the story of Sodom and Gomorrah; and, how God caused Lot, his wife and two daughters to leave those condemned cities. Then there is Joseph, forced to leave his father and homeland when his brothers sold him into slavery. Imagine the thoughts that went through this young man’s mind as he was carried far away from all that he had ever known, and planted in a foreign country with strange customs. We know that in time Jacob and his family were forced through famine to leave Israel and sojourn to Egypt where they remained for 430 years.

It seems that most of the “leaving” in our lives is not of our own choosing. Consider the baby Moses who had to

leave his family to be raised by the daughter of Pharaoh, only to leave Egypt for the “back side of the desert” until God called him 40 years later to leave that place and return to Egypt to set His people free. One of the greatest accounts of people “leaving” in the entire Bible is the exodus of the Children of Israel from Egypt.

Traveling back in time to the Old Testament days, we can find an array of examples of people and prophets “leaving.” Think of all the people who had to leave their homes and towns when taken captive and carried away to Babylon. Seventy years later, the Jews left Babylon to return to Jerusalem. Consider the miracle of modern Israel—after two-thousand years of dispersion and intense persecution, multitudes of Jews left their dwelling places and returned to the land that God gave to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and their descendants forever.

Obviously, leaving and change go together, for better or for worse. The fact is, when we breathe our last and leave our physical bodies, we will either be in the presence of the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:8) or we will face hell (Luke 16:19-31.) This is not a fashionable or popular subject these days either in the modern churches or in the world, but facts are facts. The Bible teaches more about hell than it does about heaven; yet, how many truly believe and take to heart all of the warnings we are given? We are living in perilous times when from the top down (Obama to “regular” folks) the Word of God is mocked, misquoted, slandered, scorned, ridiculed, derailed, altered, misconstrued, ignored, disrespected, and even changed to make it say what people want to hear. Such people assign themselves to destruction (2 Peter 3:16).

However, above all else, the greatest “leaving” that ever took place was when the Lord of glory gave up that glory to become a man, born of the flesh. Meditate on this eternal truth, revealed to us in *Philippians 2:5-11*, “*Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And*

being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Can you even begin to comprehend the greatness of this, and what it means for you and me?

In *Mark 15:37* we read of the leaving of Jesus' spirit, as He hung on the cross, "And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost." Imagine how devastated and heart-broken the people were who knew and loved Him! One can wonder how many at that time remembered His promise as recorded in *John 14:1-4*, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know." What comfort these words have held for every blood-bought saint through the ages who has placed their trust in the One who will one day leave heaven in power and great glory to return for His own!

As the days grow darker and men's hearts fail them for fear, will we cling to the knowledge that after His resurrection He said, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" *Mark 16:18b-20*. Therefore, if we are obedient to His commandments, He will be with us even unto the end of the world. The danger is, however, in leaving our first love such as the Christians in the church of Ephesus did. Jesus warned, "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Re-

member therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent" *Revelation 2:4, 5*.

It is so easy with all of our coming and going, daily routines, cares and problems, to leave our first love. Even in the midst of ministry and good works, we can leave our first love. This is the one "leaving" that we must guard against above all else. Always remember that *Hebrews 13:5, 6* assures us, "for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."

Perhaps you are in an overwhelming situation—one in which you feel hopelessness and despair. In your mind, Satan is telling you that God has forsaken you, that He really does not love you or care what you are going through. If that is where you are today, look up, resist the devil, and take hold of God's eternal promises. Remember where it was that you began leaving Jesus behind, and ask Him to forgive you and bring you back under His yoke, and into His fold. Jesus is only a prayer away! †

EMAILS & COMMENTS

"The Lord said to me: 'The main sin of this nation [America] is the love of money, for the love of money is the root of all evil. And there has been a prosperity gospel preached throughout this land for the past 10 to 15 years, and over the last few years God has shaken it up calling this nation to repentance. But since this nation has despised repentance.....and despised forgiveness.....and despised grace, and mercy, and truth, and DOES NOT WANT TO REPENT, God has now NO CHOICE but to send His judgment and the judgment He is going to send is prosperity. It is written in 2nd Thessalonians 2:10-12 "And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion that they should believe a lie:

That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." So the prosperity that is going to come upon this land is not the blessing of God, it is the JUDGEMENT of God upon a wicked and hypocritical nation. God's house is a spiritual house and the first form of judgment is spiritual judgment, and there is NO GREATER form of judgment, than for God to take a person, people, or nation.....turn them over to their sin..... and never call them to repentance again." - CO

"I must say that I absolutely love Rayola's new book. This is just my opinion here but 'Putting on the Life of Christ' in it's writing and insight from God equals and surpasses Ironside and Andrew Murray to name a few. Every Christian is remiss in not reading this powerful book that details to us the glorious sacrifice of our Lord and Savior and what He did for us. I cannot praise the book enough, He lives!!!!" - ID

"Tell her [Rayola] that her book ['Principles of The Abundant Life'] is really anointed and Holy Spirit inspired and powerful." - ID

"The god of this world has deceived the people in this world. They think by doing good they themselves when they die will go to heaven. It's that simple. Even the religious ones. They will cry out - didn't we do this in your name etc. and the Lord will say... get behind me ..I never knew you. We need to ask the Lord in first. Then what does He want us to do and then do it. WE AS CHRISTIANS NEED A BOLD FAITH!!!! Enough being wimps." - AK

"Obama was originally subsidized by Soros. I can even in the UK. say with some degree of assurance that almost all Christians are ignorant of communism and its many shades. They think communism is all about the people ruling the people... NOT SO! It is about a very small elite imposing its desires on everyone else, and criminalizing them if they don't comply. It is about reducing people to animal behaviour sexually. It is about denying everyone the right to speak out or to even hold an opinion. It is about imposing PC values and laws. It is about ruling with fear and

Continued Page 6, Column 1

detect, discern and sound the alarm when danger is near, and to be prepared and ready in an appropriate manner to take up arms, escape or flee if necessary to fight another day. We as believers must never be caught unaware because we are secluded in some type of religious bubble and drunk on the ways of the world, while thinking God is somehow going to spare us of the inevitable. The truth is He is trying to prepare us to respond to the inevitable. He is contending with some as He bursts their bubble to wake them up to the reality that their faith is about to be tested in the fiery ovens of tribulation.

One of Jesus’ main concerns is that when He returns, will He find any real, genuine faith (Luke 18:8). When you consider these three groups, they lack unfeigned faith. For the Jonah’s they may believe God, but they have failed to put their faith in action by obeying Him. The second group has put their faith in their own theology, but not in the person or character of God. It is obvious that what they hold to is not God but their religious opinions. The last group puts their faith in their association to God rather than believing His Word. As a result, they end up putting God to a foolish test. To these people He could easily come like a thief in the night.

As Christians, we must always walk according to the present light and not the fading glory of the past. We must not assume or presume all will be okay because as Christians we are in some bubble that immunizes us against the trials and tribulations taking place around us. God calls us to be prepared for what comes our way, not secluded in some religious indifference, world or bubble that keeps us unrealistic and unresponsive.

What about you? Do you possess the true faith that will cause you to obey, enlarge your world to see the bigger picture and prepare you to face the inevitable? Be assured, unfeigned faith will always be tested, refined, enlarged, and brought forth by way of the fiery ovens of tribulation. †

RAYOLA’S Q & A CORNER

CHRISTIANITY AND POLITICS

Q: *I am confused about my responsibility as a Christian concerning the political arena. There seems to be so much backbiting in the Christian realm against those who take the same side as others who do not hold to the same fundamental Christian beliefs. Can you help me settle this inner conflict that is taking place within myself?*

A: I understand why you have such a conflict, for I have heard immense criticism coming out of certain Christian camps against Christians being associated with those who hold to other religious beliefs when it comes to politics. The problem is that some Christians fail to recognize the bigger picture. They have a tendency to make everything about doctrine or theology forcing people to take sides based on what others might believe instead of the real issues confronting this nation. When it comes to spiritual matters it is true we must have agreement at the point of spirit and truth that allows us to come together in fellowship to partake of our precious Bread from heaven. However, some matters have nothing to do with agreement in spirit or theology that would require us to take sides according to such premises.

Some issues are a matter of standing for what is right in order to stand against what is wrong. In this case right is right and wrong is wrong no matter what arena it envelops. It is important to note you are simply standing. There is no spiritual agreement or fellowship involved that would require you to compromise what you know or value as being true concerning your spiritual foundation.

The truth is wherever there is a war between right and wrong, we are told in Ephesians 6:10-13 to stand, not fellowship. For example when I go to stand, I cannot worry about those who are standing beside me due to the fact they are taking the same stance in regard to what is right. Can you imagine a soldier interrogating the soldier standing next to him or her to see if the person meets all criteria before marching together? It would be absurd! Such an individual would eventually end up

marching all by him or herself, ready to be picked off by the enemy. Every great soldier who is about to stand for what is right does not care who he or she is marching alongside, as long as that individual is loyal to the same cause. It is for this reason that you can find people who have different beliefs, not only watching out for each other’s backside on the battlefield, but also end up dying alongside of each other.

I have to admit, the pettiness and ridiculousness of some Christians is appalling and reveals that they are out of touch with what is really going on. The truth is the freedom of speech, and the freedom to worship as one’s conscience dictates, along with moral decency is clearly under attack in our nation, and should be of the uppermost concern for everyone that believes in the Judeo-Christian principles that made this nation great. To withstand the blatant affront that is coming from the wicked leadership in Washington D. C., will take a unified front of people standing against the evil, insidious takeover that is occurring right before our eyes. To become judgmental or petty in the name of religious piety at such a time causes such individuals to appear arrogant, snobbish and foolish, and could easily set up an environment where all the opposing side will have to do is simply come in and lead many people like sheep to the slaughter. To be honest, these individuals need to wake up and discern the times we are living in, as well as the real issues that are confronting us as a nation. Whether we like it or not it will affect us as a Body of believers and as individuals.

As a believer, I am aware that all battles are won first in the prayer closet. Effective prayer not only starts from the premise of humility before a loving, holy God where one can be reasoned with, but it also entails repentance for personal foolishness and wrong attitudes. I would admonish such critical “pious” individuals to honestly examine their attitudes before taking potshots at others, and making sure they are personally standing on solid ground before the Lord.

A final note: If you know anything about history, we are clearly living in the days of pre-Nazi Germany in America. Those who perceive they are being honorable and noble about not

standing as a unified front with others against the wicked affront taking center stage in this nation better be willing to listen to sound reasoning before it is too late! The observation of Rev. Martin Neemollar in 1945 comes to mind. Let it serve as a warning and a wakeup call to every freedom-loving American, including Christians.

First, they came for the Communists,
 And I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist,
 Then they came for the Jews,
 And I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew.
 Then they came for the Catholics,
 And I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Protestant.
 Then they came for me,
 And by that time there was no one left to speak up for me.



NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMPS

Comments & Emails—Con't.

violence. Obama is one such elite leader... but even these are ruled by a faceless few. Christians - READ UP on communism, before people like Obama and Soros crush you into the ground. There is no excuse for your ignorance in the face of fast-growing Marxism and Fascism." - UK

"...it is man's choice to remain in sin and separate from the love of God. We cannot come to God and receive His grace and mercy until we are willing to be honest and receive simply from the place of need. God can bring anyone to that place...in my case as in others it simply was because He chose to. For that I am and will be eternally grateful." - WA

"It's VANITY to think that any sort of man's programs are going to help what's wrong with people. Their problem is not a lack of money. It's a lack of knowing God and what HE can do for them; not what MAN can do for them. That's Vanity!!! - AR

"Backward Christian Soldiers"

by George Verwer

Backward Christian soldiers,
 Fleeing from the fight,
 With the cross of Jesus,
 Nearly out of sight.
 Christ our rightful master
 Stands against the foe
 Onward into battle, we
 seem afraid to go.

Chorus:
 Backward Christian soldiers,
 Fleeing from the fight,
 With the cross of Jesus,
 Nearly out of sight.

Like a mighty tortoise
 Moves the church of God.
 Brothers we are treading,
 Where we've often trod.
 We are much divided,
 Many bodies we,
 Having different doctrines, but
 Not much charity.

Crowns and thrones may perish,
 Kingdoms rise and wane,
 But the cross of Jesus
 Hidden does remain.
 Gates of hell should never
 'gainst the Church prevail,
 We have Christ's own promise, but
 we think it might fail.

Sit here then ye people,
 Join our sleeping throng.
 Blend with ours, your voices
 in a feeble song.
 Blessings, ease and comfort
 Ask from Christ the King,
 But with our modern thinking,
 We won't do a thing.

THOMAS JEFFERSON QUOTES

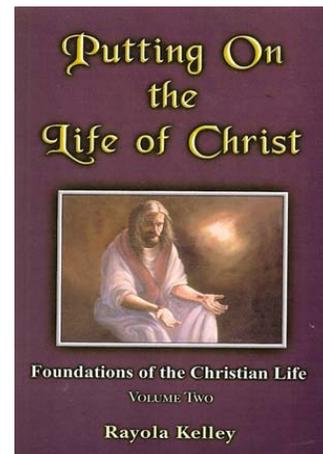
"To compel a man to subsidize with his taxes the propagation of ideas which he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical."

"The democracy will cease to exist when you take away from those who are willing to work and give to those who would not."

"My reading of history convinces me that most bad government results from too much government."

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