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"WITH JOY WE'LL WELCOME HIS RETURNING"

...that there shall come in the last days scoffers...

What do the Scoffers say? *"Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation."* (II Peter 3:3, 4)

The world has crushing problems. The heart of man is deceitful and desperately wicked. Jesus came to this sin-sick world and once and for all gave His life for the sins of the world. He came when the "fulness of time" had arrived.

God has given all things into HIS HANDS. The clock is ticking. In the FULNESS OF TIME the heavens will rend open and the Son of God will break through the clouds. He will shout with the voice of an archangel, and with the trump of God. The dead will raise first, then the rest of the redeemed shall be caught up together in the clouds, to meet the Lord IN THE AIR... (I Thes. 4:15-18).

The Word of God tells us to comfort one another with these words. Why do we need comfort? Because SCOFFERS are going to come and weary us with their railings. As the church becomes weary, she lets down her guard and wolves come in dressed as sheep, but, nonetheless wolves with the intent of maneuvering the sheep after another Shepherd.

However, our SHEPHERD (the precious Son of God) says, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them and they follow me." Let me just stop here and say, "Don't you love Him? Isn't He the best friend you have ever known?"

We know the Voice of the Shepherd through the Word of God. There are many strange voices today, but if they do not line up with the Word of God, they proclaim another Gospel and must not be followed.

In 1962, I was in Bible College and involved with a group that purported Manifest Sons of God ("MSOG") teachings. This group had come directly out of the Latter Rain movement. I attended these services because a very godly friend of our family was a member and even ministered there. (Previously this man had been very prominent in the Assemblies of God.) Very noticeable in the meetings were "prophets" and great use was made of prophesy. In fact, all of the prophecies were painstakingly transcribed. Great emphasis was placed on the fact that we are "sons" of God. Just as Jesus was a Son, He was a Pattern Son and we are all following His example. God wants to reveal His Son in us.

Yes, it is true in that it is Christ in us, the hope of glory. However, the emphasis always remains on Jesus Christ, the ONLY BEGOTTEN SON. In the MSOG teaching the emphasis subtly changes toward man. Thus, man becomes the CHRIST here on earth. So, naturally, this "exalted man" will not look forward to the RAPTURE. That will spoil his style. He is looking forward to setting up the KINGDOM here on the earth and arriving at a stage of "godhood" in the process.

This teaching is delivered in various forms. A popular evangelist will call out, "Jesus was the visible expression of God...now, who are you?" The audience will chant in unison, "Sons of God. When you look at me, you are looking at Jesus." Then the evangelist taunts, "Jesus knew who He was, don't you think it is about time we know who we are?"

The evangelist, quite taken up by now with excitement and fervor, explodes: "Everyone repeat after me...God is duplicating Himself in the earth...At last the time has arrived, God is releasing His life through the Body [2 times]...Today I am a Son of the All powerful Almighty God... The Fullness of the Godhead dwells in me...God has planned for me to be Christ's image on the earth" (Morris Cerullo from Video MANIFEST SONS OF GOD).

This is a classic example of manipulating scripture to bring about a desired result.

In 1962, the foundations for this teaching were methodically being established. One day I was taken aside and asked, "Don't you want to be a part of what God is doing?" Naturally, a young aspiring child of God doesn't want to miss God. However, the next statement was the clincher. "To be apart of what God is doing, you will have to give up all you have ever been taught...just empty yourself...and sellout completely to what God wants."

Fortunately I had been raised in a Godly home. The Word always had a central position in our family. My love for God had thrived under the example my parents had set. I looked at my "new friends" in disbelief. I stammered, "...but my family are Christians, they love the Lord."

I was told firmly that I had to relinquish all I had been taught if I was to go on with God. Now in retrospect I can see how so much of what we are witnessing today is all of that same teaching - but it's now flooding the church. Yet we are told, "Doctrine doesn't matter!" Why are they so anxious to get rid of it if it doesn't matter?

There are thinkers, movers and shakers who are bent on determining the course of human events. Europe is suddenly realizing that very important decisions have been made on a high level that involve the ordinary citizen. Bit by bit we are seeing the citizenry rise up as the

implications of a United Europe comes home. Even though these countries have democracies, these decisions were not made at the ballot box.

The Church also has those, who by virtue of leadership qualities and theological degrees, have made decisions which will affect what direction the church heads in the next century.

In 1986, 500 pastors and church leaders stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and signed a MANIFESTO that is supposed to determine the direction the Church will take into the next century. How many of my readers have read this MANIFESTO or are even aware of it?

In listening to a tape from a radio broadcast COAST TO COAST (July 15, 1992), Jay Grimstead laid out very neatly where this MANIFESTO is leading the church. He pointed out in clear definite terms what has been wrong with the church and how "they" are aiming to mend these wrongs. Jay Grimstead heads Coalition on Revival, otherwise known as "COR". I will attempt to layout some of the things he said that disturbed me:

1. False View of Christianity. According to Jay Grimstead the church has had a false view of Christianity for the last 160 years. He said, "Our seminary professors, our Sunday School teachers, our pastors in the last five generations were mistaken."

Doesn't this make your day? For 160 years, God couldn't keep it together. That means my parents had it wrong. My grandparents were ignorantly mistaken and those that have died on the mission fields were just wasting their time. Our apologies to you great saints, if only you had waited until 1986, you could have read the MANIFESTO and gotten it right. Forget the Bible and forget the Holy Spirit who leads into all truth!

2. The STONE in Daniel 2 is the Church. This Stone cut out without hands is (according to Mr. Grimstead) not Jesus. Not Jesus? Grimstead believes that you have been taught wrongly. This stone that strikes the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's vision and eventually fills the earth is the CHURCH; Neatly, the Church replaces Christ, and is the one which is to set up the Everlasting Kingdom.

3. True Revival is a Christian Parallel Society. The goal is a political system totally controlled by Christians. (This is construed to mean revival is a Christian parallel society.) When the world and the Christians enter into a political accord, then the Kingdom of God is created and manifested. The principal characteristic will be the enforcement of the Mosaic law on all institutions and people. This is indeed a paradigm shift from the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

For revival to mean anything it needs to line up with Scripture, and a good yard stick is the book of Acts. Nowhere in the book is there any hint that revival meant taking over the government of Rome or any of her institutions. At no stage did Paul and the other Apostles endeavor to overturn the society or the politics of their day. On the contrary, they preached the cross, (a far cry from politics and a New World Order), to save sinners from eternal death and from the judgment to come upon the whole world. There is no evidence that Jesus Christ or any of His Apostles ever sought to establish a "parallel Society." Yes, Jesus and His Apostles preached the "Kingdom of God" but intimated that God's Kingdom is NOT OF THIS WORLD nor is it any creation of man. They preached that the only way to see or enter into the Kingdom of God was not by political means, but by the new birth which comes by faith in

God's Word. A simple study of the scriptures will bear out the fact that true revival is the salvation of a sinner! Repentance from sin and turning to God and His Word is the biblical view of true revival.

4. The Kingdom of God is Here Right Now to The Degree WE Make it Happen. This sounds like New Age thought. The idea leaves a lot to human imagination and definition as to what constitutes the Kingdom of God. First, the Kingdom of God is not of our making. God's Kingdom is eternal. It does not come with observation or outward show, for it is mainly spiritual and moral. It is not inherited by flesh and blood but by born again believers - born of the spirit and truth. Nothing we do enables a single soul to see the Kingdom of God. The only way is through the New Birth. The whole scenario of the Kingdom Builders places the emphasis on the world and the things of the world instead of on the Son of God. Like the "New Agers" they are struggling to build a kingdom by the power of their own making.

It is quite apparent that Mr. Grimstead does not know the difference between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven. But as long as the allegorical method of interpretation is allowed, confusion and misunderstanding of Scripture will prevail. This method keeps many from the knowledge of the truth. The literal Kingdom of Heaven to be ushered in by Jesus Christ at His Second Advent is one of the fundamental truths explained away by Kingdom Now advocates using the allegorical method of interpretation. Scripture gives clear evidence that the Kingdom of Heaven will be political in its sphere when Christ returns with His saints to reign a thousand years (Isaiah 9:7; Dan. 7:13-14,18). The Kingdom of God which is now and will be for all eternity is moral and spiritual in its sphere (Rom. 14:7; John 3:5; I Cor. 4:20). There is much confusion and error regarding the Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of God. This confusion is mainly caused by the allegorical interpretations of Kingdom Now people.

As Christians we look forward to the Blessed Hope (the "Rapture") when Jesus Christ literally comes for His Church (I Thes. 4:16, 17). In the meantime we have to occupy until He comes. That means living a responsible life before God according to His Word. We are the salt of the earth. By our works God is glorified and the whole world profits by our presence. The Church is indeed a restraining influence on sin and the world. Her priority is to please God, live by His Word and minister to the needs of others, spiritually, physically, and materially. God's people are scattered throughout the world. In various capacities they serve. Some serve in government, education, medicine, social services, commerce, etc. In all walks of life you will find them. Service to the world and humanity is a high priority. As Christians we do well to participate in political and government affairs. Participation promotes the influence of the Word of God on humanity and leads sinners to Christ through repentance. Until Christ returns we have to do everything possible to reach the lost and at the same time do everything possible to improve the quality of life for all. Involvement in the affairs of the world is necessary, but we have to guard against doing anything at the expense of God's Word. It is imperative that we remain faithful to the Word of God. Any activity, whether it be political, social or commercial, that conflicts with Scripture must be resisted. This rule applies to all political endeavors, especially where Scripture is misappropriated. A political ideology, or for that matter, any ideology supported by Scripture taken out of context, allegorized or misused, offers reason to believe it is demonically inspired. The fact that the Kingdom Now Builders allegorize prophecy and publicly speak out against the "Blessed Hope" (the "Rapture") and politicize the terms "born again", "redemption", "salvation" and the "Kingdom of God" is evidence enough that their doctrine is not of God.

If COR and allies desire to engage in politics to better the quality of life for all, it is noble. But twisting and misapplying Scripture in support of their political ends is a gross injustice to the Holy Word of God. Their gospel, which is another gospel, damns souls and focuses on the base ambitions of man to build a Kingdom and a name.

5. A False View in Christianity for the Last 160 years is that The Church has been Antinomian (The belief that we are saved by faith and not the works of the law). Mr. Grimstead and allies believe that this is less than a Biblical View and that obedience to the law is necessary for salvation.

It is no wonder we are experiencing a resistance on the part of the Kingdom Now COR followers to the changes and truths that came by the Great Reformer Martin Luther. The message of Grace and Truth for which Luther stood and suffered is now rejected and attacked. The light that broke forth in the Dark Age is now becoming unbearable to the political kingdomizers. Martin Luther boldly revealed the reality of the Kingdom of God and how by faith and grace we become a part of it. Now, in the 20th century a large segment of the church not only rejects the Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of God, but is setting out to establish a Kingdom patterned after the Old Covenant at the expense of the New Covenant - grace and truth. It is the political "Kingdom Now" concept that is undermining the protestant faith and seeking to unite all the churches with Roman Catholicism under a One World Order. Are we not witnessing the fulfillment of Revelation 17 - the presence of the great whore, Mystery Babylon?

MILITANCY

There is a militancy arising. It stands to reason that it would because a Kingdom needs foot-soldiers. Jay Grimstead also praised the Charismatic songwriters for bringing in the militant warfare choruses. (According to him the songs of the last 160 years also have not been good.) He believes that around 1830, the church "went into a tunnel". In fact, all of Christianity went into a tunnel in America and England. The hymns written during that time had a focus on truths that centered on our salvation. This obviously has to change. Behind the Kingdom Builders are the Reconstructionists who are putting this theology together. They boast that their books are printed first in hardback copies, so they quickly get onto library shelves where the serious students can read them.

The serious aspect of all this is a GAME PLAN to TAKE OVER THE CHURCHES and all denominations! The tables on the following two pages are compiled by Coalition on Revival. The objects and nature of their political strategy clearly shows a determination to Christianize the world. This they hope to achieve by taking over all religions and secular institutions by infiltrating every segment of society and enforcing their brand of Christianity on all people. As the world changes rapidly they are intensifying their agenda to bring about a new world-view. The "unity", the "New Order" and the "One World Church" they envision is being sought through clever political maneuvers at the expense of the New Covenant (grace and truth) and the Scriptures.

Ministry Categories for Coordinated Ministry Merge in the 60 Major Cities of North America

Ministry Merge Networking Committees	Suggested Ministry Merge Goals for each Committee
1. Pastor Mobilization & Unity	1. Invite each pastor in the country to participate in this United Army. 2. Establish pastor's prayer fellowships monthly around each county. 3. Form a local pastor's council of men who can sign the COR Manifesto and provide leadership and take responsibility for their county as the Elders in the City Gate.
2. Prayer Mobilization & Warfare	1. Help facilitate local concerts of prayer and pastor's prayer groups. 2. Get leadership of all participating churches to pray a minimum of 1 hour per day. (Larry Lea) 3. Teach all leadership Christians how to cast out demons and territorialize the kingdom of God. 4. Reconstitute fasting among Christian leaders.
3. Evangelism Training & Missions	1. Visit every home in the county, door-to-door with trained Christians by each church assigning itself to specified square mile sections. Neighborhood surveys are first taken and expressed needs met – A free New Testament is given at the door. 2. See #5 <i>Youth Mobilization</i> , pt. no. 3 and 4. 3. Establish a joint-church Mission Training School which exposes the traditional pietistic mentality and offers a kingdom of God view of missions.
4. Discipleship Training	1. In each participating church the pastor trains and disciples his own elders in a serious 18 month Discipleship Training Program. Every 9 months these discipleship groups double or triple and train another level of disciples to create a Gideon's Army "church within a church." Link these local church Gideon's armies together into a single, area-wide, mobilization spiritual army.
5. Youth Mobilization	1. Establish a youth council of heads of various youth ministries to coordinate a united mobilization of young people from 18 to 30 years old for evangelism training and participation in the 24 ministries. 2. Devise a strategy to evangelize majority of youth at every college and university. 3. Set up short term mission trip for two weeks, six weeks, and six months south of Rio Grande for Christian youth to serve, grow, and evangelize. 4. Organize these young adults to evangelize every high school and junior high school in your area.
6. Black Mobilization	1. Create a Black Mobilization Committee and Urban ministry to mobilize Black churches to evangelize and meet the needs of local people. 2. Produce kingdom-oriented Black T.V. program and slick Black magazine. 3. Create a local Black-White reconciliation movement and break curses left over from slavery.
7. Hispanic Mobilization	1. Create a Hispanic Mobilization Committee and Urban ministry to mobilize Hispanic churches to evangelize and meet the needs of the Hispanic population. 2. Produce kingdom-oriented Hispanic T.V. program and slick magazine. 3. Have Hispanic version of Christian Times Newspaper. 4. In urban settings create a "sister church" relationship between urban churches and suburban, middle class churches.
8. Asian Mobilization	1. Create an Asian Mobilization Committee to mobilize Asian churches to evangelize and meet the needs of the Asian population. 2. Produce kingdom-oriented Asian T.V. program and slick magazine. 3. Have Asian version of Christian Times Newspaper.
9. Family and Counseling	1. Survey all "Christian" counselors to prepare a list of approved Biblical counselors in the area. 2. Establish nouthetic or other type of Biblical counselor training institute for professionals. 3. Set up lay counselor training in participating churches.
10. Mercy Ministry, Medical Clinics & Bib. Medical Society	1. Launch church-based medical clinics for low cost or free treatment and exams. 2. Correlate these clinics with counseling for legal, financial and family matters, and food and clothing distribution. 3. Launch aggressive, bold Kingdom Medical Society for fearless health professional activists. 4. Launch alternative nutrition oriented interdisciplinary medical clinics.
11. Anti-Tyranny and Persecuted People Ministry	1. Establish a Pan-American Solidarity Team to organize towards the elimination of Communism, Nazism and Liberation Theology from the Western hemisphere. 2. Businessmen and youth organization to help persecuted people receive justice, establish businesses, get educated and build a better society. 3. Offer the Declaration of Universal Rights for Third World countries which need a new constitution. 4. Lobby Congress to support freedom fighters financially.

12. Education: Home, Church and Public school	1. Help parents in churches establish new Christian schools. 2. Stimulate existing Christian schools and home schools to adopt kingdom of God worldview in their curriculum. 3. Evaluate and report on curriculum in all Christian and public schools, including local Christian colleges, to assess humanistic influences in science, sociology and economics, family values and feminism, views of Biblical inspiration and history. 4. Work towards replacing all local public schools with private schools by 2000 AD.
13. Training on Biblical Worldview and Christian History of America Training	1. Establish in every participating local church a regular course on America's Christian history that teaches Biblical principles of law, government, economics and education. 2. Stage annually Christian history of America two day seminars in a central auditorium. 3. Establish a regular reformation study/discussion group on how to apply these principles locally.
14. Technology Utilization & Biblical/Science Training	1. Establish a quarterly course on Creation Science. 2. Stage annually Creation Science two-day seminar at central auditorium. 3. Create a weekly or monthly "think tank" group on how to build ways of better utilization of current science to promote kingdom causes. 4. Work with entrepreneurs in Econ-business network refer to #23 below, <i>Economics & Businessmen Mobilization</i>), to create new products, marketing and creation of funds for promoting the kingdom of God on earth.
15. Launching Kingdom of God Colleges and Seminaries	1. After model is set in San Jose, franchise local version of Kingdom College! Reformation Seminar or set-up kingdom college extension with dean and video education opportunities locally.
16. Communications & Media	1. Establish locally Christian Times Newspaper. 2. Establish a kingdom radio and/or T.V. station with production studio. 3. Establish at least 1 Christian movie theatre and Christian video outlet with adjacent restaurant and supper club for Christian productions. 4. Bring local media under the influence of a Biblical worldview by evangelism, prayer, infiltration, and honest friendships with media leadership.
17. Artists & Entertainment	1. Establish network of kingdom musicians, artists, actors, writers, and technicians. 2. Create regular productions, videos, concerts, children's shows, and a Kingdom version of Saturday-Night Live. 3. Minister to professionals in the field with fellowship-accountability-growth groups for artists.
18. Legal Defense Legislation & Christian Conciliation	1. Establish alternate Christian civil court-third party arbitration. 2. Promote and utilize Christian conciliation series and church discipline procedures. 3. Establish aggressive, fierce, Christian version of the ACLU. 4. Write legislation for public policy for city, county, state, and federal issues. 5. Oppose efforts to rewrite U.S. Constitution.
19. Government and Political Action Networking	1. Get every Christian to regularly serve within the local political party of his choice. 2. Establish Constitutional Caucus and political network to function as a trans-partisan single voting bloc. 3. Win elections to gain majority seats in every city council and school board, plus county board of supervisors. 4. Elect U.S. Congressmen, state assemblymen and state senator from your own county. 5. Teach the 1828 catechism version of the U.S. Constitution. 6. Oppose establishment of the one world government.
20. Military Preparedness and 2nd Amendment Rights	1. Protect 2nd Amendment rights and gun ownership for responsible citizens. 2. Work, lobby, organize towards a strong military preparedness of the U.S. 3. Form a countywide "well regulated militia" according to the U.S. Constitution under the control of the county sheriff and Board of Supervisors.
21. Tax Reform	1. Organize and lobby for a flat tax of all U.S. citizens and state citizens. 2. Work to eliminate property tax, inheritance tax, and capital gains tax. 3. Work towards dismantling the IRS by 2000 AD.
22. Agricultural Covenant Communities	1. Establish near your major city, kingdom-oriented self contained, agricultural covenant communities to serve as emergency food producers for city Christians, as well as centers of small industry, retreat centers and emergency survival communities which can house temporary 10 times their number
23. Economics & Businessmen Mobilization	1. Establish BW AP Christian Chamber of Commerce and Investment Clubs. 2. Establish Christian Employment Agency and Job Training for urban people. 3. Penetrate typical testimony lunch organization with kingdom challenge and vision for society.
24. Kingdom Banks, Trusts, Investments & Insurance Companies	1. Establish at least one Kingdom Bank which deposits gold, silver, etc. which makes some low-interest or interest-free loans and which has bought out of the Federal Reserve System. 2. Establish trusts, Investment Companies, and Kingdom Insurance Co. 3. Work towards dismantling the Federal Reserve System by 2000 AD.

Many sincere, well-meaning pastors and theologians have been drafted into this army. Nothing stirs the heart more than the unified battle cry, "Take the City for Jesus." However, before you take to the city streets and march around the walls seven times, check out some basic truths.

1. As Christians we have an obligation to serve God in our schools, our community and country. We need Christians in every aspect of society. We can make a difference. We desperately need Christians in government positions at every level, however, we must remain salt and light. When we develop a political agenda to set up a kingdom on earth, we lose those ingredients. Instead of becoming a witness for Christ to a lost and dying world, we become foot soldiers willing to die for a "cause" being used by those who are methodically setting up a kingdom and calling it the Kingdom of God. A "cause" will blind people to the truth. It is the fastest way to get riders on a political bandwagon - waving banners. Your Christian testimony will weaken in view of the larger all consuming goal - political power.

2. Have you noticed that, "A movement which calls upon Americans to judge the issues by the Bible should so consistently line up with the political Right, which includes not only Christians, but also Mormons, Moonies, atheists and others." (Christian Research Journal, 1988 Winter/Spring).

3. A political sophistication is arising that is frightening in its organization and finesse.

"...it is a new generation of well-organized, politically sophisticated Christian activism that is rising up across the country...One of the most crucial aspects of the new conservative movement has been new political know-how. And CC [Christian Coalition - Pat Robertson] executive director Ralph Reed, an experienced political activist, is one of the masters. Under his direction, the CC is implementing a sophisticated set of techniques designed to deliver maximum political impact. Through a massive set of phone surveys, each CC chapter is developing a computer data base of votes categorized by their party, their position on abortion and other "family issues", their voting patterns, and their particular issue, "burdens", Direct mail and literature can then be tailored for specific votes. Just prior to elections, volunteers run phone banks, reminding constituents in key races to vote. Absentee ballots are sent to those unable to make it to the polls on election day." (Christianity Today, July 20, 1992).

This is quickly becoming a political machine bent on taking over. Yes, society does need to be changed...they will be changed by the Power of the GOSPEL of Jesus Christ. Preach the Gospel!

When John the Baptist was in prison he sent his disciples to question Jesus. "Are you the One who should come, or do we look for another?" As even today, they were looking for an earthly kingdom to be set up right then. They wanted to change the political system! They were weary. The prison cell was dark. They were anxious for Jesus to release them from the power of Rome. Take notice of Jesus' answer to them. "Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me."

God has not made a series of mistakes over the last 160 years! God puts governments in place! He even put Nebuchadnezzar (a heathen king) in place to judge Israel and cause His Will To Be Done! God is in CONTROL - take heart! Remain faithful to His Word.

Is a political solution the answer to the SIN-SICK world? No! The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the Answer. He is the only Hope for salvation, the Blessed Hope at His Return and the Eternal Hope when He sets up the Kingdom and sits upon the Throne of His Father David - in Jerusalem!

Jewel van der Merwe