

Looking Back – Looking Ahead By Wayne Vasilenko

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We're into the first weeks of the year 2019! As we go into this new- year, perhaps it is fitting to reminisce a little to refresh ourselves as to where we came from and where we are going. In another six months I will turn 68 years old, so I guess I am now qualified to be called an old man. Back when I was a kid and a young adult, "Old Folks" were considered to be more knowledgeable and wiser than their younger counter parts in society. I personally never questioned that. When I was younger I always respected my elders, and when I needed advice I usually consulted someone older and wiser. What is wisdom? In secular terms one of the definitions is as follows: Wisdom - 1. Good Sense, the ability to make sensible decisions and judgments based on personal knowledge and experience. (Encarta Dictionary) There are two very important words in this definition, Knowledge, and Experience. There are many ways to gain knowledge, but when you think about it, there is only one way to gain experience. To clarify this, here is the definition of **Experience**; again this is from (Encarta Dictionary). Experience: 1. Involvement in something over time, *active involvement in an activity or exposure to events or people over a period of time that leads to an increase in knowledge or skill*. Therefore, Experience requires time; hence the older we get the more experiences we have. That in turn increases our knowledge; more importantly our discernment concerning our knowledge. As I have already mentioned, there are many ways to obtain knowledge, however how do we know if the knowledge we obtain is true or false? We live in what is often referred to as the "Information Age." Using the Internet, anyone can access reams of information in seconds that would have taken weeks or months to compile just 50 years ago. So how do we sort the good or true information from the bad or false information?

The Test of Time

I recall hearing someone make the statement recently that, "Today's children are smarter than their parents!" I don't remember who made the statement or what prompted the statement, but I know this... it is simply not true. Young people may have more knowledge, or should I say access to more knowledge than someone my age or their parents did in the past, but that doesn't make them smarter, simply more educated. Remember, in the educational system there are "A & B Students" but there are also C, D, and F students! Therefore the amount of information or education available is by no means a reflection of experience or wisdom whether referring to individuals or society as a whole. Remember, there are still tribes of people in the world living the life of cave dwellers, naked and merely surviving day to day with only basic knowledge, they live more by instinct than knowledge! These people have very little knowledge even when compared to a Kindergartener, but they do have lots and lots of wisdom! How long would the average modern college professor survive in the jungle? Do you remember the movie, "Castaway?" The survivor knew he could start a fire using friction, but it was by accident that he actually got a fire going. He had knowledge but no experience or wisdom as to how to start a fire in that manner. His hands were raw and bleeding when the base of his fire starting rig accidentally (or by divine intervention) cracked allowing the air to ignite the ember produced by the process! The wounds he acquired on his hands trying to start that fire could have killed him had they become septic. What this illustrates is that sometimes incomplete knowledge combined with lack of experience (or wisdom) can be dangerous.

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We are just a few days into a newly elected Congress taking power and the political atmosphere here in the U.S.A. has never been more polarized, at least in my lifetime. It seems that more and more, younger representatives are being voted into office with a “Socialistic mindset” and this is being hailed by many as a “Good Thing” but is it really? Well, many people in Europe think so but truth be told, Europe is already predominately socialistic, so that is to be expected. For many years the Europeans have been pushing to erase borders and become “One Big Happy Family,” they call themselves The European Union, but how is that really going? About 5 years ago I spent a month in Germany, soon after what I would call the “Muslim Invasion” began over there. The people I interfaced with in Germany didn’t seem to be too thrilled about it. As a matter of fact, most of them wanted it to stop! A world without borders might look great on paper, but history teaches that it doesn’t work. Why do you suppose that even back in ancient biblical times all the cities were surrounded by walls? Even the most basic student of Human Nature knows that if you have what someone else wants, and they’re too lazy to get their own, eventually they will try to take from you what you have that they want. The Bible calls this coveting, which is one of the “Big Ten” sins listed therein. This can also work in reverse when one culture mixes with another, especially when you add religion to the mix. This is the predominate problem taking place in Europe and on a smaller scale (for now) here in the U.S.A. European nations have Christian roots and most of the people coming into Europe are Muslim. Despite what some might tell you, Muslims do not tolerate other religions, especially Christianity which has its roots in Judaism.

Take a look at what is happening in some Northern American cities as the Muslim population there grows; the same thing that has already taken place in France, Germany, and England. The Muslims are trying to change the culture of these places to conform to their beliefs, and they are even trying to impose their laws (Sharia Law) which still includes flogging and death by stoning for simply drinking alcohol and other offences which most of us have been guilty of at some point in our past. They are not doing this by force at this point (in the U.S.A.) but rather by attrition, or by overpopulating an area and taking control politically. After they gain control over an area they then use force to retain and expand control. You can see this repeated over and over in recent history. Lebanon is a good example. If this is what you want then by all means move to a Muslim country, but it is not what I want, so please don’t try to impose your beliefs on me. You can try and convince me to believe as you do and I am willing to listen and debate, but imposing your beliefs on me or anyone else is a whole different ball game; this why many people, myself included, feel that our borders should be secure just as they were in years past. As I have already stated, border walls are by no means a new concept, but young people all over the world are being taught that they are somehow evil, that there should be no borders.

Once again, this is the philosophy of many entering the political arena here in the U.S.A. and these people are predominately Democrat; they are also predominately socialist or communist leaning in their political beliefs. These people have been trying to convince others to follow their philosophy for many years with limited success, but now they grow impatient and they are attempting to impose their beliefs on the hold-outs of capitalism, conservatism, and Christian values which are the essence of our great nation. This new crop of leaders and activists shout, “Tolerance,” while failing to tolerate any philosophy but their own. Any student of history can tell you that when this happens, it eventually evolves into some form of warfare. This war has begun, and as other wars, it will eventually evolve into bloodshed at some point. It is ironic that the same people that advocate open borders in the name of

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tolerance are usually the ones with fences or walls around their houses and they surround themselves with armed guards while insisting we give up our guns, our borders, and our security. The U.S.A. and its form of government have stood the test of time while the all Socialistic and Communistic forms of government have failed time and time again.

What Does This All Mean?

The Bible has been around for a long time and has been the object and source of much debate; does the Bible talk about any of the things I have mentioned thus far? The short answer is, “Yes” all of it! As for the resiliency of the United States and its government, the fact is that it is based on Biblical principles! All the things that are happening in our world today are talked about in the Bible, and the bottom line is to bring us back into relationship with God. In the past I have written many articles and lessons relating to the Bible and prophesy within it. Some of you may have thought that I am obsessed with the subject of prophesy and the “End Times,” but this is what gives the Bible so much credibility! The Bible is the record of the beginning of man and everything we know on earth; the Bible is also the record of the end of man and everything we know on earth! The fact that you are reading this indicates that the “End” is yet to come but while God does not tell us when the end will come He gives us signs to look for that will show us when the end is about to take place. I will conclude this with some of those signs straight out of the Bible. Consider whether you see these signs happening today. Also consider that Jesus told us that we will see an increase and also a convergence of signs as that time draws closer. Are You Ready? Read the Signs of the end in the passages below then watch the news sometime today.

2 Timothy 3:1-9 (KJV)

¹ This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. ² For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, ⁴ Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; ⁵ Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. ⁶ For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, ⁷ Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁸ Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. ⁹ But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all *men*, as theirs also was.