

# What Happened to Boldness?

By Wayne Vasilenko

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I have been feeling growing frustration with people of the Christian faith, especially people that have influence over and / or access to large numbers of people via the media or the pulpit. Have you ever listened to someone, perhaps even your own pastor, and wondered why they do not take a stand on a particular issue with their feet rooted in scripture, but instead, like many other professing Christians, they sound as if they are afraid to stand up to blatant disregard for the Bible and even God himself. At times, it appears that they fear their fellow man more than they fear their God, bowing to what is now called "Political Correctness." In another chapter, (Beware of the New Church) I talked about the "watering down" of the Gospel and potential of that practice negatively affecting the young people in the church. The year is 2013 and more and more people are beginning to realize that the U.S.A. is at, or quickly approaching an all time low concerning morality. We are enduring daily attacks on the core values of our country, Biblical values. It seems that even formally powerful Christian leaders are bowing to "Political Correctness" and radical, immoral special interest groups, rather than fighting for, and with, the truth of God's Word.

I was talking with a co-worker one day, a pleasant and joyful black woman that I am comfortable calling a sister in Christ. I feel that she is "saved," however, when I asked about her church, what it was like and how they felt about some controversial issues such as "Gay Rights, and Gay Marriage," her answer confounded me. She said that they do not bring up these issues, and that her church felt that God loves everyone and it is not their concern what people do pertaining to these issues...it is between those people and God. It seems to me that they are more concerned about offending someone as opposed to preaching the truth of God's word!

It is true that God loves everyone, as Jesus did die on the cross for all people – for all sins. I do not think that anyone who professes true Christianity would disagree with that. However, a question that comes to my mind is, "Why does the Bible talk extensively about these controversial issues, and if God saw fit to include these issues in the Bible, how can anyone especially a professing Christian, brush them aside as unimportant or irrelevant to the preaching of God's word?" It seems to me that more and more Christians are becoming fearful of proclaiming the truth of the Bible. I am not just talking about things concerning the Gay Rights issue, but any moral issue. A recent suggestion a Christian friend made to me was not to address politics, or political issues, but rather concentrate strictly on the Bible. Granted, the salvation story has precedents over any other issue, but the Bible is full of teachings concerning politics and government! In fact, the government of the United States of America has its roots in the Bible! My friend went on to say that discussing political issues, "opens up another can of worms" to which I replied, "As a fisher of men, I consider that to be bait." Doing so opens up opportunities to show people the relevance of God's Word to our present daily lives. Once again, how can we as Christians sweep these issues under the rug when God included them in His Word to us? To do so brings one very close it seems to ignoring the warning in the book of Revelation:

**Revelation 22:18-19 (NIV)** <sup>18</sup> I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. <sup>19</sup> And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. **New International Version** Copyright 1973, 1978, 1984, International Bible Society. All rights reserved. Database © 2012 WORDsearch Corp.

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## The "non-practicing" Catholic Reporter

Another recent event prompted a confusing response from a female reporter when a second reporter asked her if the recent election of a new Pope would change her feelings toward the Catholic Church. The woman being questioned had previously stated that she was a Catholic; however, she stated that she was not currently "practicing her faith." She answered the question by stating that "if, under the new Pope's leadership, the Catholic Church would change its attitude towards Women, and Gay Marriage, she might consider going back to church." In other words, she was saying that if the church would do things the way she felt things should be done, she might...just maybe, be willing to bless the church and God with her attendance. What arrogance! She was in essence saying that God and His Church must conform to her rules. I think it is really supposed to be the other way around.

Our lives, polluted with selfishness, and political correctness, make people think of God as subservient to them, and I think that they may be in for a surprise. Case in point...I have another friend that because of some bad things that happened to some family members in the past, he now says he wants nothing to do with God. In fact, he went on to say that if or when he sees God face to face, "he intends to put God up against the wall and tell Him to go. . . (I cannot repeat what he said)." This person does not deny the existence of God he simply says that he despises God. I feel that his attitude borders on what the Bible refers to as the "unforgivable sin." I hope my friend comes to his senses before that time, but it would be interesting to see how that would really go down on Judgment Day. Somehow, I do not believe that anyone is going to shove the creator of the universe up against the wall, or intimidate Him in any way. Many people have absolutely no respect for God or the Church; as Christians, the question that should concern us the most, is why this is so. After all, we who call ourselves Christian, have a lot to do with some people's perception of the Bible and Christianity... perhaps some of these people are brought into our lives for a reason. I hope that my friend and that Catholic reporter eventually see the truth about themselves and about God.

I personally believe that people are so used to blaming God for every bad thing that happens that they cannot "cannot see the forest, for the trees." In the chapter entitled, "The Keys to Victory in a Negative World" I go into more detail, but nevertheless, the truth is, God takes the rap for many things for which He is not responsible. People just cannot seem to get a grasp on that, so let us look at this once again, perhaps from a few different perspectives. First, let us look at some of the sources of information and misinformation that are out there. By now, all but the brain dead have to realize that the News Media is the biggest source of information and misinformation that we have to deal with. It is not too hard to comprehend how, by the so-called news of the day, that our thoughts and feelings are being manipulated to make us see things in certain ways. In the past, news was reported - today, news is created!

Years ago, a friend of mine was transporting a group of reporters to a political gathering; he of course heard the reporters talking as one of them asked the group, "So what is the spin going to be today!" Yes, this happens every day - Spin . . . what you hear and see pertaining to the news, is in many cases planned out ahead of time. There is a good movie entitled, "Wag the Dog" it would be good for you to view it if you haven't already. This movie shows how events and the news can be - and are - manipulated to satisfy an agenda or to create a diversion or cover-up in the world of politics. These things happen all of the time! You might have often heard it stated, "Whoever controls the Media controls the Masses!" With that thought in mind, another important question is, "who controls the media?" Most people of the "Conservative" persuasion would answer that by saying, "The Liberal Left of

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course.” If that is a correct assumption, which I agree with I might add, another question to ask is, “who controls the Liberal Left?” This we will also explore as we go on, and I think it will become clear that what I just stated is so, and that the tentacles of control are far reaching indeed.

To be fair, I will attempt to examine these questions in as unbiased a manner as possible, despite my obvious conservatism. Just as a side note... I took a conservatism test one time, and came out unashamedly off the chart, to the right of Rush Limbaugh! Despite my viewpoint, I will attempt to be fair by simply stating the facts, and asking my readers to consider the evidence.

First, I will start with a simple question. What, or whom do you listen to for news, and why? This may sound overly simplistic, but many people only listen to others that agree with their own point of view. This is a natural tendency, but it is also a dangerous one. Each side accuses the other of this, and each side is itself guilty of it to some degree in most cases. The danger on both sides is that by limiting your news sources, you make yourself vulnerable to propaganda rather than truth and knowledge.

“If you repeat a lie often enough, it becomes the truth.” — **Joseph Goebbels** (Adolf Hitler’s Minister of Propaganda)

By reading this quote, you may deduce that it might behoove you to check out your sources of information. (Please review the chapter: “Whose Interpretation is it?”)

I remember listening to a television minister years ago. He was an older man, and he sounded very knowledgeable and trustworthy. It was not until I began to cross-reference the verses from the Bible that he used, and really listen closely that I began to hear many things being taken out of context. I saw the scriptures being manipulated and a false teaching emerging. This experience caused me to become skeptical of this person, which ultimately had the result of keeping me from possibly falling away from the truth. It was not until I began to look for myself, that I became aware of serious miss-information, and false teaching. Today, we have a growing class of people sometimes referred to as “Useful Idiots.” I also like the term coined by Rush Limbaugh describing these people as “Low Information Voters.” Unfortunately, this describes much of the voting public these days.

“In political jargon, useful idiot is pejorative term for people perceived as propagandists for a cause whose goals they do not understand, and who are used cynically by the leaders of the cause.”  
([http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Useful\\_idiot&oldid=649409592](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Useful_idiot&oldid=649409592))

I am forever being accused by people of the “Liberal Persuasion” of being one of these “Useful Idiots”, but the fact that I do in most cases, research both sides of an argument, this proves that assumption wrong. I say “in most cases,” because over time, I believe you can easily begin to discern fact from fiction based on the source alone. I know that sounds biased to the extreme, but you have to admit, there are news sources out there that see things from only their perspective and not only downplay, but in most cases eliminate any competing point of view. When this happens, you no longer have news, but rather propaganda. Both Liberals and Conservatives are guilty of this to some degree, but more often the Liberals. This is why it is so important for you to listen to, and evaluate, both sides of an issue. Usually the truth is somewhere in the middle of any opposing points of view, but sometimes the truth is so obvious, the only way it is not seen or heard, is if it is not presented or somehow suppressed. I believe more than ever, this is the biggest problem we face, media sources favoring one side over the other. We are living in what is sometimes called, “the age of information” this is due to the

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ease of communications and transfer of information provided by modern technology. Why some people continue to limit themselves to one source of news and information is beyond my comprehension. A large number of people continue to listen to a single source of news and they do this believing everything they see and hear. More often than not, it is the blind leading the blind. It is quite easy to tell that the Liberal Left has control of most of what we see and hear.

Republicans, especially Conservatives, are attacked daily by what seems to be upwards of 90% of the media sources. According to what the Liberal media would have us believe, the Conservatives and the Republicans are responsible for every starving child, global warming, and just about every bad thing that happens on the planet! They are "Rich Snobs" that take advantage of the poor . . . they "Hate Gays" and are "Racist Bigots!" Does that sound familiar to you? Do you agree with those assumptions? If so, you are probably listening to Liberal biased news sources, and let me assure you, nothing is further from the truth. What is said about Christians is a repeat of the same.

Most Christians consider themselves Conservative, and many are Republicans. I am not saying that there is no Liberal or Democrat Christians out there, but there is a good reason that more Christians are attracted to the Right as it is called. Before I get into that, I want to talk about another important source of news and learning . . . our educational system.