



# APPLES OF GOLD

 **VOLUME 25, NO. 7**  
**JULY 2021**

*Published monthly for  
all those who request a printed copy by mail  
or one sent by e-mail attachment, as well as hard copies which  
are available at our church.*

*All articles are critiqued and approved by one of our church deacons.*

## The Cross, our Statue of Liberty

### IN THIS ISSUE

IF GOD, WHY EVIL?

God's Grace

GROWING OLD  
GRACEFULLY

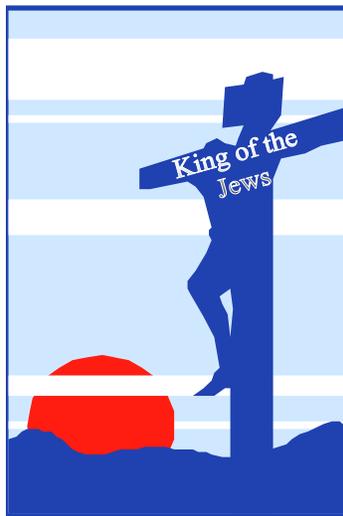
Gems From Pastor Rob

HIDDEN TREASURES

July 2002 Survey

PATRIOTIC PHUNNIES

maggiemorrison2@gmail.com



In New York Harbor  
stands a lady,  
with her torch raised to the sky,  
And all who see her  
knows she stands for  
liberty for you and I.

I'm so proud to be called an  
American  
To be named with the brave  
and the free.  
I will honor our flag and our trust  
in God,  
And the Statue of Liberty

On lonely Golgotha stood a cross  
with my Lord raised to the sky,  
And all who receive Him, live forever  
to be saved and sanctified.

I'm so glad to be called a Christian,  
To be named with the ransomed  
and the whole.

As the Statue liberates the citizen,  
So the cross liberates the soul.

Oh that cross is my Statue of Liberty.  
It was there that my soul was set free.  
Unashamed I'll proclaim that old  
rugged cross is my Statue of Liberty;  
unashamed I'll proclaim that  
old rugged cross.

© *Words & Music by Neil Enloe*  
*(printed with permission)*



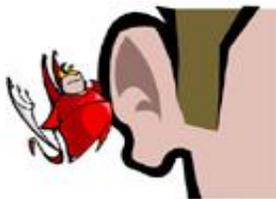
**In view of the Statue of Liberty and the freedoms we have had in America, and living in the country we love, consider the evils of Covid & an uncertain government.**

## **IF GOD, WHY EVIL?**

*By Norman Geisler at Triad Baptist Church January 2013*

### **THREE BASIC RESPONSES:**

- A. Pantheism – denies evil, affirms God as an all pervasive presence
- B. Atheism – affirms evil, denies God
- C. Theism (biblical) – affirms both God and evil



## **WHY DOESN'T GOD REMOVE ALL EVIL?**

Some believe that Isaiah 45:7 says God created evil. (“I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.”) First, the word “evil” here can mean several things: adversity, affliction, calamity, distress, misery or disaster.

It can't be “moral evil” because of the context. Second, it's always right and wise to check the context. In that verse God is punishing Israel for disobedience. God brings judgment on those who continue to rebel against Him. God brings disaster on those who continue in hard-hearted rebellion against Him.

Someone has asked, in view of all the horrors, evil, sin, and suffering surrounding us, why didn't or why doesn't God just wipe out all evil? He could take it all away and restore to mankind the tranquility and joys of Eden once again. He made everything perfect once; He can do it again!

How can He sit on His throne in Heaven watching evil on earth and do nothing about it? Why doesn't He call a stop to Satan, throw him in the slammer once and for all, and do it now and, in so doing, give us the peace we long for? We cry out – WHY?

There's an obvious answer. If He removed all evil, He would remove a most precious commodity – freedom and free-will. In the Garden of Eden He gave Adam and Eve the freedom of choice. (Yes, He had foreknowledge concerning what they would choose, but it was their choice, not His.)

*“God knew that Satan would rebel and Adam and Eve would sin in the Garden of Eden. With that knowledge, God still created Lucifer and Adam and Eve because creating them and ordaining the fall was part of His sovereign plan to manifest His glory in all its fullness. Even though the fall was foreknown and foreordained, our freedom in making choices is not violated because our free choices are the means by which God's will is carried out” ([www.GotQuestions.org](http://www.GotQuestions.org)).*

Instead, with true freedom and consequences, when we make the right choices we are rewarded; when we make bad ones, we suffer. Then we learn. There is great satisfaction in learning and growing.

Above we accused God of doing nothing to remedy the situation of evil. However, we cannot say He has done nothing, nor is He doing nothing. He has made the ultimate provision for us through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ who offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for our sin and the sins of the whole world. What about Satan? His doom is already sealed. How dare we question God's wisdom in creating all things including man with freedom to choose. To ask God “why don't You remove all evil?” is to not trust Him. Not trusting surely grieves the heart of God. He is worthy of our trust.

He has given us everything we need. “He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?” (Romans 8:32)

Now we have the freedom to choose life eternal in the person of Jesus Christ and with Him comes Heaven, because it was our choice. There evil exists no more.

As Christians, children of God by faith, we have HOPE that many in this world do not have. We may rejoice in God's love, His mercy, and His grace.

Our church choir sang the following anthem a few weeks ago called  
"Your Grace Still Amazes Me."

## GRACE - GOD'S RICHES AT CHRIST'S EXPENSE

- My faithful Father, enduring friend.  
Your tender mercy's like a river with no end.  
It overwhelms me, covers my sin.  
Each time I come into your presence I stand  
in wonder once again.
- Your grace still amazes me.  
Your love is still a mystery.  
Each day I fall on my knees  
'Cause Your grace still amazes me.  
Your grace still amazes me.
- Oh patient Savior, You make me whole.  
You are the author and the healer of my soul.  
What can I give You, Lord what can I say.  
I know there's no way to repay You only to  
offer You my praise.
- Your grace still amazes me.  
Your love is still a mystery.  
Each day I fall on my knees  
'Cause Your grace still amazes me.  
Your grace still amazes me.
- It's deeper, it's wider, it's stronger, it's higher.  
It's deeper, it's wider, it's stronger, it's higher  
Than anything my eyes can see.
- Your grace still amazes me.  
Your love is still a mystery.  
Each day I fall on my knees  
'Cause your grace still amazes me.  
Your grace still amazes me.  
(Lifeway Christian Resources)



## FOR AND ABOUT SENIORS

### GROWING OLD GRACEFULLY

**G** – **Get** rid of the garbage. **Give** up your grudges and resentments about how the world has treated you. Bring closure to the negative things and decide that your future will not be blighted by unpleasant memories.

**R** – **Realize** that your value in God's sight doesn't diminish with aging. In Isaiah 46:4 God made a great promise. "Even to your old age and gray hairs I am He who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you. I will sustain you and I will rescue you."

**A** – **Appreciate** and value your experiences. Sometimes when I learn that someone had an exceptional life I ask, "Do your grandchildren know that?" Tell others and write your memoirs while your mind is sharp. Tell them about your great answers to prayer and situations that could have been disasters had not God intervened.

**C** – the C shouts quite loudly. It says "Continue to serve." To me one of the greatest tragedies of our generation is that we have an army of men and women with experience, expertise and wisdom who, by and large, have sat down in the rocking chair awaiting their last breath.

**E** – This is our final reminder. **Expect** God to walk with you through the valley and up the other side. The Psalmist cried out, "Do not cast me away when I am old; do not forsake me when my strength is gone" (Psalm 71:9). You can grow old gracefully. (Harold J. Sala from "Today Counts")



GEMS FROM PASTOR ROB  
"A Patriot's Pride and Duty"

- ◆ The Colonists believed God ordained government, but not lawless government.
- ◆ They declared dependence on God.
- ◆ God is not to be separated from government.
- ◆ Our rights come from God.
- ◆ God was and is our king.
- ◆ Government is to restrain evil.
- ◆ The church is to be the conscience of the state.

**FIVE DUTIES TO OUR GOVERNMENT:**

1. **Pay** for government (Rom. 13 – tribute)
2. **Pray** for government (I Tim. 2:1-3)

3. **Praise** your government – patriotism – don't become bitter
4. **Preach** to government when it does wrong

**HERE ARE SOME BIBLICAL EXAMPLES:**

- a. Nathan preached to David
  - b. Elijah preached to Ahab
  - c. Daniel preached to Nebuchadnezzar
  - d. John the Baptist preached to Herod
- 1) We are to be civil, but not silent.
  - 2) Whatever is morally wrong, is never politically correct.

5. **Participate** in government – vote principles, not party, person, or program.



**HIDDEN TREASURES**

*Last Month's Question:* What father, in his parting message to his son said, "Be strong and show thyself a man." **ANSWER:** David (I Kings 2:2)

*Next Month's Question:* What day was strictly observed in all early American communities?

IN JULY 2002 WE HAD A PATRIOTIC SURVEY AND MANY REPLIED. HERE IS ONE OF MY FAVORITES ABOUT THE BLESSINGS OF BEING AN AMERICAN.

**A.** 1) A belief in "God" but refusal to acknowledge Jesus Christ. 2) As a result - a lack of respect for a) laws, b) life, c) others. and 3), Humanism, secularism, materialism, and a-moralism, an ethical system that says whatever feels good is okay. I believe these are what cause the other wrongs in this country.

**B.** 1) Freedom to worship when and where I please (almost). To work, to enjoy the fruits of my labors. I am free to move about the country (to quote Southwest Airlines), without visa or passport to go from state to state and to cover thousands of miles. 2) Multiple choices of goods. 3) The best and most advanced medical care available in the world (not the cheapest, but the best).

A sad thing about this country is that in order to save lives we must give up certain freedoms to ensure our security (a thing common in most other countries). We must give up choices of medical care should we choose to reduce our premiums or work for an employer who offers only one choice - i.e. an HMO.

Another thing most people forget that is with freedom comes responsibility. The responsibility to use that freedom wisely and realize where your rights end and another's begin. But the freedom to voice these opinions and a circulated newsletter is another blessing of being in the USA. Freedoms can be expanded to include so many things that we have that are and are not available in other countries (mostly western world countries).

God has been good, but these freedoms are not guaranteed and I am one of those who believes our continued blessings are tied to our mission efforts and our support of Israel. I am sure there are many who would argue that viewpoint and I am sure they have valid reasoning on their side - but that is their right and they have the freedom to disagree. **Pat VonBusch (Illinois)**



# *P*ATRIOTIC *P*HUNNIES

For those of you who watch what you eat, here's the final word on nutrition and health. It's a relief to know the truth after all those conflicting medical studies.

1. Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
2. Mexicans eat a lot of fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
3. Africans drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
4. Italians drink excessive amounts of red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.

CONCLUSION: Eat and drink what you like. Speaking English is apparently what kills you.

TEACHER: George, go to the map and find North America.

GEORGE: Here it is!

TEACHER: Correct Now class, who discovered America?

CLASS: George!

<p>What are the three great American parties?</p> <p>Democrat, Republican, and Tupperware.</p>	<p>Only in America... can a pizza get to your house faster than an ambulance.</p> <p>Only in America... are there handicap parking places in front of a skating rink.</p> <p>Only in America... do drugstores make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front.</p> <p>Only in America... do people order double cheese burgers, large fries, and a diet Coke.</p> <p>Only in America... do banks leave both doors to the vault open and then chain the pens to the counters.</p> <p>Only in America... do they leave cars worth thousands of dollars in the driveway and put useless junk in the garage.</p> <p>Only in America... do they use answering machines to screen calls and then have call waiting so they won't miss a call from someone they didn't want to talk to in the first place.</p>
--	---

An American history teacher, lecturing the class on the Puritans, asked: "What sort of people were punished in the stocks?" To which a small voice from the back of the room responded: "The small investor."

When young José, newly arrived in the United States, made his first trip to Yankee Stadium, there were no tickets left for sale. Touched by his disappointment, a friendly ticket salesman found him a perch near the American flag. Later, José wrote home enthusiastically about his experience.

"And the Americans, they are so friendly!" he concluded.

"Before the game started, they all stood up and looked at me and sang, 'José, can you see?'"



Songs and hymns – kids' version



"God bless America thru the night with a light from a bulb!"

***"God's grace is giving us what we don't deserve. God's mercy is withholding what we do deserve."***

Marjorie R. Morrison (Mrs. C.E.)  
703 Oakhurst St.  
Kernersville, NC 27284



*TAKE CARE WITH PRAYER*

