

Religion

On God and government

Some pastors think that they are not allowed to speak about such things as government in their Sunday morning message, but I'm here to shed some light on this topic that I learned recently at a class I took headed by Rochelle Conner, author of "Does God Really Care About Politics?", at Liberty Church in Fairfield.



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The main place the people in the community should gain knowledge about truth in government is from the pulpit. We have inalienable rights covered in the First Amendment. They are religion, speech, assembly, petition government for grievances and press.

Pastors engaged substantially in the founding of America. In fact, 24 of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence were clergy. The constitution ratifications were held in churches beginning in the 17th century or earlier.

The government rests upon Jesus as it states in Isaiah 9:6, "For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on his shoulders; and his name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal

Father, Prince of Peace."

Sermons were preached to government officials at the state capitol before legislature by renown pastors, such as the Rev. Jonas Clark, Daniel Foster and Charles Boardman to name a few.

One of the signers of the Declaration of Independence was Frederick

Augustus Muehlenberg, a preacher. The Bible was the only book used for educating men during the time of the constitution.

Deuteronomy 1:13 states that the tribes should choose wise and discerning men and he will appoint them as our heads.

John Adams, our second president, stated that "Our constitution was only for a moral and religious people; it is wholly inadequate for the government of any other."

Psalms 33:12 states that only the nations whose God is the Lord will be a people he has chosen for his inheritance.

The Magna Carta limited government due process, provided for a free church and government limited by the law of the land. In 1620, the Mayflower Compact stated that it would serve the

common good of the people.

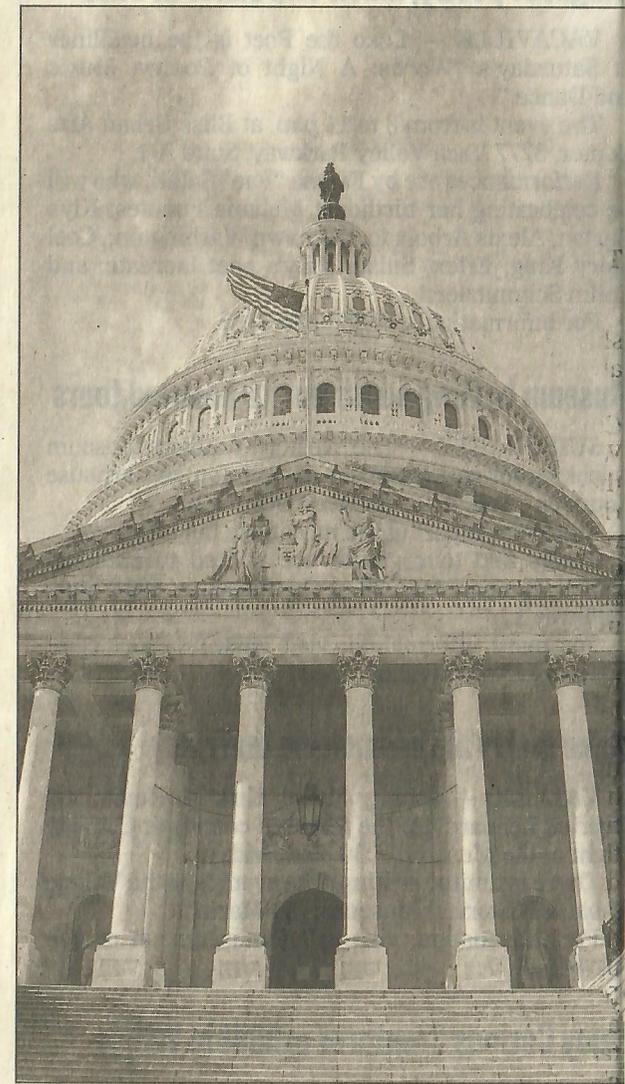
Our government today serves the uncommon good of a minority and not the common good of the majority.

God set the terms about love, marriage, murder, theft, children and parents in the 10 Commandments. The sin of tolerance to the things that should be abstained from, according to our King of Kings, is all throughout the Bible.

We have a guide and a set of rules and recommendations to live by in order to live with a clear conscience and a blessing from our Father in heaven. Jesus pointed out that the way of destruction is the popular and careless way.

There are two roads in life: the broad way, which is lacking in faith and leads to destruction, and the narrow way, which is the way of the Word of God (Billy Graham; Oct. 3, 2012).

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The U.S. Capitol building in Washington D.C.

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We need to govern the Earth and advance God's kingdom

Dear Saints, I hope you enjoyed my last column. I wanted to share a little about myself in this one.

I live in Suisun City and moved up here in 2002 for a special education teaching position at Armijo High School. I was there for five years and loved it!

After that, I was given the opportunity to work in a few other districts and loved most of them. I am now a retired teacher of 20 years.

I have always enjoyed writing and have self-published three books: "I Have a Cousin Who Plays the Guitar," "Coffee and a Rose" and "15 Steps to Wholeness-Psalms of Ascent."

I also have a website where you can read some of my other work at LiliaPad.com.

I also directed and produced a documentary about my late famous uncle and his trio, Los Tres Diamantes. The documentary focuses on Saulo Sedano, my uncle, and his 50-plus years as a number one requinto guitarist in all the world. The documentary is called "Asi es Mi Vida - El Chivito."

I am married and have three grown



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children and two grandchildren.

I love to travel extensively, cook and entertain. I am also a commissioner for Suisun City Recreation, Parks, Marina, Arts Commission. I love the involvement it has brought me in my city and county.

I attend Marina Church in the VFW Hall in Suisun every Sunday. I hope to see you there sometime.

I was blessed to become a part of the God & Government class every other Wednesday at Liberty headed by Rochelle Conner. It centers on women who understand all that the Bible equips the saints with to be ambassadors for the Lord God Almighty to take back the land and see it prosperous once again.

It is vital to all of us to understand what's at stake if we don't take our place for such a time as this. Time is of the essence when we see the profane curriculum that the unsaved are putting in the classrooms of our precious children.

There are examples of the sex curriculum and the detailed, step-by-step instructions on how to have sex at even the middle school age and maybe younger.

It is my conviction that these authors

who have been allowed to have their so-called curriculum in the public schools are being used by the devil at every turn.

The sin of tolerance is great, which is destroying our foundations. "When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?" Psalm 11:3.

"We can't just sit idly by and wait for the rapture." We must act, get involved and demand change by contacting our governmental representatives and tell them what is going on and what we demand.

We must take our places and understand that we have biblical citizenship and get involved in civil government and share our biblical world view.

The Declaration of Independence teaches us (if we read it), that when we see bills like AB1078, Instructional Materials and Curriculum Diversity, that the people must step up and make sure the Godly reigns in our schools.

We must advance the territory for Christ! We must be engaged by running for office as Christians, voting as Christians for platforms that align with the Bible and vote into office Christians that hold the Bible's commandments and instructions.

According to the Bible, some of the

non-negotiables are:

- Marriage between a man and a woman, not whatever makes us feel good.

- The shedding of blood, which means no more abortions.

- Children and their gender as God made them to be, not as they feel to be.

- Drugs - we are to respect and care for the temple of God, which is our body.

The other day I learned from Prager U, that if we put into action to love our neighbor as ourself as God commanded, we could get to know our neighbors in front, in back and on each side.

That's only four families. If we build relationships with them, we can begin to share our biblical worldview and let God use us with the help of the Holy Spirit and be the living Bible to them. If every true Bible-believing Christian did this, we could reach the whole population in America.

We have the ability and the responsibility to govern the earth and advance the kingdom of God. Are you with me?

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We need to spend time with Jesus a little more and just listen

Dear Readers,
Merry Christmas! This time of year, can be very difficult for some due to the loss of family members, estranged relationships, or we could just be missing someone that can't be with us for many different reasons.

My husband and I are both going through grief for different reasons. We read the prayers and scriptures on Facebook and we try to apply them to our lives. It's harder than we thought. We listen to podcasts and do our Bible studies, but it doesn't always help.

We want to feel love, we want our children and family members and friends to be successful and soar through life without problems, so that we can maybe have a little break from praying so hard for everyone's needs all year and especially during this season.

This season of love and joy is



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supposed to comfort us, but sometimes we need to dig a little deeper. We need to spend time with Jesus a little more and just listen.

We need to let the Holy Spirit comfort us and help us to feel the father's love. We need to worship the one true God a little more.

I was at a class recently with some church members and we were watching Del Tackett's "The Engagement Project" video about the royal sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross.

What I learned that night was not about what happened on the cross, but instead what it took for our beautiful savior to get to the cross. The agonizing prayers he prayed to the father while his tears dripped like blood from the heart-wrenching knowledge of what was coming (Luke 22:44). What he went through prior to that horrible but necessary moment on the

cross is unthinkable.

I won't go through all the details I learned that night at the study, but I will share that what he agreed to experience that day to save our souls is the part we must remember.

The blame that was put on him, the shame his killers put him through, the unimaginable pain of the crown of thorns that was smashed deeply into his scalp, the nakedness that was forced upon him, the unthinkable lashes from the flogging from his shoulders to his thighs and more than two-kilometer hike carrying the cross while he was spit upon to that place on Golgotha where nails were hammered into his wrists and feet on the cross to redeem us to the father.

This is what he endured to save us from death and hell. Jesus went through this because he loves so much that he laid his life down for us all.

Those three days of torture he went through is why we celebrate his birth at Christmas.

My wish for you this Christmas is that you remember not just the birth, but the agony of what he went through because of his love for us.

One day, we, as believers, will celebrate with our savior in heaven who is now sitting at the right hand of the Father. He still bears the scars of that love on his body according to John 20:27.

Our focus on Jesus's birth was and is our gift from Adonai, our God in heaven. He loved us so much that he gave his only begotten son to bring us back to himself (John 3:16).

During this time commit yourself to think about all God has done for us already – even if he doesn't do one more thing for us – is more than enough. We must not focus on what we don't have, or who isn't with us, or what we may be going through, but instead on Jesus and what he has done for us.

He wants joy to envelop us so that we can be instrumental in the lives of others. It's not

easy to implement when we are depressed or concentrating on our own issues and losses.

As a gift to the father, let's thank him once again and keep our eyes focused on him and all that awaits us. He went to prepare a place for us in heaven (John 14:2).

He will return once again and he will enter through the Golden Gate located at the eastern side of the Temple Mount that faces the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. Oh, how I look forward to the day!

If we can live our lives for Him then we will be ready to be vessels for the Holy Spirit to work through to bring joy to those around us. This joy can save a life and that is the spirit of Christmas. Peace, I leave with you John 14:27.

God Bless You.

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Voting is sacred, treat it as such

Happy New Year! This is my first column for this year and I felt it was imperative that I address the upcoming Primary Election on March 5.

Remember, we are the “called ones!” The governing body.

It is your duty to God and country to vote. As

a republic, we are to take the culture of God to the people.

How can we do this if we do not vote? It is our responsibility to protect our children. If we don't vote, we cannot do that effectively.

There are many items that are trying to pass in November. Let's get started in the primary.

The politicians that are in office are accountable to us, the people. Our vote is sacred and we must treat it as such. We are the government.

Did you know that the church is allowed to lobby a bill that affects the church?

Call your representatives in your district and let your voice be heard.

Speak for the principles of God by casting your votes. If you don't know who to vote



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for, please investigate their platform and see if they line up with the word of God.

If they do not, and you can't find a candidate who does, do not vote for either one. You are allowed to leave that blank. Your other votes will still be counted.

Not voting for a specific measure or section does not invalidate your ballot.

The church is allowed to discuss the positions of candidates on issues. The church is allowed to hand out candidate surveys and voter guides.

The church is allowed to have a candidate appear at their church meeting or service. And the church is allowed to hold non-partisan voter registration activities.

God gave us a foundation in this country by our forefathers who used the Bible to form the government. It is our responsibility to also go forth and help others be informed and speak for our father in heaven.

We are not slaves to anything and we should not agree with anything that is against God. We cannot yoke with bondage

and expect a bright future.

The power of our words directly affects our health and life. We must search the word of God and pray and ask Holy Spirit to guide us in all things.

One day, when we go before the Lord, he will ask each one of us, “What did you do with what I gave you?” We must be prepared to answer that question in heaven.

During these perilous times, we need the mind of Christ and wisdom to be a light in this country. Ephesians 3:20-21 states that God can do anything, you know – far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams.

He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his spirit deeply and gently within us.

■ Glory to God in the church!

■ Glory to God the Messiah, in Jesus!

■ Glory down all generations!

■ Glory though all millenia, Oh yes!

■ (The Message Bible).

This is the season of recompense. We must take back what



Aaron Rosenblatt/Daily Republic file (2021)

Diva Jackson, left, places her ballot in a drop box with assistance from volunteer Dori Maggert at the Solano County Government Center in downtown Fairfield, Sept. 13, 2021.

the enemy has stolen. We must buck against every fiery norm like Deborah in the Bible.

God is looking for availability. Are you available to go out to the masses and speak for our Messiah the acceptable year of the Lord?

You are a pencil in God's hand if you want to be. God wants to move through you. God is the one who qualifies you.

God can work through any circumstance. The Red Sea moved because it knew God's voice.

Let's be God's voice in action on March 5.

Know your legal rights and support your pastors in their

goal of helping their church members be good stewards in representing their faith in all areas of our society and in their civic duties.

Only half of all Christians are voting today, according to a voter guide from First Liberty.

To learn more about God and government, join us at Liberty Church, every Wednesday, 6:30 to 8 p.m. starting April 3, at 2641 N. Texas St.

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A new level of healing is upon us

Happy Spring. It's time to begin again. Springtime is the time of new birth.

It can also be a time for crossing over to the things that have been laid before you for your destiny. God wants us to fulfill what he has put us on this earth to do for the kingdom of heaven.

What have you laid down that you need to pick up again?

Isaiah 52:2 says "Stand up, shake the dust off yourself! Take your seat, Jerusalem. Remove the bonds from your neck, captive Daughter Zion."

God wants to restore us to take that next step. Begin again. Believe again. Dream again.

Whatever we withhold from God, becomes food for the enemy. Remember, all that was taken from us, must be returned.

A new level of healing is upon us.

Joel 2:25 reads "I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust ate, the destroying locust, and the



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devouring locust. "

God wants to restore the loss. Some things are no longer allowed to remain. God uses a purifying fire to cleanse. We must demand that our soul get in line.

Deny the flesh and feed the spirit. Sometimes, prayer and fasting are the only way

to remove things from our life that don't belong. If you have been praying for a loved one and nothing has happened yet, pray and fast and watch God move on their behalf.

When we deny our flesh, we become aware of a different dimension, a different frequency that the Holy Spirit awakens us to. When this happens, we will know exactly what our father in heaven is revealing to us.

Monday is Passover. The most significant festival in Judaism, commemorates God's deliverance of the Israelite slaves in Egypt.

It's a seven-day celebration which includes the feast of unleavened bread. The Seder



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Pathway through the forest with blooming wild garlic. Stochemhoeve, Leiden, the Netherlands.

meal is a time to rejoice and celebrate the deliverance for the Hebrews that God accomplished through their exodus from Egypt.

In 1 Corinthians 5:7-8 it says "Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed."

Psalm 81:3 says "Sound the ram's horn at the New Moon, and when the moon is full, on the day of our festival." This

brings to light the recent eclipse that happened on April 8, 2024.

Matthew 27:45 From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land.

The sign of the times for everyone to prepare for Christ's return is upon us. No man knows the day or the hour he will return. But the recent earthquakes, bridge collapses, eclipse and the detestable things happening in the world reveal to us that that day is not far off.

We must prepare and there is no better time than the present. A time of new beginnings is upon us. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Accept Christ as your Lord and Savior and receive his forgiveness from your sins and begin again. May his blessings be upon us.

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Choose this day whom you will serve

The enemy, the devil, seeks out who he can use to try and destroy the truth, but he is a weakling. Remember, we do not fight against flesh and blood, but against the fiery darts of the devil, spiritual beings that roam this earth just looking for a vessel to whom to work through.

Many things that are happening in our country and shown on the media are proof of this. In Ephesians 6:12, New King James Version, it reads: "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of [a] the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."

We must pray against the heinous sexual material that is being taught in our schools, we must pray for protection to sing the national anthem, say the Pledge of Allegiance, or for a graduating student to be able to give thanks to God on stage.

The enemy is attempting to take over this God-given land and change the world view from Godly to satanic.

We have the opportunity to show our love for God by supporting those things which emulate Christ, his words and his teachings.

Let's give glory to God daily and be examples of what Jesus would do in these difficult days of ungodliness in our



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country. We see travesties on the news daily that are examples of how the truth is twisted, so the ungodly can gain ground, but the Holy Spirit helps us if we pray.

Remember these words God spoke to Solomon: "If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will

hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land" in 2 Chronicles 7:14.

I implore you, pray, seek God and ask him to show you the truth. Read your Bible and search for the truths yourself of how God expects his people to pray, behave and believe.

Choose this day whom you will serve.

In an online Bible study yesterday, Carolyn Williams asked us, "What is in your hand?" This is what God asked Moses. Remember, it was the staff. So, what is in your hand that you can use to defeat the enemy? Use it!

God has equipped all of his saints. All we need to do is show up and use what is in our hands.

God gives us tools daily to make change for the better. It isn't easy to follow a life that blesses others when we are discouraged and it seems like the enemy is winning, but that is more reason to get on our knees and pray for

change to come.

We say, God bless America, but it's time that America blesses God. In the coming months, many changes will be implemented, but we must pray to ensure that the changes are Godly changes that advance the Kingdom of God.

Pray for those who persecute you, and bless those who spitefully use you. Be the living word for someone today.

Luke 6:27-31 reminds us to love our enemies: "But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

"If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them.

"Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you."

God bless you as you do your part for the Kingdom of God especially in these perilous times.

Shalom.

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Well done, my good and faithful servant

It was a busy two weeks watching the Olympic games and all the medal winners.

I love when I read how some of the athletes talked about how they wouldn't have made it if it weren't for their relationship with Christ. When they put the cameras on certain athletes, you could see them praying, lifting their hands to the sky, or pointing their finger toward heaven and you just knew in your spirit they were praising God.

It says in the Word (the Bible) that we can do all things through Christ who gives us the strength (Philippines 4:13). That was surely seen in these games.

In our jobs, our day-to-day lives and with our families, it's vital that we have that connection with our Savior, so that we can finish the race with our crowns waiting for us. God promises a great reward in heaven if we follow his ways and accept him as our Lord.



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While watching the athletes compete, it was plain to see their vigilance and what they must have given up to even be able to participate in the events. I'm sure that these athletes practice all year long for competitions.

It reminds me of how, daily, we also have to compete with the things that are going on around us, that are vying for our attention, things that can easily take the place of prayer and dedication to studying the Word.

If we're not careful to put God first daily, we won't make it and failures may come. Just like the athletes, we must practice daily what God has commanded of us.

The Israelites had an 11-day journey from Egypt to Canaan, according to Deuteronomy 1:2, to get to the Promised Land, but it took them 40 years. Mistake after mistake, murmuring and complaining about the circumstances, even though God provided all they needed,

they just weren't dedicated enough or focused enough on the prize that was ahead — The Promised Land!

Unlike the athletes that medaled, and/or participated in the Olympics, the Israelites took their eyes off the blessing that was ahead of them.

How do we do that on a daily basis? Are we doing our best with what God gave us? Or are we murmuring and complaining even though we are blessed?

Are we going after the gold daily, so that when we finish our race, our Lord can say, "well done good and faithful servant, enter in."

"The master said, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!'" (NIV) Matthew 25:23.

When we saw the first-place winners stick the landing flawlessly, arrive first place in a race or do their routine excellently, with utter amazement to us, we know that they must

have given their life to their sport to win.

That's exactly what God wants to see us do when we choose to follow Him, and when we do, there is a celebration in heaven on our behalf.

Luke 15:10 says, "In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents [that is, changes his inner self — his old way of thinking, regrets past sins, lives his life in a way that proves repentance; and seeks God's purpose for his life]."

I'm sure that we can barely begin to imagine the celebration that happens with the Lord when we accept our medal as we receive Christ as our Savior. That's the only medal that counts in the end. The medals that the athletes received will all pass away.

The Olympics are a pagan practice that began in 776 BC in Olympia, Greece. They honored Zeus. Then, the Roman Emperor banned them in 393 CE as part of his efforts to promote Christianity and sup-

press pagan festivals.

The lie was blatantly shown as Paris decided to desecrate the Last Supper with lesbians, drag queens and even a little girl was added to the table to help usher in the evil spirits of their disseminated, blasphemous pagan feast.

They even had the audacity to have a man in blue as the sacred meal at the fake last supper mockery to depict what was meant by Christ as the bread of life to heal us.

All we can do is continue to run the race for the Lord Adonai and not be a part of the inversion Dionysus process. The ancient prayer that was spoken with a flame on a torch, that was restored by Hitler, is a pagan ceremony that is trying to repossess a culture which is lost.

Let us not lose sight of the truth of God Almighty. God help us all.

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God holds us responsible for our vote

God says he will hold us accountable for what we stand up for and for not speaking out against those things that are ungodly when we can. He holds us accountable for how we vote. Voting is not just a right, it's a duty.

Deuteronomy 1:13 reads, "Choose some wise, understanding and respected men from each of your tribes, and I will set them over you."

So how can we advance the kingdom of God for the glory of God, so that we can penetrate the evil in our land until Jesus comes again?

Psalms 22:28 reads, "for dominion belongs to the Lord and he rules over the nations." We, as Christians, are to vote policies over personalities. Religious liberty and family are at stake in this election.

Remember, God used flawed people to spread the gospel and He is still doing it today. He used Sampson, Jehu and others.

Proverbs 14:34 reads, "righteousness exalts a nation, but sin condemns any people." Christians must unite if we are to make a difference. If our voices are not heard at the polls, then every evil, demonic philosophy will fill the vacuum.

The only way to make America



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great again is for us to all seek God and humble ourselves and pray.

In Acts 5:29 Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than human beings!"

I had the opportunity to attend A Million Women gathering in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 10.

It was the Day of Atonement — Yom Kippur — on the Jewish calendar. The women showed up as Esthers to pray for the land with the Mordecais. The people gathered to petition the Lord to spare the nation. The atonement, the scapegoat, took away the sin of the people.

In 2 Chronicles 7:14 it starts with, "if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

We declared the blood of Jesus over the land that day as we came into repentance for the sin of the people. The scapegoat on the cross was and is Jesus Christ.

More than 250,000 people attended that day and thousands of others on simulcast from other countries, while the Esthers interceded

for the land.

We consecrated that day as we prayed, "Jesus, have your way over our land. We gathered, prayed, fasted and worshiped. It is finished."

The time is right to keep praying for our upcoming election and propositions. The time is right to prepare to take our stand at the polls to speak for God and the 10 Commandments.

May God bless you at the polls and may the Holy Spirit speak through you his desire for the nation as we remember his statutes.

Esthers arise! Stand up and vote to protect our children and the evil that is trying to infiltrate the schools and this country.

Mordecais continue to refuse to bow down to the lies of the enemy and take your stand as you pray for the nation and lead. Remember, we fight against principalities and darkness in the land.

Ephesians 6:12 reads, "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age."

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Celebrate the birth of the Savior of the world

Christmastime is upon us. The weather is changing and there is a shift in the atmosphere. Can you feel it?

We recently had an opportunity to give thanks to God for all his goodness during Thanksgiving – good food, family gatherings, friends, worshiping with fellow believers, miracles that are new every morning and knowing that God isn't finished with us yet.

Now Christmas is near and we'll have the opportunity to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

In the New International version, Luke 2:8-14 reads: "And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

"But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the



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Messiah, the Lord.

This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth

peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Sometimes when we read stories in the Bible, we don't completely receive all that they mean. Then when someone we admire tells the story, suddenly, it holds truth.

At the church my husband and I attend, "The Edge" in Suisun City, we recently studied the book of Jonah. I have read that book in the Bible many times, but Pastor Mike Wurz really brought it to life for me.

I never realized that when God told Jonah to go to Ninevah, he went the other way! In fact, 2,500 miles out of the way. Don't we do the same thing when the Holy Spirit urges us to do something?

We run! Or, we ignore the



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assignment we received and go the other way. We have opportunities daily to love our neighbor as ourself and love God.

Unfortunately, when we ignore what God is prompting us to do, we miss out and the person we were to minister to misses out as well. God will send another to do the work, but we won't reap the blessing. "Delayed obedience is disobedience."

Our trials, most of the time, are our own doing. We should not give the devil credit for anything. He is the meaning of evil and because he wanted to

be higher than God, he is the epitome of negation against all things good. He is the "inversion" of good.

If God is your father in heaven, then you will love the son, Jesus. But if you hate, then you will follow the devil even when you don't realize it. If you condemn others and do not have forgiveness, then your Father in heaven also cannot forgive you.

If you have hatred in your heart, repent and find peace during this season of redemption when we celebrate the birth of Christ, so that you may be saved. God has great

plans for you.

In the New International versions John 8:44 reads: "You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies."

During this Christmas season, I pray, as you read this column, that you would give thanks again and acknowledge Christ our Savior. Thank God for sending his son to save us 2,000 years ago, by dying on the cross for us for our sins.

Thank God that when Jesus was crucified, died and rose again that he left us the Holy Spirit to convict and guide us.

This Christmas give yourself the gift of the Savior for eternal life.

Merry Christmas.

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Religion

Read the Bible daily

Happy New Year! I pray that you all had a blessed holiday season celebrating the birth of Christ and the new year.

Some Christians devote themselves to fasting and praying every January for 21 days. It comes from the Daniel Fast in the Bible.

My husband and I participated in that with The Father's House. We also participated in communion daily at home together during the fast. It was a blessing to start the year reading the One Year Chronological Bible together as well.

I highly recommend to read the Bible in a year to keep yourself reminded of the Word of God and how to live and to learn of His promises. Communion and reading the Bible strengthens our relationships.

Last Sunday, we studied how the tabernacle is likened to our relationship with God in prayer and worship. The pattern to go before the tabernacle to go before the Lord had a system just like it's written in the Old Testament. This process that



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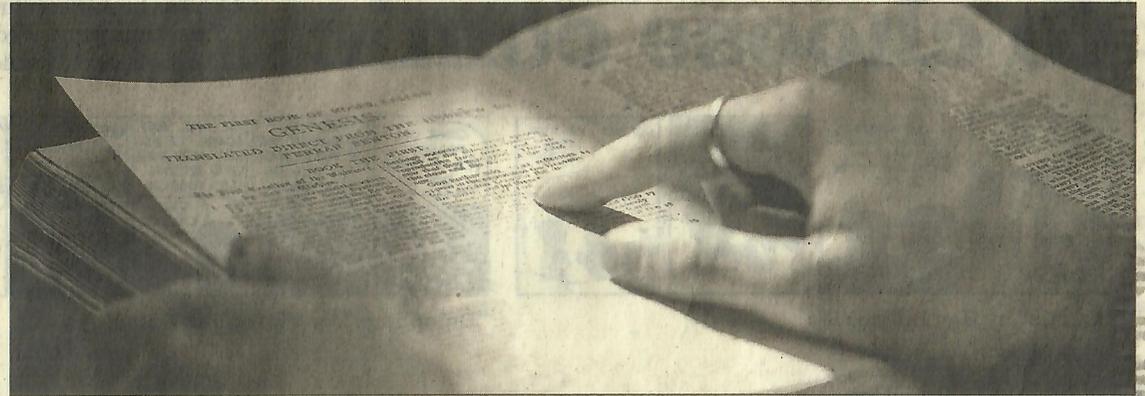
the priests had to follow meant life or death.

In Exodus 29:42-43 it reads: "This shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD: where I will meet you, to speak there unto thee. And there I will meet with

the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by my glory."

When the high priest first walked into the tabernacle, the first item they saw was the bronze altar where a sacrifice was made for the sin of the people and the priest. When we are in our secret place with God and we enter in, our sacrifice is not an animal's blood, but it is our praise and our tithe and offering.

Next, is the bronze laver, where the priests would wash themselves before entering the doorway to the Holy of Holies. This is where we wash ourselves of sin by repenting before we meet with the Lord in our secret place, which could be a designated spot for prayer in



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our home, or even outside our home. Just past the doorway is the lamp stand where worship was done.

We should also worship Christ before we bring our needs to him. Next, is the table of showbread, which is the Word of God. When we read the Word of God out loud by reciting passages in the Bible, it brings us closer to God.

The altar of incense is our prayers and intercession to God. This pattern was laid out in the tabernacle thousands of years ago as a pattern for us to follow today as we meet with God in prayer.

Thankfully, the veil was torn to the Ark of the Covenant in the Holy of Holies, so that we can meet with Christ freely as we sacrifice, repent, worship, read His Word and pray. The

veil was torn when Christ was sacrificed for all of us.

We no longer need a priest to go into the Holy of Holies for us. God wants us to meet with Him daily and throughout the day because he desires a relationship with each one of us.

We can meet with Him anywhere. All he wants is for us to see him as father and friend. He loves us and wants to heal us from the inside out. God initiates and we should respond.

In 2 Chronicles 7:15-16 it reads: "My eyes will be open and my ears attentive to every prayer made in this place. For I have chosen this temple and set it apart to be holy — a place where my name will be honored forever. I will always watch over it, for it is dear to my heart."

Remember, our bodies are

the temple of God. He is waiting for us to come to him and be attentive to what he is telling us through sacrifice, prayer and worship.

Reading the Bible daily will bring us closer to God and it's His way of speaking to us.

I pray that this new year brings you blessings from God as you give of your time reading the Word, give to your local church, praying for yourself and others and, most importantly, worshipping God all the day long.

God bless us all.

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Religion

Train a child in the way they should go

Happy Spring Saints!

The rain is almost gone and flowers are blooming. I love the sunshine and new birth. During this time of year, we can see God's glorious creation come to life. Resurrection Sunday is upon us and Passover will be here before we know it.

Easter is when many families go to church even if they don't attend regularly. In the Bible, God says to train a child in the way they should go and they will not depart from it when they are old. (Proverbs 22:6).

Even when we see our children depart from their Godly path at times, they will always have that still small voice in their head that reminds them of how they were brought up by their parents to follow after Jesus.

That's the power of the Word of God. If, we pray over them, read to them from the Bible and tell them the stories of the prophets and apostles, they will remember when



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they are tempted.

If they see our example, they will know that in trouble, they can turn to their savior who will lead them out and give them a way of escape.

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faith-

ful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

I don't know if you can sense it but the "woke culture" that has tried to take over is now coming to a head. Many Christ followers have had enough of what's happening in the public schools with the inappropriate curriculum and books that are poisonous to our young one's minds that's available in libraries on the school campuses. This perverted pornography in books must stop!

We as Christians must stand up for what is ethi-

cally right for our kids. God has given us parents, grandparents and caretakers the responsibility of raising his children with Godly principles and protecting their innocent minds.

Our children are on loan to us by God. If we don't minister to them and help them take the right path, they will depart from it. We must adhere to the Bible and guide them into righteousness so they make it to heaven one day.

I saw a movie the other day at Liberty Church in Fairfield that was put on by the God & Government ministry called "22 Words." It's a compelling documentary that delves into the profound consequences of removing prayer and the Bible from American schools, as set in motion by a series of landmark court cases in 1962 and 1963.

Those rulings have contributed to a decline in societal values, marked by rising divorce rates, teenage pregnancy, suicide, violent crime, and the growing acceptance of pornographic content

and LGBTQIA+ agendas in schools.

As traditional moral anchors have been replaced by harmful content and agendas, "22 Words" advocates for a cultural shift and bravely calls for the reintroduction of school-sponsored prayer and the Ten Commandments across the nation. The film is from John Amanchukwu.

As parents, we must stand up for our children at meetings across our cities. God has mandated us this responsibility. It is critical that we mold our children's minds with a Godly worldview with principles that nurture them.

This Resurrection Sunday, let's commit our children back to God and protect them from evil. Let's talk to them about the true meaning of Easter and what it really represents. Jesus is the reason for the season and the holiday.

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Our children are on loan to us by God. If we don't minister to them and help them take the right path, they will depart from it, Lilia Dardon says.

Religion

Graduates: Trust in the Lord with all your heart

It's that time of year again. Spring is coming to an end and summer is just around the corner.

Its also time for our graduates to take their rightful place on the podium and receive their reward, which is a diploma or a degree. Hard work and perseverance is the decision that you all had to make to get to such a time as this in your life.

You will be on to your next journey, your next goal and if you put your mind to it, you will be successful.

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." — Jeremiah 29:11

This declaration for you is waiting for you to receive it. But you must also trust God to guide you in this next chapter of your life. You must give yourself to something much greater than yourself.

Jesus Christ desires to have a relationship with you as you move forward. He desires you to get up each morning and give



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him your day. When you do this, great things can happen for you.

I'm not saying you won't have trials, we all do. It's a part of life, it's a part of growth.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and don't lean on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge him and he will

make your way straight." — Proverbs 3:5

God desires to bless you and see you filled with peace and joy. In order to have this blessed assurance, you must lean on him, the one who formed you in your mother's womb.

He knows every hair on your head and has saved each and every tear you shed as you were on this journey of academics. You gave it your all. You read, you studied, you did your homework, you were tested for the knowledge you gained. And now, you will walk to receive that piece of paper that says, "I did it!"

My granddaughter will also be graduating this June from UCSB and she has tirelessly

worked to achieve this goal. Even though she had an unstable childhood, she persevered. She was covered in prayer while she trekked this path in achieving her BA degree.

She took a leap and she studied abroad for a semester and backpacked in Europe. She became proficient in dressage and found solace and comfort with the horses.

She worked tirelessly at three jobs to achieve these goals, but she loved every minute of it even though she had some challenges with money, illness and figuring out where she would live each quarter. God made a way.

Parents, grandparents, please pray constantly for your graduate. Pray that they make good choices for their future, but most of all, pray that they wake up each day thanking God for the opportunities he has set before them. Pray for the opportunities and blessings he will bring their way.

Yes, they will face hardships on this pilgrimage. Life is a journey and if they honor the one who helped them reach this moment in time, they will be victorious.



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Remember graduates, you "can do all things through Christ who strengthens you." — Philippians 4:13

Seek God and He will answer you for what's next in your life. Pray for God's will for your future. It is vital that you continue studying, and studying God's word. This decision is the key to your future.

Trust the things he puts before you. Walk through the doors he will open for you as you give each day to him. He is the one who guided you, helped you retain information and get to this day in your life.

Even if you didn't acknowledge him during your years of education, he acknowledged you. He loves you. His only desire is for you to love him, to

talk to him, to trust him.

He loves you so much that he sent his son to die for you on the cross at calvary.

God bless you as you accept this challenge. I know in this day and age honoring God and accepting Christ can seem hard to do. Just give it a try and see the glorious days that are ahead for you.

He desires to protect you on your way and He desires to watch you soar. In the end, your testimony of his great love for you will be your greatest accomplishment.

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Religion

Reclaim your joy by seeking a relationship with Christ

Last Sunday, when my husband and I attended The Father's House in Vacaville, Pastor John spoke about joy in our series, "The Psalms of Summer."

At the end of the sermon while we were all praying the sinners prayer out loud, as a body, united, for others who may be repeating the prayer for the first time, I had an epiphany.

Suddenly, I had a vision of my son, who has been struggling for three years recovering from an assault, the loss of a job and his home. He became homeless, addicted to drugs, had surgery and is now barely hanging on with illnesses brought on by stress, not making good choices and PTSD from trauma.

But I saw his face in this vision and his joy was back. I could see his smile clearly.

Like King David, who made bad choices and sinned greatly, but was still considered by God, "a man after God's own heart" (Acts 13:22), we also can know that God loves us and



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has a plan for our life even if we make very bad mistakes.

All God wants is a repentant heart and a relationship with us. The kind of relationship that causes us to keep coming back to the father, asking for forgiveness, turning from our wicked ways and following after Christ.

King David repented from his sin but he still had to suffer the consequences of that sin. We all will reap what we sow.

However, there is still hope and blessings that will come as we change our ways. In Psalms 51, David repents and asks God to return his joy.

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit." (Psalms 51:10-12)

King David is very upset at himself and how he lied and cheated, and he knew he had to repent to get back that relationship with the Lord and

find joy again.

This is the answer to the way back to God when we have sinned. Pray to him. Praise him. Then repent of your sin and ask God to return your joy. He will do it.

When I saw my son's face in that moment of prayer at church, I knew I had to change the way I prayed for him and not ask God to bring others to him to help him get back his joy, but instead to give him back his joy through serving others.

Ministering to others, helping others, praying for others, because that is who he was at one time and who God made him to be. Once he repents and asks God to renew a right spirit within him, his joy will return as he steps out in faith for others.

That is the type of repentance that will change us. We must walk out our salvation.

We must change our ways and come back to God. We must be honest with God and be truthful about our struggles and failures so that he can heal us and then our joy will be restored.

We must also pray for one another. We must find someone



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who will pray for us, tell us the truth and give us the correction we need.

"Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." (James 5.16)

"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord." (Acts 3:19)

That refreshing is the joy of the Lord. There is nothing like it and it can only come from a repentant heart and a relation-

ship with Christ as we ask God to renew us.

I pray that as you begin this new season of change that you too will seek God and get back your joy. Pastor Jon mentioned that losing our joy in God makes us vulnerable to destructive behaviors. Joy is central to resisting temptation and living a healthy spiritual life.

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