

## ***John Newlin Ministries***

### ***SIGN OF THE TIMES: WAKING UP TO THE REALITY OF EVIL***

[Early last week this *Sign of the Times* came to me just as many of the past *Signs of the Times* and *Watchman Warnings* have come. After I had written it down and considering the subject matter, I thought to hold it for distribution until after the joyous Christmas season had passed. But now, after the events in Connecticut on last Friday, I see I should have sent it out immediately. So I do now, with just a couple modifications.]

There is a great depression in the country right now. I would suggest it is a gradual waking up to the realities of the times we are living in.

For some time now I have sensed this great darkness all around. All of this year, and especially in the late summer and early fall. And it continues in an even darker mode. This depression or darkness is actually settling over the land, and now those serious Christians who had not realized its presence so greatly in the past are having to come to grips with its reality.

Yes, there really is evil on earth. Yes, there really are evil people – lots of evil people. Now as Paul wrote, our battle is not with flesh and blood but with all the forces of evil which he identifies as the rulers, the authorities, and the powers of this dark world and the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. But of course in this physical environment in which we live, those evil forces usually play out through people who are led by and even dominated by such evil forces. These are lost people who have not known God or the Bible or how to fight evil and protect themselves, and they are easy prey for satan and his forces.

Americans have for the most part lived their lives in a most extraordinary country, one that is modern and urbane and sophisticated and free and offers all sorts of opportunities. So many have had very comfortable lives even though they have had to work hard in their jobs. And they just haven't often had to face obvious evil, except for those who have encountered criminals and terrorists or been sent off to war in a foreign land.

So most are just not so aware of evil. A poll a couple years ago by George Barna even had the amazing finding that half of those saying they are Christians do not believe the devil is real. Well, of course, that to me means they aren't Christians, for Jesus talked about the devil at some length and warned about him and described

him. Not believing he is real is not believing. Jesus tells the truth. And how then can Jesus be your Lord if you so believe? He can't.

But now those Americans are finding out evil is real. They are going to discover the devil is real.

Residents of many countries have known evil is real for a long time. Ask the residents of Romania about evil, or North Korea, or Afghanistan or Iraq, or Nigeria, or Rwanda, or Liberia, or those whose family members perished in the concentration camps of Nazi Germany, or later those killed in the killing fields of Cambodia, or those currently in Mexico encountering the drug horror, or those dealing with Al Qaeda and other terrorist groups, or ...well, you get the point. All those places suffered under darkness, great darkness.

The USA has been protected I would suggest because of the core of Christian believers and God's respecting and providing for them. But the US has slid mightily. There has been a great fall in morality, in civility, in decency, in integrity, and in faith in God. There has been a falling away, an apostasy.

Much of the world is way ahead in this falling away. Europe for years has existed in a post Christian age. Many countries in the world have lived under false gods and thus demonic influences for decades and hundreds of years. Actually in some of these places today God is making breakthroughs.

But back to the USA – and recognizing evil. We now have a highly non-godly intelligentsia, ruling government, entertainment community, news media, and more. While there are still many who fear God and believe in him and the Bible, there at the high and visible levels of society are a group of lost people setting the agenda and culture and government policies and such.

So there is a reason to be down, to feel depressed. If you are you are probably sensing the spiritual darkness that has been growing here for some time. You are just joining others in that realization. We are on the steady path to the return of the Lord, and his timing will not be deterred. It is an appointed time.

Those who are pushing ever more to the gradual move to a one-world government and a universal religion are the ones to fear and stay away from. Those doing the pushing really don't know what they are doing, but they are pushing in the direction of the prophesied events of the end of the age.

Yes, there really is evil on earth. And not just obvious evil. It also takes the forms of many leaders and media reporters and entertainers in our own country that in their way are just as dangerous to what once was an amazing place.

We can recognize and be saddened by evil in what we are seeing in our country and the world. But still, we believers know that even though the presence of evil is

increasing, it is all defeated by Jesus at Armageddon and thereafter as described in Revelation 19 and 20 and Zechariah 14.

And we still know that the joy of the Lord is our strength. So always, always *Keep Your Eyes on Jesus!*

(December 17, 2012)

Copyright © 2012 by John Newlin

[NOTE: This article may be copied, printed, or forwarded by email to others so long as it is copied, printed, or forwarded in its entirety with the appropriate attributions included. We in fact encourage you to do so and especially to give printed copies to those who you know would benefit and do not have access to computers.]