



Prophetic Observer

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Keeping Time On God's Prophetic Clock

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In Biden Bucks We Trust?

by James Collins

According to a recent poll from the Wall Street Journal, most Americans believe their economic situation is not good. With inflation being the overriding factor, over 80% of surveyed consumers described the economy as “poor” or “not so good.” It is easy to understand why people are concerned about the economy. The cost of living has increased significantly, supply chain issues have caused massive problems, and, despite low levels of unemployment, wages have not kept up.



investor, and former Central Intelligence Agency official who called it a step toward the end of cash. Rickards said, “The new ‘digital tokens’ can be ‘turned off’ if the government doesn’t like what you are doing.” He continued, “I call the digital dollar ‘Biden Bucks’ because I want him to take full credit for what I con-

Currency is Computerized

In addition to high inflation, most Americans are concerned about the national debt. The United States debt is astronomical. As I type this, it is currently at \$31.87 trillion. The debt increased by one million dollars in the time it took for me to type this sentence. The answer to the out-of-control debt is to ultimately make money in a digital form because it is easier for the government to control and tax without your permission. So, in March 2022, President Joe Biden signed Executive Order 14067, titled Ensuring Responsible Development of Digital Assets. This order mandates the Federal Reserve to explore the creation of a new American digital currency.

Some of America’s top economic experts, including Robert Kiyosaki, investment guru and author of the personal finance book “Rich Dad, Poor Dad,” have some choice words for President Joe Biden’s executive order 14067. Kiyosaki called Biden’s signed executive order “the most treasonous act in U.S. history.” He was joined by Jim Rickards, another economist,

consider to be crimes. This is not like the money in your online bank account. No, this is new and different. Every digital dollar will be a programmable token. When Biden Bucks are rolled out, many experts – myself included – believe they will begin an era of total government control and surveillance.” Rickards warned, “This is not hyperbole. This would dramatically expand the power and influence of the federal government... essentially acting as a new type of ‘spyware.’”

These Biden Bucks will allow the government to force you to comply with their agenda. If you do not, they can turn off your money. If the government discovers you are giving to an organization or ministry they don’t agree with, they can turn off your money. If you pay to put fossil fuels in your gasoline powered automobile instead of driving a government mandated electric vehicle, they can turn off your money. If you want to buy an AR15 rifle, they can turn off your money. Biden Bucks will essentially allow the government to control all your buying and selling.

A recent survey said only 10 percent of Americans carry cash. The worldwide movement toward electronic payments has been breathtaking. For most of us, if our bank unexpectedly froze our accounts, we would be in deep trouble. With

electronic banking and digital currencies such as Biden Bucks, the technology is in place where it is possible for one person to have total control of all monetary transactions on earth.

Culture is Cashless

The Bible teaches that there is coming a day when the final one-world ruler, the Antichrist will control all buying and selling during the seven-year Tribulation. We read in Revelation, “And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.” (Revelation 13:16-17). What does it mean that “no man might buy or sell?” It clearly means that NOBODY ANYWHERE will be able to buy or sell ANYTHING unless they subordinate themselves to the “beast.”

Control is Certain

Those who refuse the mark of the beast will be shut out of the global economy. They will be unable to buy or sell anything without it (Revelation 13:17). Some will even face beheading for their refusal to accept it (Revelation 20:4). After the Antichrist enters the Temple and declares himself God (2 Thessalonians 2:4), he will require everyone on earth to accept the mark (Revelation 13:16). Accepting the mark will be a pledge of allegiance to the Antichrist. All who accept the mark will display it on their right hand or their forehead (Revelation 13:16). This will make it easy for society to identify them. The world will blacklist anyone who refuses the mark. Every buying and selling transaction will be linked to it. As a result, those without it will be unable to buy or sell anything (Revelation 13:17). This will put enormous social pressure on people to accept the mark.

Think about it. Imagine if you couldn't buy or sell anything. How would you get food to survive? How would you get shelter, clothes, and the necessities of life? The pressure for most people will be too much to bear. They will give in and accept the mark. It's likely only committed Christians will refuse the mark. In some cases, the consequences will be worse than economic. Some people will be martyred for their refusal to accept the mark (Revelation 20:4).

Coinage is Changing

In the midst of our current economic crisis, the United States Mint has released a new quarter. The iconic portrait of U.S. President George Washington on United States quarters

has become an unwavering symbol of our nation's strength, resolve, and economic might since its introduction in 1932. Over the years, the quarter has gone through many changes. In 1965, the quarter changed from being made of 90% silver to being made from worthless nickel-coated copper. In 1999, the eagle on the reverse of the quarter was traded for a series of new designs including states, parks, and national landmarks. However, since 1932 the image of Washington on the front of the coin has remained virtually unchanged.

Now, the unforgettable design of our first president is being tossed out of the window for something entirely new in 2022. The old portrait of Washington has been replaced with a new one. Ironically, the new quarters picture the founding father turning his back on our national motto, “In God We Trust.” While there is no clear indication that Washington's turn from our national motto was an intentional part of the design, the symbolism is overwhelming. America has turned its back on God.

Confidence in Chaos

The official motto of the United States of America, as established in a 1956 law signed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, is “In God We Trust.” It is easy to say, and easy to read, but it is not always easy to live. Will you still trust God if your spouse abandons you? Will you still trust God if you get a bad diagnosis from the doctor? Will you still trust God if you lose your job? Will you still trust God as the economy continues to slide toward a depression? Will you still trust God as we move closer to the end of this age?

David was a man who experienced many heartaches. Just because he was a man after God's own heart doesn't mean his life was easy. David wrote Psalm 56 while fearing for his life, and in Psalm 56:3, he shared the key to overcoming danger and difficulty: “What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.” Fear turns into faith when we place our trust in God. Turning to friends, family, and experts is not a bad thing, but turning to God is the best thing. If we will put our trust in God, in good times and bad, we will begin to see how deeply He cares for us and how He really can work all things together for our good and His glory (Romans 8:28).

Despite the terrible economy, Biden Bucks, a godless culture, and the signs pointing to the rise of the Antichrist and the beginning of the seven-year Tribulation, we can still say, “In God We Trust.”

When Winning Is Not Enough – Part I

Pastor Larry Spargimino, Ph.D.

Matthew chapters 5-7 provide us with Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Can we learn anything about living in the modern world from the Sermon on the Mount? Could it be that our best advice for living in these desperate days with confidence and joy is embedded in the secret of the Sermon on the Mount? I believe the answer to these important questions is a resounding "yes." We live in a day when winning is not enough. Jesus built His famous ethical teaching on that truth. I think that is why the Sermon on the Mount is so controversial. Some Christians don't even believe it is for today. Everybody wants to win.

Global Nuclear War In October of 1962?

There have been several studies on the effects of a global nuclear war. Why have there been such studies? Because there is a high likelihood that nuclear war will happen. I hope we are all aware of that. It's part of winning, at least that's what some misguided individuals think.

October 27, 1962 was perhaps the most dangerous day in human history. That morning a U2-F reconnaissance aircraft was shot down by the Soviets over Cuba. Everyone was on edge. What was next?

That very afternoon a Soviet sub, the B-59, was detected trying to break the blockade that the US Navy had established around Cuba. The destroyer, USS Beale, dropped practice depth charges in an attempt to make the sub surface. The captain, Valentin Savitsky, thought his submarine was under attack and gave orders to prepare the sub's nuclear torpedo for launch at the USS Randolph, an American aircraft carrier. By Soviet protocol, all three officers aboard the B-59 had to agree to a launch. Vasili Arkhipov, the sub's second in command, disagreed with the two other officers. He convinced the captain to surface and to await further orders from Moscow. Officer Arkhipov knew that winning is not enough

About ten years later I pastored a church in the Florida Keys, located about 90 miles from Havana. People in the congregation remembered the Cuban missile crisis. They saw the military convey head south on Highway 1 to Key West. They saw the trucks loaded with soldiers and missiles. Everyone was nervous. Two years earlier, in October 1960, Nikita Khrushchev, had angrily taken his shoe off and pounded on the table at the UN. People remembered: "We don't even have basements. What will happen to us?" One old saint of God told me later that she thought this was Armageddon.

Global Nuclear War in 2022?

And now there is a new bully on the block: China. Four times in the last 13 months Biden has made a public pledge to defend Taiwan, breaking with four decades of "strategic ambiguity" regarding our military stance in the defense of Taiwan. China has taken note of that and has recently rattled its nuclear sabers.

All the studies report that the effects of a nuclear war would far exceed the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. A nuclear detonation in the atmosphere produces intense heat. Homes, forests, farms and people would be incinerated. Radiation would alter the human genome. There would be a nuclear winter. No one would be talking about global warming. There would be severe global cooling caused by the ashes, dust and soot blocking out the sun's rays. In addition to all the other effects, there would be world-wide famine. Nothing would grow in this nuclear winter. So, who would instigate a nuclear war? Is anyone a likely candidate?

The war in Ukraine has been very costly for Russia. Russia is not doing well. Mr. Putin is desperate. He sees himself as the "Savior of Mother Russia" protecting the homeland from Western degeneracy and sweeping radical changes like same-sex "marriage" and transgender "rights," all coming from America and our NATO allies.

When Putin became President, Boris Yeltsin said, "Vladimir, take care of Mother Russia." But Vladimir is not taking very good care of Mother Russia. Thousands of Russian soldiers have died. Their parents are unhappy. The economic sanctions imposed on Russia are affecting everyone. Why is Russia suffering one setback after another? Because of the weapons and military technology that the West has been sending to the Ukrainians. The war is looking more and more like a military conflict between Russia and the United States.

Putin and some of his generals believe that Russia must not lose face. They are not doing very well on the ground. Their tanks are being devastated. Their military trucks are equipped with tires that should have been retired long ago. Russia has one last hope: It's impressive nuclear arsenal and delivery systems that are the best in the world. Putin needs to read Jesus. He would learn that winning is not enough.

Jesus and the Sermon On The Mount (Matthew 5-7)

Jesus did not give the Sermon on the Mount to heads of states

and top military strategists in warring nations. He gave it to people like you and me. Even in human relationships—between husbands and wives, employers and employees, Democrats and Republicans—the lesson is still the same. We all face situations in which winning is not enough.

There are some Christians – perhaps many more who won't admit it—who believe that the Sermon on the Mount is not for us today. What Jesus teaches is for a future time of relative peace on earth. “Turning the other cheek,” they say, “will certainly not work in a rough and tumble world.”

But is Jesus giving instructions for living in an ideal world? What about Matthew 5:10: “Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake”? Obviously, the Lord is speaking about times like today. And what about the words, “Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake”? (Matt. 5:11).

Personally, I have trouble agreeing with some of the brethren that the words of Jesus in three whole, marvelous chapters are not really for me, nor for saints living today. Are we missing something in the Sermon on the Mount? Are we being convicted by the Spirit of God and quenching His blessed work because we think the standards that Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, are above and beyond us?

The Same Jesus

Christians are sometimes confused by the Sermon on the Mount. Can anyone follow its teachings in a dog-eat-dog world?

Remember—the same Jesus who said that we are to “turn the other cheek” also said go and buy a sword (Lk. 22:36). The same Jesus who said He was “gentle” (Matt. 11:29) drove the money changers out of the Temple on two separate occasions (John 2:15; Matt. 21:12-13).

Jesus warned that calling someone a fool puts that person in jeopardy of hellfire, but in Matthew 23:17 Jesus called Israel's religious leaders “blind fools.” Jesus spoke about gouging out your eye rather than harboring lust in your heart, but we can't miss the fact that no one in the New Testament took Him literally. It never became a practice in the early church. No comments were made about it in the epistles. It was seen as a metaphor of sin's seriousness, not a directive to follow.

Barking Dogs And Toxic People

Noah Hutchings, who led Southwest Radio Church for more than half a century, came from Southeast Oklahoma. He had several sayings that would make you chuckle. One that fits the purpose of this article: “Don't throw stones at every

barking dog.” I ride a bicycle and meet a lot of barking dogs. If I stopped to throw stones I wouldn't do much riding.

Jesus was not like some of our modern preacher-boy heroes who are good at barnstorming and advance bill their meetings, who skillfully craft amazing stories that tell of their victories. It's amazing to me how many times Jesus dealt with difficult situations by just walking away. Just to cite one example, Mathew 12:14-15: “Then the Pharisees went out, and held a council against him, how they might destroy him. But when Jesus knew it, he withdrew himself from thence.”

The Pharisees were a good example of toxic people. Jesus was in ministry for about three years. I've been in ministry for more than fifty. I learn so much from Him. We both have met many toxic people.

You and I will always meet toxic people. Should we go to war over every comment they make? Should we call them out from the pulpit, in the Sunday school classroom and in the parking lot?

If you are not careful toxic people will bait you, challenge you, drive you to the edge—but only if you let them. There are certain people who drain us, demean us, and distract us. Long after they are gone we are still struggling with them in our minds, and trying to flush their words from our hearts. They can keep us awake, steal our joy and shatter our peace. If we let them they can make us weaker spiritually, and fill us with feelings of guilt. We even end up feeling that we have been failures. Their shadows invade our private times of prayer, and even our times of public praise and worship.

Yes, the world is on the brink of disaster. We've had the COVID pandemic. The global warming alarmists tell us the polar ice caps are melting and coastal cities will soon be underwater. Daddy Kim in North Korea will nuke us, and so on. But, perhaps, more likely for many, your neighbor will sue you, you will face a church split, your spouse might walk out on you, and your teenager will end up in jail—or perhaps you will ride the golden street of success. Whatever happens, we need to remember that winning is not enough.

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