

Discerning the Times: February 17, 2021

A number of things to highlight this morning and I'm thankful for people who either send me links and/or information on current events or to those places where I've signed up to receive emailed newsletters. It's impossible to be on the lookout for everything that happens in this world in every area. Such as it is, I still have to pick and choose what I'll focus in on here.

Last Word on Ravi

Received an email from the folks at [Watchman's Bagpipes](#) who routinely highlight false teachers and others whom we should mark and avoid. Unfortunately, the same people keep showing up because of their additional falsehoods that need to be highlighted. It must get tiring highlighting these same folks who are doing nothing but leading people astray with their false teachings and outright lies in many cases.

The person I want to focus on here is Ravi Zacharias. I'm greatly saddened and as I noted in my [last article dealing with him](#), I waited for a bit to even broach the subject of his sexual sins simply because I wanted to wait for the evidence to come in and it has. As the folks at Watchman's Bagpipes notes, [Elizabeth Prata](#) probably has the last word on the subject, so I highlight her website to inform my readers who can go there and learn of the facts of the situation.

I'll say this...I feel extremely sorry for Ravi's wife, who clearly convinced her and many around him in the Ravi Zacharias ministry that he loved his wife with all his heart and had never been unfaithful. Turns out, he *was* unfaithful many times over and lived his life in such a way as to deliberately hide his sexual proclivities, going so far as to have multiple cell phones, numerous email addresses and used higher tech apps that allowed his communications to be encrypted and when deleted, there was no trace of content in the texts and pictures he deleted, but simply code that said something had been there. In spite of that, private investigators hired by the ministry were able to forensically search his phones and email accounts and the picture that developed was disturbing in nature.

As far as Ravi is concerned, some might be tempted to say, "Hey, we are *all* sinners, who can judge?!" I'd readily agree that we are all sinners - including me. However, an authentic Christian who is deeply concerned about their relationship with the Living God, does not *continue* to willingly practice sin and make provision for it! The Christian does not encourage him/herself to live in sin. The Christian flees from sin as Joseph fled from Potiphar's wife! The Christian does not try to figure out ways to *hide* their ongoing sin and create opportunities to sin *more*! (Luke 25:17; Proverbs 26:11; Romans 16:17; Matthew 18:17; 2 John 1:10).

Yes, we all sin. That is fact, but there is a huge difference between sinning accidentally in the heat of the moment and making opportunities to do sin and to cover up that sin. Ravi Zacharias apparently lived a lifestyle of shame *because* of his sexual sins. He made opportunity for those sins by entrapping women who became dependent upon him as a "father figure." He bought them expensive gifts and/or paid for their rent or schooling in exchange for their sexual favors and a promise to keep things secret. He owned two massage parlors. Why?

It brings me no joy to highlight these things, but they need to be highlighted. There are too many leaders within Christendom who need to be seriously censured and even removed from their positions as leaders for their sins, falsehoods and errant teaching. Yet, when some try to lovingly question or point out potential problems, they are often attacked by the leader or those who follow those leaders and are eviscerated. This is what happened to the one woman (of many), who chose to come out with her story and her name. Ravi Zacharias ministries essentially took her to court even though a private investigation firm has proven that the woman was correct. Even some within Ravi Zacharias Ministries were treated as lepers by Ravi after suggesting that he should not travel with a female massage therapist because of the way it might *look*. Apparently, Ravi responded in anger and threats against those who were trying to help him remain above board.

I've always had great concern over leaders who have millions of followers and by whom those followers swear allegiance and ultimately uphold them as examples of Christian perfection. This is nothing less than idolatry and it needs to stop. I have found that regardless of how well they often start out, they eventually veer off course because of the sheer numbers of people who attach themselves to their "ministry." Anymore, anyone who has a ministry named after themselves is something I normally shy away from because it appears to me that they are elevating not Jesus but themselves. Put plainly, I'm sick of it.

We need to pray that Ravi Zacharias Ministry will do the right thing. I applaud them for hiring private investigators and giving them freedom to find the facts, but more needs to be done. I cannot imagine how the people who work at that ministry must feel knowing that the founder of that ministry lived a double life and did so purposefully for many years. I cannot imagine how bereft Ravi's wife must feel, realizing now that the man she married and gave her heart to gave his heart to numerous other women, yet denying that he did so. Now that he is dead, the truth has come out. It's too bad that it hadn't come out while he was alive because there could have been repentance on his part and a willingness to step down from public ministry. It seems however, that the most important thing to Ravi was protecting the appearance of his reputation. I cannot imagine how Jesus Himself must feel that this particular leader lived such a life while professing to know and love Jesus.

It would not surprise me if we learn of others who live this same type of lie or other lies. Pray for these leaders that they will do what is necessary to return to God for many have wandered, which is clear from what they teach even if we cannot see beyond the veil they've constructed.

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society

Weird name, right? It's a period movie released in 2018, my wife and I watched the other night. [IMDb](#) has this for a summary:

In the aftermath of World War II, a writer forms an unexpected bond with the residents of Guernsey Island when she decides to write a book about their experiences during the war.

So why am I highlighting this movie? Namely because it is based on historical truth, something that is often lacking in most of today's movies. Because history is not taught in schools anymore, the current young generation has literally no truthful clue about Hitler, Nazis and what the Nazis

did to overcome many parts of society in Europe in their aggression and how they ultimately killed over 6 million Jews and millions of other people in their attempts to become the Aryan race of superiors. Ask any young person today what a Nazi is and they'll probably tell you it's someone who voted for Donald J. Trump.

Hitler was an Aryan supremacist and used his own fanaticism to dominate and attempt to unite the German people. Many Germans bought into willingly while the rest obeyed out of fear. We know that fear has a tremendous ability to make people do what they would not otherwise do and we see that happening in society today as well. Did you know that after WWII, many German scientists who worked in Hitler's regime secretly came to the USA and continued their work? It was called [Operation Paperclip](#) and though some on the Left try to negate these claims, facts say otherwise.

What is fascinating about this movie is a very short piece of it that sets the tone for how the Nazis worked to imprison societies they sought to overtake. The narrative involves the island of Guernsey, which came under German occupation. The Germans did a number of things to instill fear and enslave the people there. First, they took all their *meat* sources including pigs raised by individuals on their own small farms. The Nazis, gave these farmers bags of potatoes to plant in "exchange" for the pigs they stole from them.

So, the Nazis controlled the food supply on the island. Second, and probably even more important was the Nazis prohibited anyone from being out after curfew or from traveling. People who got together for any reason must have written permission from the Nazis to do so. Society was tightly controlled. What this meant was that not only did the Nazis control the food supply but they actually removed people's ability to get together and *fellowship*. One group caught by the Nazis after gathering to eat a stolen pig quickly came up with the "name" of their group - The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society. This allowed them to continue gathering.

Does any of this sound familiar to you for today? We are in a war against "Nazis" who have decided that they must keep us apart through what they've termed "social distancing," and for our own "safety." We cannot gather in church. We cannot gather in homes. We cannot eat in many restaurants. Fellowship is off limits to keep us "safe." The more our gathering together can be controlled, the greater the fear that is instilled and the less chance people can band together to overthrow those who are controlling us.

What about food? Have they taken that over yet? Not completely, but they are clearly working on it. Bill Gates - yeah, the computer nerd - now says that we should eat plant-based meats in lieu of the real thing and that we'll get used to the taste. He also now owns just under [300,000 acres of farmland](#) throughout the United States. What's he got planned? With major outages in Texas and other states, experts are warning us of a coming food shortage. Gee, really? Interestingly enough, the Texas grid went down because it is "green-based" meaning windmills and solar panels are the norm, which won't work that well in huge winter storms as we are now seeing. Turbine blades are frozen and snow covers solar panels. Joe Biden just stopped the Keystone Pipeline as well. The USA is again becoming energy dependent on foreign nations.

If people knew history, it might not repeat itself as often as it does, but the best way to keep people from seeing these repeats is by not teaching actual history. It's so simple even a cave man could do it and it is being done right before our very eyes.