

Eye on the World

Dec. 2, 2017

This compilation of material for "Eye on the World" is presented as a service to the Churches of God. The views stated in the material are those of the writers or sources quoted by the writers, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the members of the Church of God Big Sandy. The following articles were posted at churchofgodbigandy.com for the weekend of December 2, 2017.

Compiled by Dave Havir

Luke 21:34-36—"But take heed to yourselves, lest your souls be weighed down with self-indulgence, and drunkenness, or the anxieties of this life, and that day come on you suddenly, like a falling trap; for it will come on all dwellers on the face of the whole earth. But beware of slumbering; and every moment pray that you may be fully strengthened to escape from all these coming evils, and to take your stand in the presence of the Son of Man" (Weymouth New Testament).



A Reuters article by Christine Kim and Phil Stewart titled "N. Korea Says 'Breakthrough' Puts U.S. Mainland Within Range of Nuclear Weapon" was posted at reuters.com on Nov. 29, 2017. Following is the article.

North Korea said it successfully tested a new intercontinental ballistic missile on Wednesday in a "breakthrough" that puts the U.S. mainland within range of its nuclear weapons whose warheads could withstand re-entry to the Earth's atmosphere.

North Korea's first missile test since mid-September came a week after U.S. President Donald Trump put North Korea back on a U.S. list of countries it says support terrorism, allowing it to impose more sanctions.

North Korea, which also conducted its sixth and largest nuclear test in September, has tested dozens of ballistic missiles under its leader, Kim Jong Un, in defiance of international sanctions. The latest was the highest and longest any North Korean missile had flown, landing in the sea near Japan.

North Korea said the new missile reached an altitude of about 4,475 km (2,780 miles)—more than 10 times the height of the International Space Station—and flew 950 km (590 miles) during its 53-minute flight.

"After watching the successful launch of the new type ICBM Hwasong-15, Kim Jong Un declared with pride that now we have finally realized the great historic cause of completing the state nuclear force, the cause of building a rocket power," according to a statement read by a television presenter.

State media said the missile was launched from a newly developed vehicle and that the warhead could withstand the pressure of re-entering the atmosphere.

Kim personally guided the missile test and said the new launcher was "impeccable," state media said. He described the new vehicle as a "breakthrough."

North Korea also described itself as a "responsible nuclear power," saying its strategic weapons were developed to defend itself from "the U.S. imperialists' nuclear blackmail policy and nuclear threat."

The U.N. Security Council was scheduled to meet on Wednesday to discuss the launch.

Many nuclear experts say the North has yet to prove it has mastered all technical hurdles, including the ability to deliver a heavy nuclear warhead reliably atop an ICBM, but it was likely that it soon would.

"We don't have to like it, but we're going to have to learn to live with North Korea's ability to target the United States with nuclear weapons," said Jeffrey Lewis, head of the East Asia Nonproliferation Program at the Middlebury Institute of Strategic Studies.

Threaten everywhere

U.S., Japanese and South Korean officials all agreed the missile, which landed within Japan's exclusive economic zone, was likely an ICBM. The test did not pose a threat to the United States, its territories or allies, the Pentagon said.

"It went higher, frankly, than any previous shot they've taken, a research and development effort on their part to continue building ballistic missiles that can threaten everywhere in the world, basically," U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis told reporters at the White House.

Trump spoke by phone with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and South Korean President Moon Jae-In, with all three reaffirming their commitment to combat the North Korean threat.

"It is a situation that we will handle," Trump told reporters.

Trump, who was briefed on the missile while it was in flight, said it did not change his administration's approach to North Korea, which has included new curbs to hurt trade between China and North Korea.

Abe and Moon, in a separate telephone call, said they would "no longer tolerate" North Korea's increasing threats and would tighten sanctions, the South's presidential office said.

All options

Washington has said repeatedly that all options, including military ones, are on the table in dealing with North Korea while stressing its desire for a peaceful solution.

“Diplomatic options remain viable and open, for now,” U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said.

Other than enforcing existing U.N. sanctions, “the international community must take additional measures to enhance maritime security, including the right to interdict maritime traffic” travelling to North Korea, Tillerson said in a statement.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres strongly condemned the launch.

“This is a clear violation of Security Council resolutions and shows complete disregard for the united view of the international community,” his spokesman said in a statement.

China, North Korea’s lone major ally, expressed “grave concern” at the test, while calling for all sides to act cautiously.

In Moscow, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov also urged all sides to stay calm, saying this was necessary to avoid a worst-case scenario on the Korean peninsula.

U.S. east coast in range

The new Hwasong-15, named after the planet Mars, was a more advanced version of an ICBM tested twice in July, North Korea said. It was designed to carry a “super-large heavy warhead.”

Based on its trajectory and distance, the missile would have a range of more than 13,000 km (8,100 miles)—more than enough to reach Washington D.C. and the rest of the United States, the U.S.-based Union of Concerned Scientists said.

However, it was unclear how heavy a payload the missile was carrying, and it was uncertain if it could carry a large nuclear warhead that far, the non-profit science advocacy group added.

Minutes after the North fired the missile, South Korea’s military said it conducted a missile-firing test in response.

Moon said the launch had been anticipated. There was no choice but for countries to keep applying pressure, he added.

“The situation could get out of control if North Korea perfects its ICBM technology,” Moon said after a national security council meeting.

“North Korea shouldn’t miscalculate the situation and threaten South Korea with a nuclear weapon, which could elicit a possible pre-emptive strike by the United States.”

The test comes less than three months before South Korea hosts the Winter Olympics at a resort just 80 km (50 miles) from the heavily fortified border with the North.

North Korea has said its weapons programmes are a necessary defence against U.S. plans to invade. The United States, which has 28,500 troops in South Korea as a legacy of the 1950-53 Korean war, denies any such intention.

Last week, North Korea denounced Trump's decision to relist it as a state sponsor of terrorism, calling it a "serious provocation and violent infringement."

Trump has traded insults and threats with Kim and warned in September that the United States would have no choice but to "totally destroy" North Korea if forced to defend itself or its allies.



A Reuters article titled "China Expresses 'Grave Concern' Over North Korean Missile Test" was posted at reuters.com. Following is the short article.

China expressed "grave concern" on Wednesday after North Korea fired what appeared to be an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) that landed close to Japan.

China hopes all parties act cautiously to preserve peace and stability, foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told a regular news briefing.



An article by Patrick Goodenough titled "Iran to Europe: Don't Challenge Our 'Defensive' Missiles or We'll Extend Their Range" was posted at cnsnews.com on Nov. 28, 2017. Following is the article.

A senior commander of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has warned European governments not to challenge its ballistic missile program unless it wants Iran to boost its missile capabilities to bring Europe within range.

Brigadier-General Hossein Salami, the IRGC's number two, said the regime currently limits the range of its missiles as a policy decision, not because it lacks the know-how to extend them.

"We tell the European countries that if we have confined the range of our missiles to 2,000 km until today and have not increased it any further, it is not because of a lack of technology, because we have no limitations for the range of our missiles in technological terms," he told state television at the weekend.

"But as all our actions derive from a strategic logic, our missiles' range is limited to the regions of threat," he added.

Iran does not now regard Europe as a threat, Salami said

“But if Europe wants to turn into a threat, the range of our missiles will increase,” he continued, adding that Iran respects European countries and “they should respect us too.”

Iranian state media said Salami referred in his comments to demands from certain European countries for talks on Iran’s missile program.

“If the Europeans want to enter the sanctum of our missiles, we may drop this limitation to the [missile] range.”

Earlier this month French President Emmanuel Macron during a visit to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates—both hostile critics of the regime in Tehran—expressed support for the Iran nuclear deal but said it should be “complemented” by adding measures relating to Iran’s missile programs.

“There are negotiations we need to start on Iran’s ballistic missiles,” Macron was quoted as saying in Riyadh.

Salami said in the television interview that Iran “will never negotiate” over its missile program which, he said, “guarantees our security, independence, and diplomatic power.”

At Iran’s insistence and with Moscow’s support, the Obama administration and its partners in the talks that produced the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) agreed to leave missiles off the table in the negotiations.

A subsequent U.N. Security Council resolution that endorsed the JCPOA included a provision saying Iran was “called upon” not to develop or launch ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons.

In so doing, resolution 2231 watered down earlier resolutions—which it also replaced—which had used stronger language, saying that Iran “shall not” undertake such activity.

The Obama State Department said numerous missile launches carried out after the deal was struck were “in defiance of” resolution 2231, but Iran pointed to the “called upon” language, described it as non-binding, and shrugged off the criticism.

The other parties to the JCPOA—France, Britain, Germany, Russia and China—have all rejected President Trump’s calls for the deal to be renegotiated, but Macron’s comments in the Gulf came closest to agreeing that more work is needed.

The French president’s remarks drew a sharp response from IRGC commander Major-General Ali Jafari, who told reporters he put it down to Macron’s “youth and naiveté,” and added that he would soon learn that such calls were pointless.

Iran would never hold talks on its missile power, he said, reiterating the regime’s position that the missiles were purely “defensive” in nature.

Even keeping within the supposed 2,000 km limit, depending on launchpad location Iranian missiles could already reach south-eastern Europe, including parts of Turkey, Greece, Ukraine, Bulgaria and Romania—not to mention U.S. troops and allies in the Middle East.

“Iran has the largest ballistic missile force in the Middle East and can strike targets up to 2,000 kilometers from Iran’s borders,” Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats said in a report to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence last May.

A range of 3,000 km could threaten Poland and Central Europe, Italy and parts of Germany.

The European ballistic missile defense (BMD) shield being rolled out by NATO entails missile interceptors in Poland and Romania, as well as Aegis ships in the Mediterranean and a radar installation in Turkey. The Pentagon says it is designed to protect U.S. troops and allies against the threat of missiles launched by Iran.

Late last month the U.S. House of Representatives Thursday passed by a vote of 423 to two new sanctions legislation targeting Iran’s ballistic missiles, for the first time including restrictions on entry into the U.S. of anyone found to be supplying or financing the missile program.

The bill is now being considered by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.



An article by Shoshana Kranish titled “Report: Israel Vows to Destroy Iranian Positions Within 40 KM of Syrian Border” was posted at jpost.com on Nov. 26, 2017. Following is the article.

Syrian President Bashar Assad reportedly offered Netanyahu a comprehensive deal that would include a demilitarized zone stretching 40 kilometers from the border.

Kuwaiti newspaper Al Jarida revealed on Sunday that an Israeli source disclosed a promise from Jerusalem to destroy all Iranian facilities within 40 kilometers (25 miles) of Israel’s Golan Heights.

The source, who remains unnamed, said that during Syrian President Bashar Assad’s surprise visit to Russia last week, Assad gave Russian Premier Vladimir Putin a message for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu: Damascus will agree to a demilitarized zone of up to 40 kilometers from the border in the Golan Heights as part of a comprehensive agreement between the two countries, but only if Israel does not work to remove Assad’s regime from power.

The report also claims that Putin then called Netanyahu to relay the message, and that the Israeli prime minister said he would be willing to accept the deal, but that Israel’s goal of eradicating Iran and Hezbollah from the country would remain.

According to the source, Jerusalem sees Assad as the last president of the Alawite community, indicating that a change of regime in Syria—at least towards a government less-linked to Iran—would be favorable for Israel. The Alawites are a minority Shi'ite community in Syria, and have long been supported by Iran, which seeks to extend its influence from the Gulf across the region to the Mediterranean.

The source also commented that after the defeat of the Islamic State, the conflict in Syria would become “more difficult,” likely pointing towards a vacuum that would be left without the group. Russian, Syrian and Iranian-backed forces have been fighting against ISIS, while also seeking to knock out rebel groups that oppose the current regime. Russia’s stated interests have been in line with Iran’s in wanting to keep Assad in power.

Israel has participated mostly on the periphery of the war in Syria, responding to fire on the northern border and occasionally bombing positions, including a weapons depot and scientific research center that allegedly produces chemical weapons. Damascus and Jerusalem have exchanged heated remarks as well, with Netanyahu threatening to bomb Assad’s palace, and Syrian officials warning of “dangerous repercussions” to Israeli strikes on Syrian targets.

Over the course of the war, Israel has operated several field hospitals near the Syrian border, where those injured from the war are treated and subsequently returned to Syria. Some of those who have been treated have been rebels fighting against the Assad regime, leading some to say that Israel is assisting the rebels to unseat Assad.



An article titled “Saudi Arabia Kicks Off Islamic Counter-Intelligence Summit” was posted at breitbart.com on Nov. 26, 2017. Following is the article.

Saudi Arabia gathered officials from 40 Muslim countries on Sunday in the first meeting of an Islamic counter-terrorism alliance, a move Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman declared a “clear signal” to extremism.

“In past years, terrorism has been functioning in all of our countries . . . with no coordination” among them, he said in his keynote speech.

“This ends today, with this alliance.”

Prince Mohammed said the 40 countries were sending a “clear signal” that they would “work together to support the military, financial, intelligence and political efforts of every member state.”

The summit is the first meeting of defence ministers and other senior officials from the Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition, which officially counts 41 members.

The alliance was announced in 2015 under the auspices of Prince Mohammed, whose rapid ascent since his appointment as heir to the throne in June has shaken the political scene across the region.

The alliance groups largely, although not exclusively, Sunni-majority or Sunni-ruled countries.

It excludes Saudi Arabia's arch-rival, Shiite-dominated Iran, as well as Syria and Iraq, whose leaders have close ties to Tehran.

Sunday's meeting coincides with an escalation in tensions between Riyadh and Tehran, particularly over wars in Syria and Yemen and the political structure of multi-confessional Lebanon.

Saudi Arabia accuses Iran of supporting armed groups across the Middle East, including Lebanon's Shiite Hezbollah and Yemen's Huthi rebels.

The meeting also comes as several military coalitions, with backers including both Iran and key Saudi ally the United States, close in on the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria.

The alliance meeting in Riyadh brings together Muslim or Muslim-majority nations including Afghanistan, Uganda, Somalia, Mauritania, Lebanon, Libya, Yemen and Turkey.

Retired Pakistani general Raheel Sharif has been appointed commander-in-chief.

While the alliance officially includes Qatar, which is the target of a six-month boycott led by Saudi Arabia, organisers in Riyadh said no Qatari officials were present at the meeting.

Qatar's flag was also absent.

Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Egypt and Bahrain—all members of the counter terrorism alliance—abruptly cut diplomatic and trade ties with Qatar in June, accusing the emirate of being too close to Iran and supporting Islamist extremism.

Qatar denies the allegations.



An article by Patrick Goodenough titled "Pakistan Submits to Hardliners Again: 'We Shall Die to Protect the Honor of the Prophet'" was posted at cnsnews.com on Nov. 30, 2017. Following is the article.

Pakistani authorities have done a deal with Muslim radicals who paralyzed the capital to protest a proposed law change, which they suspected was designed to appease a sect regarded as heretical.

The agreement ending the 21-day-long sit-in at a major thoroughfare near Islamabad, which senior military officers helped mediate, amounted to accept-

ance of the protesters' demands, including the resignation of the federal law minister whom they blame for the botched attempt to change the law.

It was the latest of a long series of government capitulation to Muslim hard-liners, enraged by what they view as blasphemy and slights to Mohammed, the 7th century founder of Islam. Last week a court ordered the release of a radical accused by the U.S. and India of masterminding a deadly terrorist attack in Mumbai nine years ago.

Concerns about the blasphemy laws and related intolerance have long prompted calls by religious freedom campaigners for the U.S. government to blacklist Pakistan for religious freedom violations—to no avail so far.

Pakistan is a major recipient of U.S. foreign aid.

At the center of the latest controversy was a small wording change to election laws.

Candidates for elections have customarily been required to affirm their belief in the "finality of the prophethood of Mohammed."

But whereas in the past they were expected to take an oath including the words "I . . . do solemnly swear," an amendment changed the wording to "I believe."

After an uproar erupted, the government blamed a "clerical error" and it was quickly reversed by parliament. But radicals took to the streets, demanding a more serious response, including the sacking of the person they hold responsible, law minister Zahid Hamid.

The mass protests were led by a radical group calling itself the Movement in Service to the Messenger of Allah, and protestors' chants included, "We will die to protect the honor of the prophet."

A police attempt on Saturday to break up the protest—after participants ignored government ultimatums to vacate the area—ended in violence, triggering sympathy protests elsewhere in Pakistan.

Hamid then resigned on Monday, and under the deal ending the protests the government also agreed to release protestors who had been detained, and an inquiry into Saturday's failed bid to evict the protestors.

They also secured an agreement for an investigation into the attempt to change the wording.

Critics saw the abortive wording change as an attempt to accommodate Ahmadis, members of a Muslim sect that is considered heretical by mainstream Muslims.

Ahmadis recognize a 19th century Indian religious leader, Mirza Ghulam Ahmadi, as a Muslim messenger or messiah, a belief that contradicts the Muslim doctrine that Mohammed was the "last" prophet sent by Allah.

Although the movement claims millions of adherents in some 200 countries—mostly in South Asia and Africa—it is an often-persecuted minority in Paki-

stan, where the Bareilvi school of Sunni Islam holds extreme views regarding blasphemy and shari'a.

Pakistan's constitution declares Ahmadis to be "non-Muslims," and Ahmadi worship is a criminal offense under the penal code.

In addition to his resignation, law minister Hamid posted a video message online pleading for forgiveness for upsetting religious sentiments, and emphasizing that he does not regard Ahmadis as Muslims.

He also pledged that he and his family were prepared to "lay down our lives for the honor and sanctity" of Mohammed.

Absolute and unqualified finality

According to Pakistani media accounts, another amendment to the Election Act, approved by lawmakers, requires candidates to declare:

"I . . . do solemnly swear that I believe in the absolute and unqualified finality of the Prophethood of Muhammad (pbuh), the last of the prophets and that I am not the follower of anyone who claims to be a prophet in any sense of the word or of any description whatsoever after prophet Muhammad (pbuh), nor do I belong to the Qadiani group or Lahore group or call myself an Ahmadi."

PBUH stands for "peace be upon him." Qadiani is a pejorative name for Ahmadis, and the "Lahore group" is a small Ahmadi split-off.

In Pakistani media, the focus of new coverage is almost exclusively on the unorthodox involvement of the army in ending the protests—a sensitive issue in a country which for just under half of its history as an independent state has been under military rule.

Largely lost in the debate are questions of religious discrimination, or government capitulation to radicals.

Pakistan boasts some of the world's most controversial blasphemy laws, which carry the death penalty and are frequently used to target Ahmadis, Christians and other minorities.

When a lawmaker in the then-ruling party attempted in 2011 to get the laws amended, the risky effort was dropped weeks after a state governor was assassinated by a bodyguard who accused him of blasphemy.

The campaigning lawmaker, who had received death threats, lost the support of her own party, and the-then prime minister assured agitated Muslim leaders there would be no move to change the laws.

Last year the government again gave in to protestors who held a four-day sit-in near the federal parliament, assuring them it would not seek changes to the blasphemy laws or treat with leniency anyone convicted of blasphemy.

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, an independent watchdog that advises the federal government on religious freedom around the

world, has called every year since 2002 for the State Department to designate Pakistan as a “country of particular concern” for religious freedom violations.

The State Department each time has overruled the recommendation.



An article by Jon Fingas titled “Australia May Offer Facial Recognition Data to Telecoms and Banks” was posted at engadget.com on Nov. 26, 2017. Following is the article.

The concerns over government facial recognition systems don’t just revolve around the possibility of Orwellian control—it’s that they may share that data with others you don’t completely trust. Australia is learning this first-hand.

The Guardian has obtained documents showing that the country’s Attorney General office is talking to telecoms and banks about testing private use of the Facial Verification Service in 2018.

Companies would need to get your permission and would have to show that they’re honoring Australia’s Privacy Act, but they could otherwise use it to fight fraud or otherwise verify the identities of their customers.

The approach would be similar to the existing Document Verification Service, where companies pay a fee every time they want to verify info from documents like your driver’s license or passport.

Whether or not this goes forward depends on an independent privacy assessment. However, there are already a number of outstanding concerns about how this would be implemented, even in a country where facial recognition has seen relatively widespread adoption.

- Will a company clearly explain what happens if you agree to use facial recognition?
- Will they keep the data secure, and avoid selling it?
- And will they force customers to use the system if they want full access to services?

Permission won’t mean much if your choice is to either submit to a face scan or receive sub-par treatment.

This doesn’t mean that privacy could be dead in Australia. However, the government will need to show that it’s holding companies’ feet to the fire.

If there’s going to be facial recognition in the first place, it’s important to know that it won’t be hoarded or compromised by a data breach. And given other companies’ less-than-stellar security records, achieving that kind of confidence could require a lot of work.



A Reuters article by Kate Kelland titled "Europe's HIV Epidemic Growing at Alarming Rate, WHO Warns" was posted at reuters.com on Nov. 28, 2017. Following is the article.

The number of people newly diagnosed with HIV in Europe reached its highest level in 2016 since records began, showing the region's epidemic growing "at an alarming pace," health officials said on Tuesday.

That year, 160,000 people contracted the virus that causes AIDS in the 53 countries that make up the World Health Organization's European region, the agency said in a joint report with the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).

Around 80 percent of those were in eastern Europe, the report found.

"This is the highest number of cases recorded in one year. If this trend persists, we will not be able to achieve the . . . target of ending the HIV epidemic by 2030," the WHO's European regional director, Zsuzsanna Jakab, said in a statement.

The trend was particularly worrying, the organizations said, because many patients had already been carrying the HIV infection for several years by the time they were diagnosed, making the virus harder to control and more likely to have been passed on to others.

Early diagnosis is important with HIV because it allows people to start treatment with AIDS drugs sooner, increasing their chances of living a long and healthy life.

"Europe needs to do more in its HIV response," said ECDC director Andrea Ammon. She said the average time from estimated time of infection until a person is diagnosed is three years, "which is far too long."

The report said new strategies were needed to expand the reach of HIV testing—including self-testing services and testing provided by lay providers.

Almost 37 million people worldwide have the human immunodeficiency virus that causes AIDS. The majority of cases are in poorer regions such as Africa, where access to testing, prevention and treatment is more limited, but the HIV epidemic has also proved stubborn in wealthier regions like Europe.

The WHO European Region comprises 53 countries, with a population of nearly 900 million people.

The ECDC/WHO report found that over the past ten years, the rate of newly diagnosed HIV infections in this region has risen by 52 percent from 12 in every 100,000 of population in 2007 to 18.2 for every 100,000 in 2016.

That decade-long increase was "mainly driven by the continuing upward trend in the East," the report said.

An ECDC study published earlier this year also found that around one in six new cases of HIV diagnosed in Europe are in people over the age of 50.



An article by Michael W. Chapman titled "Poland to End Shopping on Sundays by 2020" was posted at cnsnews.com on Nov. 27, 2017. Following is the article.

In a bow to its Christian culture and the government's desire for families to spend more time together, the Polish government has passed legislation that will end shopping on Sundays by 2020, reported the *Catholic Herald* on Nov. 27.

Poland's religious makeup is 87% Catholic. In addition, there are about 507,000 Polish Orthodox Christians and 150,000 Protestants.

Poland's lower house of Parliament, the Sejm, passed the shopping day proposal last week by a vote of 254 to 156. The legislation would "restrict Sunday shopping to the first and last Sunday of the month until the end of 2018, only on the last Sunday in the month in 2019, and to ban it totally starting in 2020," reported the *Herald*.

However, the legislation would allow shopping on those Sundays that fall before a major holiday.

The bill now goes to the Polish Senate, where it is expected to pass, and then to President Andrzej Duda, who is expected to sign it into law.

The *Catholic Herald* further reported that the Polish Bishops' Conference was not entirely happy because it would like to see all people free from work on Sundays.

According to Catholic teaching, "Just as God 'rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had done,' human life has a rhythm of work and rest. The institution of the Lord's Day helps everyone enjoy adequate rest and leisure to cultivate their familial, cultural, social, and religious lives.

"On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are to refrain from engaging in work or activities that hinder the worship owed to God, the joy proper to the Lord's Day, the performance of the works of mercy, and the appropriate relaxation of mind and body."

Most Protestants and Orthodox Christians believe the same teaching. As it says in the Bible, "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God.

"On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy." (Exodus 20:8-11)

Also, Genesis 2:1-25 partly reads, "And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation."



An article by Timothy Meads titled "Carly Fiorina Slams the Politicization of Sexual Assault" was posted at townhall.com on Nov. 26, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

Carly Fiorina slammed the politicization of sexual assault on Fox News Sunday with Chris Wallace today. The former HP CEO and 2016 GOP presidential primary candidate called for institutional change, criticized both political parties, and even called out the former Fox News CEO Roger Ailes.

When asked why such sexual harassment occurs, Fiorina lamented the fact that in many circles it has been tantamount to an open secret.

■ "In virtually all of these cases, there has been corroboration of the women's cases. In virtually every case, it's not one woman who comes forward. I think what we all need to think about particularly men need to think about is that people knew. People knew it was going. You can't tell me no one knew it was going on with Roy Moore, or John Conyers, or Al Franken, or Charlie Rose, or Roger Ailes, or Howard Weinstein. (sic) I think the question going forward is, when are we going to stop tolerating this behavior and stop respecting the men who did it?"

The long time host of Fox News Sunday asked Fiorina about the Democrats' problems with senior ranking Democrats Sen. Al Franken (D-MN) and Rep. John Conyers (D-MI).

■ "First of all this behavior goes on all the time. In politics, in the work place, in athletics. And when we politicize it . . . it's not my team vs. your team. Republicans and Democrats alike are guilty of it," she told Wallace.

As for the process of reporting sexual harassment in Congress, Fiorina highlighted the long and tedious process it takes to even accuse a member of Congress of sexual harassment.

■ "I tell you the most helpful thing would be for Congress to change its own process. If someone wants to come forward and allege harassment or abuse, they must go through a mandatory 30 days of counseling, mandatory mediation, led by a lawyer whose express purpose is to protect the institution, and then maybe if they are lucky, they get a secret settlement paid for by taxpayers from the Treasury. That ought to change. That whole process is designed to protect politicians, democrats and Republicans, to protect the institution, and to make it next to impossible, for a woman, or in some cases a young boy, to come forward. That ought to change, that would actually help."

Wallace opened the segment by asking about President Donald Trump's apparent support for Alabama GOP senate candidate Roy Moore, despite the numerous accounts of sexual impropriety charged at the candidate.

■ "Well that's politics isn't it, Chris? This is all about politics. And that's why when politicians talk about (sexual harassment) they don't have a lot of credibility. This has been going on in politics for a very long time. It's a little bit like George Washington warned us 200 years ago, the problem with politics and political parties is they care about winning above all else. Donald Trump cares about a vote in the senate. No more, no less."

Sunday morning President Donald J. Trump seemed to confirm Fiorina's speculation that a large amount of his support for Moore is for a vote in the senate. He tweeted "Jones would be a disaster."

Fiorina also laid in to the fact that she, and every woman she knows, were at one point or another a victim of sexual harassment.

■ "Of course I was (sexually harassed). Every woman I know was . . . All women are not victims. But the power of men over women has been with us for a long time and we all know it."



"Eye on the World" comment: Through the years, there have been extraordinary examples of people excusing sexual sins of people who voted like they did. One of the most outrageous examples was Joy Behar in January of 2016.

■ A video and an article by Amanda Prestigiaco titled "*The View* Co-Host: I'd Vote for a Rapist Over a Conservative" were posted at dailywire.com on Jan. 5, 2016.

■ An article by Scott Whitlock titled "*The View's* Joy Behar: I'd Vote for a Rapist As Long As They're Liberal" was posted at newsbusters.org on Jan. 5, 2016.



An editorial by Ann Coulter titled "The History of Sex in America, Part 2" was posted at townhall.com on Nov. 29, 2017. Following is the article.

At least liberals are finally telling the truth about Bill Clinton—and just 20 years after it mattered! Of course, considering it took the Democratic Party a century to discover that slavery was wrong, two decades is lightning speed for these moral paragons.

While edging up to admitting that Bill Clinton maybe shouldn't have raped Juanita Broaddrick and flashed Paula Jones, liberals still can't own up to their utterly hypocritical defense of a president credibly accused of repeated sexual assaults and associated felonies.

Recently, *The New York Times*' Maureen Dowd tried to cover up the left's shameful response to Clinton's sleazy behavior with the "both sides" argument. According to Dowd, liberals "tried to kill off" Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas "over sex when the real reason they wanted to get rid of him was politics." And then conservatives "tried to kill off a Democratic president over sex when the real reason they wanted to get rid of him was politics."

Here are three important differences off the top of my head:

1) Anita Hill's accusations against Thomas involved words—just words—whereas Clinton was accused by multiple women of being a sexual predator on a scale to rival Harvey Weinstein.

2) The evidence against Thomas consisted of a single accuser, with no corroborating witnesses. The evidence against Clinton included, among other things, multiple witnesses; contemporaneous corroborating witnesses; secretly recorded confessions of the assaults and liaisons from Clinton himself (the Jennifer Flowers tape), Monica Lewinsky (Linda Tripp tapes) and Juanita Broaddrick (two separate tapes by people who wanted her to tell the truth about the rape); a DNA-stained dress; and, eventually, when he had absolutely no other choice, Clinton's own admission under oath.

3) As Dowd says, the left was using Hill's made-up charges against Thomas to save *Roe v. Wade*. By contrast, it's absurd to imagine that Republicans were enraged by the policies of President Clinton—a neoliberal, Third-Way, welfare-reform-signing, Ricky Ray Rector-executing Democrat. Clinton was the last of a vanishing breed, the moderate Democrat. That just wasn't a good enough reason to overlook his repeated sexual assaults, felonies and bald-faced lies.

It was liberals, and only liberals, who did an about-face on everything they supposedly believed about sexual harassment for political gain. The exact same people who had pretended to need smelling salts when told Thomas had joked about "Long Dong Silver" in the offices of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (never happened) were suddenly A-OK with a governor summoning a lowly state employee to his hotel room, dropping his pants and saying, "Kiss it."

The erstwhile lynch mob against Clarence Thomas was fine with a presidential candidate using his campaign staff (including ABC's George Stephanopoulos) to squelch "bimbo eruptions."

Liberals were totally copacetic with the president of the United States using the full power of his office to smear his victims as liars, bimbos, trailer park trash and—in the case of Monica Lewinsky—a "stalker."

In the middle of the Lewinsky scandal, feminist icon Gloria Steinem penned a *New York Times* op-ed launching the all-new "One Free Grope" rule. Steinem explained that Clinton's smooth "kiss it" line to Paula Jones merely showed that—I quote—"Clinton took 'no' for an answer."

No correction to Steinem's pronouncement was issued days later when news of Juanita Broaddrick's rape charge against Clinton began to circulate.

(If you doubt that the media are run by the totalitarian left, note that Steinem's op-ed has been wiped from the Times' archives. So I guess liberals do know how to wipe hard drives!)

Clinton was impeached for perjury and other felonies he committed to defeat Jones' sexual harassment claim against him. Not one Democrat in the Senate voted to remove him from office. Not one.

As a consequence, the rule on sexual assault at least since Teddy Kennedy drowned Mary Jo Kopechne was this: Liberals were free to grope, rape and drown women and to smear them and their defenders.

But conservatives, lacrosse players, fraternity members, pompous Fox News hosts and other objects of liberal hate would be destroyed at the slightest hint of any sexual impropriety, whether true or comically false.

What didn't matter: The nature of the charge, credibility of the accuser, use of force, contemporaneous witnesses, photographic evidence, DNA evidence . . .

What mattered: Who's the accused?

It would be as if pollution laws were enforced only against companies with Republican CEOs. Oh! It's Harvey Weinstein's firm? My mistake—go ahead, dump toxic chemicals into this pristine river.

That's why the most shocking revelation to emerge from *The New York Times'* expose of Weinstein last month was that it was published at all. Least shocking was that, before Ronan Farrow took his detailed account of Weinstein's assaults to *The New Yorker*, NBC killed the story.

Also unsurprising: Soon after refusing to publish Farrow's report on Weinstein, NBC was frantically peddling a letter by "Saturday Night Live" staffers defending Franken from his own multiple groping incidents. (It's looking like the best way to defend Roy Moore would be to allege that Democratic Sen. Al Franken once fondled 14-year-olds.)

Still, with the *Times'* expose of Weinstein, for the first time in 20 years, liberals have finally begun to notice the prodigious abuse of women by liberal men—other than Al Franken, of course.

Perhaps the day is not far off when we will have ONE standard for both liberals and the people liberals hate. A girl can dream!



An Associated Press article titled "Archbishop of Canterbury Baffled by Christians Who Back Trump" was posted at nbcnews.com on Nov. 26, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

England's top religious authority, the archbishop of Canterbury, said Sunday that he doesn't understand why so many Christians in the U.S. support President Donald Trump.

The Most Rev. Justin Welby told ITV's "Peston on Sunday" program that he "really genuinely" can't comprehend why fundamentalists have provided such a strong base for Trump.

"There's two things going through my mind: Do I say what I think, or do I say what I should say? And I'm going to say what I think," he said on the show, referring to the support Trump has garnered, especially from so-called Evangelical Christians. "No, I don't understand it. I really genuinely do not understand where that is coming from."



An article by Sho Chandra titled "U.S. Third-Quarter Growth Revised to Three-Year High of 3.3%" was posted at bloomberg.com on Nov. 29, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

The U.S. economy's growth rate last quarter was revised upward to the fastest in three years on stronger investment from businesses and government agencies than previously estimated, Commerce Department data showed Wednesday.

Here are highlights of Third-Quarter GDP.

- Gross domestic product grew at a 3.3% annualized rate (est. 3.2%), revised from 3%; fastest since 3Q 2014.
- Consumer spending, biggest part of the economy, grew 2.3% (est. 2.5%); revised from 2.4%; down from 3.3% in 2Q.
- Business-equipment spending rose at a 10.4% pace, a three-year high, revised from 8.6%; reflects transportation gear.
- Corporate pretax earnings rose 5.4% y/y, following a 6.3% y/y advance.



An article by Brent Bozell titled "Tolerance for Elizabeth Warren's Fake News" was posted at townhall.com on Nov. 29, 2017. Following is the article.

The network news divisions boast about how much they care about the truth and then rage against President Trump when he calls them makers of "fake news." But when it comes to the politicians they adore, especially those they wish would run for president, the truth takes a back seat.

Exhibit A right now is Elizabeth Warren, who falsely claimed in a professional directory to be descended from Cherokee Indians, so as to be listed as a minority when she was hired as a professor. When Trump makes fun of her by calling her "Pocahontas," the networks get oh so upset and call it a "racial slur."

But they don't seem to care one iota about how American Indians feel regarding white people who take on a fake minority identity.

The story broke during Warren's 2012 campaign against then-Sen. Scott Brown in Massachusetts. In May, liberal writer Garance Franke-Ruta summarized for *The Atlantic*: "the progressive consumer advocate has been unable to point to evidence of Native heritage except for an unsubstantiated thirdhand report that she might be 1/32 Cherokee. Even if it could be proven, it wouldn't qualify her to be a member of a tribe." So a Senate candidate was committed a race-based fraud. CBS broadcast programs touched the story once.

In June, Nancy Cordes reported that Warren said her relatives told her of her Cherokee background. Then, Cordes aired this double-lie sound bite from Warren: "I know my family's heritage. It's also been clear from the very beginning that I never got any special breaks from it." If she knew her family heritage, why couldn't she document it? Why invent the heritage if not to derive advantages from it?

Cordes then neatly bundled and threw away the entire controversy: "Recent polls show most voters in Massachusetts don't think Warren's heritage is a big deal," she said. Those "truth" tellers implied that we shouldn't get too disturbed by a little lie to get hired at an Ivy League.

NBC also touched it just once that year, on the "Today" show on Oct. 2, after David Gregory moderated a Brown-Warren debate. He asked Warren, "Do you consider yourself a minority?" She replied: "I listed myself as Native American . . . It's part of who I am." Gregory later asked her: "Are you hiding something?" Again, Warren lied: "No, I'm not. I never used it for college, for law school or to get a job."

Over and out.

Just try to put those sentences together: "I listed myself as Native American in a professional directory . . . and I never used it to get a job."

In response, the "facts first" media simply walked away. To address this honestly was to call her a liar. PolitiFact has only seven rulings on Warren, four "Mostly True" and three "Half True." The site has never addressed this lie.

By the way, ABC never covered this controversy in 2012.

When Trump called her Pocahontas in 2016, the networks brought out the weasel words. ABC's Mary Bruce reported, "Friday night, Trump hitting hard, attacking her for once claiming she was Native American." Once claiming? She has claimed it for years. She claimed it throughout the 2012 campaign. She claimed it in five recipes she submitted to a "Pow Wow Chow" cookbook.

The same routine continued this week when Trump called her Pocahontas while honoring Navajo code talkers from World War II. Nancy Cordes at CBS breezily recounted, "It's a reference to the Massachusetts senator's past claims of Cherokee ancestry." But she added: "Democrats called it a racial slur. Warren called it disturbing."

It's disturbing, all right. It's disturbing that Warren routinely gets a pass on her lies. These are the benefits the liberal media hand out to their favorites.



An article by Michael Morris titled "Kevin Sorbo Exposes Mainstream Media Bias With Simple Question on Donald Trump" was posted at cnsnews.com on Nov. 27, 2017. Following is the article.

Between social media posts promoting his new film "Let There Be Light" over this past week, actor Kevin Sorbo exposed mainstream media bias by asking a simple question on Donald Trump.

Seemingly drawing a comparison between the mainstream media's coverage of former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's scandals and their coverage of President Donald Trump, the actor best known for the TV series "Hercules: The Legendary Journeys" and for his role in the faith-based film "God's Not Dead," posted the following on social media:

■ "Just one more thing on Donald Trump. If Donald Trump deleted all of his emails, wiped his server with Bleachbit and destroyed all of his phones with a hammer, would the Mainstream Media suddenly lose all interest in the story and declare him innocent?"

In 2015, then Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, according to CNSNews.com, "tried to make light in public of the deepening controversy surrounding her use of an unsecured, private email server while secretary of state." When "asked by a reporter whether she had 'wiped' the server clean before handing it over to federal investigators, she asked, 'What, like with a cloth or something?'"

In 2016, according to Tom Fitton of Judicial Watch on CNSNews.com, "in a court filing [in August, 2016,] the State Department admitted it had found Benghazi-related documents among the 14,900 Clinton emails and attachments uncovered by the FBI that Mrs. Clinton deleted and withheld from the State Department."

Also in 2016, according to CNSNews.com,

■ "The FBI says its investigation identified '13 total mobile devices' associated with Hillary Clinton's 'two known' phone numbers, both in the D.C. area code 212.

■ "All 13 of those devices 'potentially were used to send emails' through Clinton's personal email server, but the FBI was unable to acquire or examine any of those devices, at least two of which apparently were smashed by a hammer."



An article by Dylan Gwinn titled "Much Like Their Television Ratings, NFL Merchandise Sales Plummet to New Lows" was posted at breitbart.com on Nov. 28, 2017. Following is the article.

The NFL has already received their fair share of bad news this holiday season. First, the league finds out that all three Thanksgiving games saw double-digit drops in viewership from the previous year.

Now, along with that lump of coal, we learn that the NFL's merchandise sales have crashed as well.

According to the *Sports Business Journal*, NFL merchandise sales have fallen by 20 percent or more, since the 2009 recession. While the time span of eight years allows a myriad of different explanations for the drop in sales. Awful Announcing writes that, "some licensees feel it has to do with the national anthem protests."

According to one licensee, and veteran, the drop in sales is an alarming reality with many possible explanations.

Bill Skinner of Team ProMark said, "My NFL business has been struggling. As a veteran, I'm bothered by the national anthem protests, so I've watched much less NFL."

Though, he said, "I'd be crazy to blame it on one thing: Brick-and-mortar retail is a mess, and the third parties that used to sell our products online have been largely eliminated by the league. It makes you nervous; for most of the guys here, the NFL is their most important licensee."

While the anthem protests may not suffice as a complete and total explanation for the drop in sales, it is interesting how the protest issue is normally the first thing fans, and in this case, retailers, bring up when it comes to trying to explain the loss of interest in the NFL.

Awful Announcing writes, "One licensee did cite the oversaturation of games and lower TV ratings as a contributing factor. But perhaps it's a combination of factors, and not just anthem protests and lower ratings. The NFL has taken hits from news about concussions, injuries to marquee players like Aaron Rodgers, the retirement of long-time merchandising stalwarts like Peyton Manning and Troy Polamalu, and non-traditional windows on Sunday mornings and Thursday nights.

"Holiday sales will be a litmus test for the NFL, but some licensees are worried that the league isn't doing more to help their partners during what is the most important time for retail."

The last point made here, is the real point: What is the NFL doing to help the people who help them? Regardless of the specific cause of the NFL's decline (as if their were only one reason) the larger more disturbing factor is that the league seems completely disinterested in doing anything about it.

To the point where they've consumed themselves with trying to push through Commissioner Goodell's undeserved contract extension before Cowboys Owner Jerry Jones has an opportunity to thwart it at the mid-December meetings.

Why?

Roger Goodell has presided over historic collapses in ratings, in-game attendance, and now, significant drops in merchandise sales. Why should he, or anyone with that resume, get a contract extension?

The anthem protests may not be the sole reason for the fan rebellion against the NFL, but they are the biggest reason why fans have found other things to do with their Sundays. Presumably, a lot of those same people would have stuffed their stockings with NFL gear this year had the league decided to care more about football than social justice activism.

Just because there might be more than one thing causing the league's downfall, doesn't mean you don't do anything to fix the problem. Solving the anthem issue in a way that respects the flag, would go a long way toward addressing all the other problems the league faces.

Until that happens, the NFL can expect more coal in their stocking.



Looking back to 2016, here are excerpts from an article by Sean Keeley titled "ESPN Finding It Harder and Harder to Stay Politically-Neutral" that was posted at awfulannouncing.com on July 15, 2016.

At the 2015 ESPYs, ESPN awarded the Arthur Ashe Courage Award to Caitlyn Jenner for the "enormous courage" required in her decision to publicly come out as a transgendered woman. It was a controversial decision at the time, made more so by reports that claimed Jenner's camp lobbied for the award in exchange for PR plugs and letting ABC get an exclusive first post-surgery interview.

In March 2015, Sunday Countdown host Mike Ditka, who had thrown his public support behind Republican candidate Donald Trump, told a radio station that he thought Obama was "the worst president we've ever had." A few days later, it was announced that Ditka would be leaving Sunday Countdown to take, as The Big Lead put it, "an unspecified emeritus-type NFL role at the network." Ditka swore the move was his decision and unrelated to his comments.

In April 2016, ESPN fired commentator Curt Schilling over his repost of a Facebook meme mocking trans people, the latest in a series of comments or social media controversies involving Schilling's conservative opinions. The former MLB pitcher would go on to say that being a Republican at ESPN "felt like the underground" and that "religion on the table was a much easier topic than who you voted for."

Deflategate has been one of the biggest stories in all of sports for the past couple years and no TV network has benefitted more from the story than ESPN. This week, former ESPN employee Bill Simmons implied that ESPN employees like Stephen A. Smith were told by the network to leak damaging info on Tom Brady on behalf of the NFL. Brady has publicly expressed his adoration of Donald Trump and while the two things seem unrelated, they've seemingly crossed streams in recent weeks given the popularity of all parties.

Earlier this week, the ESPYs opened with LeBron James, Dwyane Wade, Carmelo Anthony, and Chris Paul on stage together asking for all athletes to make an effort to affect society for the better after weeks of tragic violence around the nation. Later we learned that James went to ESPN with the idea and obviously they were happy to provide the extremely-visible spotlight.

Let's take a moment to loosen a grip on those pitchforks for a second and acknowledge that a large portion of the American populace have absolutely no problem with anything mentioned above.

For a large percentage of audiences, there isn't anything inherently wrong with turning on ESPN and seeing Caitlyn Jenner (a registered Republican, it should be noted) receive an award, seeing LeBron James talk about the violence affecting the country, or watching the President of the United States talk with an ESPN personality about issues outside of sports.

But there's also a large percentage of the audience that sees a delineation between what they expect to see on a news channel, a network channel, and a sports channel. They didn't tune in to ESPN to see political discussion of any form, whether it leans or not, whether it conforms to their preferences or not.

- When they want political commentary they go to Fox News or CNN.
- When they want movies, they go to HBO.
- When they want sports, they go to ESPN. It's right there in the name. The E stands for Entertainment and the S stands for Sports but the P sure doesn't stand for Politics.



An Associate Press article titled "ESPN Eliminating 150 Production, Tech Jobs in Latest Cuts" was posted at foxsports.com on Nov. 29, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

ESPN is eliminating 150 production and technical employees as the sports broadcasting giant continues to shift its focus to a more digital future.

The company says the layoffs, which were announced Wednesday morning in a memo to employees, don't include on-air talent and will have a minimal impact on the network's signature SportsCenter news program.

"The majority of the jobs eliminated are in studio production, digital content, and technology and they generally reflect decisions to do less in certain instances and re-direct resources," ESPN president John Skipper wrote in memo. "We will continue to invest in ways which will best position us to serve the modern sports fan and support the success of our business."

The 38-year-old network has been squeezed by rising fees to broadcast live events. ESPN also has lost about 10 million subscribers during the past six years, based on estimates by Nielsen Media Research.



Isaiah 55:6-11—"Seek you the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. 'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,' says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."