

Eye on the World

May 11, 2019

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 May 11, 2019.

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).



An article titled "Pope Issues New Law Requiring All Catholic Priests, Nuns to Report Clergy Sexual Abuse" was posted at newson6.com on May 9, 2019. Following is the article.

Pope Francis has issued a new law requiring all Catholic priests and nuns around the world to report clergy sexual abuse and cover-ups by their superiors to church authorities, in a groundbreaking new effort to hold the Catholic hierarchy accountable for failing to protect their flocks.

The church law published Thursday provides whistle-blower protections for anyone making a report and requires all dioceses around the world to have a system in place to receive the claims confidentially. And it outlines procedures for conducting preliminary investigations when the accused is a bishop, cardinal or religious superior.

It's the latest effort by Francis to respond to the global eruption of the sex abuse and cover-up scandal that has devastated the credibility of the Catholic hierarchy and his own papacy.



An article by Beth Baumann titled "Israeli Army Reportedly Prepares for Gaza Ground Invasion" was posted at townhall.com on May 5, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is preparing a possible invasion of Gaza following a number of attacks from Hamas, according to sources. Hamed Ahmed Abed Khudri, the Hamas commander, was killed during one of Israeli's return fires, the country's military said.

"I instructed the military this morning to continue its massive strikes on terror elements in the Gaza Strip and ordered it to reinforce the troops around the Gaza Strip with tanks, artillery and infantry force," Netanyahu said in a statement. "Hamas bears responsibility not only for its own attacks and actions but also those by Islamic Jihad, for which it pays a very high price."

The death toll has risen. As of now, three Israeli men and nine Palestinians, including two pregnant women, have been killed.

United States Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said, "The Israelis have every right to defend themselves.

"I've seen video that we can't validate just yet but where there have been strikes on homes, civilian populations. These rockets were fired with civilians around them in order to protect from return fire. This is terrible," Pompeo said during a Sunday interview on Fox News. "I hope that we can return to the ceasefire that had been in place for weeks and had been holding significantly before this."



An article by Katie Pavlich titled "Iran Is Threatening American Interests and the Trump Administration Is Responding" was posted at townhall.com on May 6, 2019. Following is the article.

United States Air Force C-32A - Speaking onboard United States Air Force C-32A to reporters Sunday night, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo backed up a statement released by White House National Security Advisor John Bolton on Iran.

"In response to a number of troubling and escalatory indications and warnings, the United States is deploying the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group and a bomber task force to the U.S. Central Command region to send a clear and unmistakable message to the Iranian regime that any attack on United States interests or on those of our allies will be met with unrelenting force," Bolton said. "The United States is not seeking war with the Iranian regime, but we are fully prepared to respond to any attack, whether by proxy, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, or regular Iranian forces."

Pompeo didn't get into specifics about what behaviors triggered the movement of U.S. military assets, but did say the actions have been direct and through terrorist proxies like Hezbollah.

"This is something we've been working on for a little while. It is absolutely the case that we've seen escalatory action from the Iranians. It is equally the

case we will hold the Iranians accountable for attacks on American interests. The fact that if those actions take place through some kind of third party proxy, militia group, or Hezbollah, we will hold the Iranian leadership directly accountable for that.”

Pompeo did confirm the move is unrelated to Hamas, an Iranian backed Islamic terrorist organization in the Gaza Strip, firing more than 600 rockets into Israel over the weekend.

“Make no mistake, we have good reason to want to communicate clearly about how the Iranians should understand how we will respond to any actions they may take,” Pompeo said. “The Iranians understand exactly what our view is about the threats that they’re posing to U.S. interests around the world.”

Pompeo is in Europe this week for a number of meetings with foreign leaders, including Russia’s Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.



“Eye on the World” comment: The following list of articles consists of headlines of extra articles, which are considered international. The articles were not posted, but the headlines give the essence of the story.

■ An article by Andrew Carey titled “More Than 20 Reported Dead in Gaza, 4 in Israel After Hail of [600] Rockets and Airstrikes [on 320 Targets Across Gaza]” was posted at cnn.com on May 5, 2019.

■ An article by Ladane Nasser, Arsalan Shahia and Golnar Motevalli titled “Iran Sets 60-Day Nuclear Countdown Unless Europe Delivers Trade” was posted at bloomberg.com on May 8, 2019.

■ An article by Selcan Hacaoglu titled “NATO Prods Turkey to Choose U.S. Over Russia on Missiles” was posted at bloomberg.com on May 6, 2019.

■ An article by Gerr Shih titled “ ‘Police Cloud’: Chinese Database Tracks Apps, Car Location and Even Electricity Usage in Muslim Region” was posted at washingtonpost.com on May 2, 2019.

■ An article by Sam Kingsley and Pierre-Henry Deshayes titled “Pompeo Slams China, Russia for ‘Aggressive’ Arctic Behavior” was posted at yahoo.com on May 6, 2019.

■ An article by Patrick Goodenough titled “China, Which Incarcerates Millions of Uighurs, Gets Seat on UN Forum for Indigenous Peoples” was posted at cnsnews.com on May 8, 2019.

■ An article by Evelyn Cheng titled “China Says It Is Prepared to Respond to All Kinds of Outcomes on US Trade Talks” was posted at cnbc.com on May 9, 2019.

■ An article by Pat Buchanan titled “Let Venezuela Decide Its Own Destiny” was posted at townhall.com on May 3, 2019.



An article by John Stossel titled "A Lie, a Myth and a Question" was posted at townhall.com on May 1, 2019. Following is the article.

Socialists like Bernie Sanders tell us that "the rich get richer, and the poor get poorer."

That's a lie.

Yes, rich people got absurdly rich. Last year, says Oxfam, "the wealth of the world's billionaires increased (by) \$2.5 billion a day."

I say, so what?

The poor did not get poorer. Bernie's wrong about that. The poor are much better off.

"As we've increased the number of billionaires around the world, extreme poverty has shrunk," says former investment banker Carol Roth in my video about inequality.

She is right. Over the past 30 years, more than a billion people climbed out of extreme poverty. Thanks to capitalism, more than a billion people no longer struggle to survive on a few pennies a day.

Bernie is correct when he says that the wealth gap between rich and poor grew. In America over the last 40 years, the richest people got 200 percent richer, while poor Americans got just 32 percent richer. But again, so what?

Gaining 32 percent is a very good thing (all these numbers are adjusted for inflation).

Everyone's better off, despite the improvement not being even. It never is.

Now the myth:

The media claim in America there's "a lack of income mobility"—that people born poor are likely to stay poor.

Some do. It's true that people with rich parents have a big advantage. But it's a myth that Americans are locked into their economic class.

Economists at Harvard and Berkeley crunched the numbers and found most people born to the richest fifth of Americans fell out of that bracket within 20 years.

Likewise, most born to the poorest fifth climb to a higher quintile. Some make it all the way to the top.

In fact, says Roth, "3 out of 4 Americans will hit that top 20 percent at some point in their lifetime."

You see America's income mobility on the Forbes richest list. Most of the billionaires are self-made. They didn't inherit money. They created their wealth.

Still, the very rich are ridiculously rich. The Forbes billionaires have more money than the bottom 64 percent of the U.S. population.

“Unfair!” say the progressives. “It doesn’t matter if nearly everyone got richer, income inequality itself is a huge problem.”

It’s “threatening to tear us apart!” says New York City Mayor Bill De Blasio.

It might, if people come to believe that inequality itself is evil. But one question: Why is that true?

Progressives like to point out that in Scandinavian countries, people say they are happier than Americans. Scandinavians have more equal incomes than Americans.

But that proves nothing. Incomes are more equal in Afghanistan, too. Incomes are more equal when everyone is poor.

Forget money for a moment and think about how impossible it would be to make everyone equal.

I’ll never sing as well as Adele or play basketball like LeBron. The best athletes, singers, dancers, etc., are just physically different. I’ll never be as self-confident as Donald Trump or as verbally smooth as AOC.

“There’s inequality in everything. There’s inequality in free time, inequality in parents. I don’t have any parents or grandparents,” says Roth. “I have two kidneys. There are people out there who need one, don’t have one that functions. Should the government take my kidney because somebody else needs it?”

I suggest to her that some people having so much more than others is just inherently unfair.

“Life is unfair!” she replied. “Unfair is good. Unfair is a feature. It’s not a bug!”

Certainly, it’s wrong if government makes rules that create inequality.

Racist laws forbidding some ethnic groups to do business where they please, or restricting where they live, are evil.

So are government subsidies to rich people and well-connected corporations.

But allowing people to be different from one another, to employ their unique talents and succeed or fail by them, to rise as high as the market will bear—that’s an important part of freedom.

We won’t all end up in the same place, but most of us will be more prosperous than if government decided our limits.

And we will be freer.



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled “Lies, Damn Lies & Obaminations” was posted at patriotpost.us on May 4, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

Kent Boom sent me a list of lies that can be traced back over the past 55 years, starting with LBJ's announcing that we were attacked in the Gulf of Tonkin. Nixon gave us "I am not a crook;" Bush 41 told us to read his lips, "No new taxes;" Clinton claimed he didn't have sex with Monica Lewinsky; and Bush 43 insisted that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction.

But Barack Obama put them all to shame and made it all the more risible that the mainstream media insists that Trump is the biggest Pinocchio to ever reside in the White House.

Because some of Obama's lies go back more than 10 years, you may have forgotten how often he fed us whoppers, but I suspect that most of these will ring a bell with you.

"I will have the most transparent administration in history."

"The stimulus will fund shovel-ready jobs."

"The IRS is not targeting anyone."

"It was a spontaneous riot about a movie."

"I knew nothing about what happened in Benghazi."

"I will put an end to the type of politics that breeds division, conflict and cynicism."

"You didn't build that!"

"I will restore trust in government."

"The Cambridge cops acted stupidly."

"The public will have five days to look at every bill that lands on my desk."

"It's not my red line, it's the world's red line."

"Whistle blowers will be protected in my administration."

"We got back every dime we used to rescue the banks and auto companies, and with interest."

"I am not spying on American citizens."

"You can keep your doctor and your healthcare plan, if you wish to."

"Premiums will be lowered by \$2,500."

"I knew nothing about "Fast and Furious" running guns to Mexican drug cartels."

"If elected, I promise not to renew the Patriot Act."

"If elected, I will end the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan within the first nine months of my administration."

"I will close Guantanamo within the first six months of my administration."

"I will bridge the gap between blacks and whites, and between America and other countries."

And, finally, "I, Barack Hussein Obama, pledge to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States of America."

■ War with Islam

Frankly, I was surprised that whether or not they played any part in burning the Notre Dame Cathedral, no Muslim group had stepped forward to take credit for destroying this centuries old monument to Christendom.

Perhaps because nobody died, it didn't amount to that big a deal in barbaric circles. But because the church bombings in Sri Lanka killed 253 and maimed several hundred more, it came as no surprise that ISIS took as many curtain calls as Ethel Merman did on opening night of "Annie Get Your Gun."

I had hoped that after all these years of world-wide terrorism, we infidels would stop pretending that the enemy is the Taliban, Al Qaeda, the Muslim Brotherhood, ISIS, Hamas or Hezbollah, and finally admit that our war is with Islam itself.

■ Judged by his enemies

It has been said that you can judge a man by his friends. It is equally true that you can judge him by his enemies. So, if in 2016, you had asked me what I would wish for in a new president, I might have said I want one who will be despised and possibly even feared by the likes of James Comey, John Brennan, Karl Rove, James Clapper, Nancy Pelosi, Rachel Maddow, Robert DeNiro, Madonna, Hillary Clinton, the Obamas, Wolf Blitzer, Kathy Griffin, Mike Wallace, Donna Brazile, Chris Hahn, Snoop Dogg, Johnny Depp, Maxine Waters, Brad Sherman, Rosie O'Donnell, Joe Scarborough, Mika Brzezinski, Don Lemon, Ashley Judd and Mitt Romney.

Come to think of it, with enemies like that, I wouldn't really care if he had any friends besides me.



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "A Letter to Bibi" was posted at patriot-post.us on May 6, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

I write a lot more letters than I receive. That's probably due to the fact that I often write to strangers. As a rule, they don't write back. Another rule is that they don't take my advice. But when you're an optimist, as I happen to be, hope springs eternal.

So, the other day I sent this letter to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu: "First off, I would like to congratulate you on winning an unprecedented fifth

term. Next, I would like to congratulate the Israeli people for having the wisdom to keep electing you.

"I appreciate the fact that you wish to express your gratitude to President Trump by naming a new settlement on the Golan Heights in his honor. But that brings up my main purpose in writing to you.

"I believe and have always believed that you, along with all the previous prime ministers, made a mistake in referring to "settlements" instead of calling them communities or neighborhoods. The word conveys the sense that they're temporary. And as we've seen over the years, as Israel has regularly abandoned one settlement after another to the barbarians in the foolish and contemptible attempt to trade land for peace, the settlements have indeed lacked permanency.

"In the United States, we don't refer to places as settlements. We call them towns and cities. They belong to us. They are a part of the nation.

"I would suggest in the future that you and those who will in time follow you in leading Israel cease telegraphing your willingness to hand over that which rightfully belongs to your nation to your enemies. Sincerely, Burt Prelutsky"

■ Buttiegieg versus Pence

Of all the folks seeking the Democratic nomination, I think I just might despise Peter Buttiegieg the most. It's not because he is in favor of open borders, promotes the Green New Deal or would bankrupt the nation by, one, making college tuition-free and, two, mandating Medicare for All.

Heck, they've all signed on for that. What makes Buttiegieg stand out from the crowd is that he is trading on his homosexuality by attacking a good and decent man, Mike Pence.

Buttiegieg has spent a good deal of time pretending that Pence is a gay-bashing hypocrite, although there is no evidence that the Vice President has ever been anything but supportive of his fellow Indiana politician. In fact, if Buttiegieg's intention was to show the world how Christianity has dictated Pence's response to unfair attacks, he couldn't have done a better job. Pence hasn't merely displayed tolerance in the face of these unrelenting insults, he has taken Christ's words about turning the other cheek and loving one's enemy straight out of Scripture and inserted them, against all odds, into American political life.

The only good thing to say about Buttiegieg is that he has probably nipped Beto's presidential campaign in the bud. Or perhaps the butt.

■ Socialists

Roger Kovaciny, my lone subscriber in Ukraine, observed: "The whole point of reparations is so that most of the money will end up in the pockets of white Democrats, and a small portion will go to black Democrats in the form of 'job-training programs' that won't actually do them any good.

"Socialists are all little Robin Hoods who steal from the rich, give to the poor, and keep a 75% commission for their efforts."



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Finances

- An article titled "CVS Closures: 46 Locations Closing" was posted at yahoo.com on May 2, 2019.
- An article by Guy Benson titled "Blockbuster April Jobs Report Shocks Experts, Unemployment Falls to 3.6 Percent" was posted at townhall.com on May 3, 2019.

Green New Deal

- An article by Jordan Harris titled "The Green New Deal Is Really the 'Green Scare' Over Climate Change" was posted at courier-journal.com on May 9, 2019.

Illegal immigration

- An article by Beth Baumann titled "ICE Reveals Just How Many Illegal Aliens Are Falsely Claiming They're a 'Family' " was posted at townhall.com on May 7, 2019.
- An article by Michelle Malkin titled "Keeping Fake Illegal Alien Families Together" was posted at michellemalkin.com on May 8, 2019.
- An article by Stephen Dinan titled "Feds Released 168,000 Illegal Immigrant Family Members Into Communities" was posted at washingtontimes.com on May 8, 2019.
- An article by Christin Ayers titled "Oakland Mulls Ban on Controversial Face Recognition Technology" was posted at cbssanfrancisco.com on May 1, 2019.
- An article by Joel B. Pollak titled "'Sanctuary City' Oakland, Near-Broke, Will Use Gas Tax Money to Keep Lights On" was posted at Breitbart.com on May 9, 2019.

Comments about weapons

- An article by Katie Pavlich titled "MSNBC Admits: Because Venezuelans Were Disarmed, They Have No Power Against the Government" was posted at townhall.com on May 1, 2019.

Comments about Trump support

- An article by Guy Benson titled "NYT Editorial Board Concedes Trump Is Right on Border Crisis, Urges Congress to Fulfill New WH Budget Request" was posted at townhall.com on May 6, 2019.

Comments about Trump opposition

- An article by Susan Jones titled "Newly Revealed Strzok Text Suggests CIA May Have Been 'Leaking Like Mad' " was posted at cnsnews.com on May 7, 2019.
- An article by Reid Wilson titled "Trump Gets Powerful New Rival in Letitia James [New York's Attorney General]" was posted at thehill.com on May 2, 2019.
- An article by Jonah Goldberg titled "If Democrats Crave Return to 'Normalcy,' Why Are Their Candidates So Radical?" was posted at townhall.com on May 8, 2019.
- An article by Ruby Cramer titled "Democratic Candidates Are Preparing for a Contested Convention—By Courting Superdelegates" was posted at buzfeednews.com on May 2, 2019.
- An article by Morgan Gstalter titled "Biden: Dem Field Will Be 'Winnowed Out Pretty Quickly' in Early 2020" was posted at thehill.com on May 9, 2019.
- An article by Nicholas Wu titled "Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Hillary Clinton Blast Georgia's 'Heartbeat Bill' " was posted at usatoday.com on May 8, 2019.
- An article by Susan Jones titled "Sen. Cory Booker Wants to Be the Gun Control President" was posted at cnsnews.com on May 7, 2019.
- An article by Robert Schroeder titled "Trump Would Have Been Charged With Obstruction If He Weren't President, According to More Than 400 Ex-Federal Prosecutors" was posted at marketwatch.com on May 6, 2019.
- An article by Katelyn Caralle titled "Beto O'Rourke Emerges As the Most Electable Democrat in Poll That Shows He Would Beat Trump by 10 Points" was posted at dailymail.co.uk on May 2, 2019.
- An article by Andrew Stiles titled "Beto O'Rourke Approaching 'Statistically Insignificant' Territory in New Hampshire Poll" was posted at freebeacon.com on May 9, 2019.
- An article by Henry Rodgers titled "Beto O'Rourke Hires Obama Delegate Chief As He Sinks in Polling" was posted at dailycaller.com on May 9, 2019.

Kamala Harris

- An article by Chelsea Janes titled "Kamala Harris Tries to Regain Footing" was posted at washingtonpost.com on May 2, 2019.
- An article by Jacqueline Alemany titled "Kamala Harris Seeking to Change Her Narrative, Proposes Relief for Public Defenders" was posted at washingtonpost.com on May 8, 2019.

Buttigieg Ahead of O'Rourke?

- An article by Caitlin Yilek titled "Barney Frank on Pete Buttigieg's Rise: 'Beto O'Rourke May Be Regretting That He's Straight' " was posted at washingtonexaminer.com on May 3, 2019.

News about the media

- An article by Nicholas Fondacaro titled "CBS, NBC Decry Georgia's Heart-beat Abortion Law, Fear 'Conservative' SCOTUS" was posted at newsbusters.org on May 7, 2019.
- An article by Nicholas Fondacaro titled "NBC Bemoans Trump Pardoning U.S. Soldier, Cheered Obama Releasing Manning" was posted at newsbusters.org on May 7, 2019.
- An article by Gabriel Hays titled "Networks Ignore Pennsylvania State Rep. Brian Sims Bullying Pro-Life Protesters" was posted at newsbusters.org on May 7, 2019.

General interest

- An article by Paul A. Eisenstein titled "GM Joins Tesla, Ford in Building EV [Electric Vehicle] Pickups—But Texas Ranchers Don't Want a 'Playboy's Truck' " was posted at cnbc.com on May 3, 2019.
- An article by Dan Murtaugh and Enda Curran titled "Pig 'Ebola' Virus Sends Shock Waves Through Global Food Chain" was posted at bloomberg.com on May 2, 2019.
- An article by Hilary Hanson titled "Nearly 12 Million Pounds of Tyson Chicken Strips [Produced Between 10/1/18 and 3/8/19, Recommended to Be Used by 10/1/19 through 3/7/20] Recalled for Possible Metal Pieces Inside" was posted at huffpost.com on May 4, 2019.



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."