**These Perilous Times**

**Vol. 14, No. 1, Jan. 7, 2022**

**“Lift up Christ-Not Man”**

During the 1960’s, and through 1970’s there were several peaceful marches and protests by pacifists (non-violent peace-loving people, not necessarily just Christians) expressing their antipolitical views, regarding the war in Vietnam, “*true freedom*,” and *civil righ*ts for **all** *Americans and ethnicities!*

 However, today’s *carnal* perception is; if you are a peace-loving, non-violent person (reflecting the true character of Christ) you may be deemed a modern-day pacifist or perhaps even a coward. Let’s remember friends, our Lord and Savior said, “Take up your cross and follow me…” [[1]](#footnote-1) He didn’t suggest we take up an AK-47 and follow the demented, mob mentality of today!

**What does this mean for us?**

**Obvious Signs Do Tell The Season**

As I’ve mentioned on many occasions, Satan is the master of mental manipulation and mind control! It’s his business to covertly *mesmerize* his clients. He delights in manipulating political and religious figures who are suffering from a personality disorder known as “Delusions of Grandeur,” (A disorder that causes one to believe themselves to be very important and powerful, despite the evidence to the contrary. They often have an inflated sense of self-esteem). Satan was the first created being suffering from *this self-imposed disease.* Adolf Hitler, Jim Jones, and David Koresh were some of his most prized students!

“For you have said in your heart: *I will ascend* into heaven, *I will exalt my throne* above the *stars* (angels Rev. 1:20) of God; *I will also sit* on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; *I will ascend* above the heights of the clouds, *I will be like* the Most High.” Isaiah 14:12-14 (Italics supplied).

**Solomon’s admonition concerning inflated egos**

“***Pride*** goes before destruction, and a ***haughty spirit*** before a fall.” Proverbs 16:18 (Emphasis supplied)

**Paul’s spiritual antidote for an inflated ego**

“And *do not be conformed to this world*, but *be transformed by the renewing of your mind*, that

you may prove what is that good, and acceptable and *perfect will of God*. For I say through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, *not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think*, *but to think soberly*, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.” Romans 12:2, 3 (Italics supplied)

**Counsel from God’s inspired messenger**

 “It is a law both of the intellectual and spiritual nature that *by beholding we become changed*. The mind gradually adapts itself to the subjects upon which it is allowed to dwell. It becomes assimilated to that which it is accustomed to love and reverence.

 Man will never rise higher than his standard of purity or goodness or truth. *If self is his loftiest ideal*, he will never attain to anything more exalted. Rather, he will certainly sink lower and lower. The grace of God alone has power to exalt man. Left to himself, his course must inevitably be downward.” [[2]](#footnote-2)

“*Humble yourself* in the sight of the Lord and *He will lift you up*.” James 4:10 (Italics supplied)

 God in His infinite mercy, and grace has given us another year to finish His work here on planet earth. It’s time for new spiritual initiatives. It’s time to take spiritual inventory of our lives and reevaluate our true spiritual condition.

“Let *this mind be in you* which *was also in Christ Jesus.*” Philippians 2:5 (Italics supplied)

“And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples unto Myself.” John 12:32

**Amen!**

****

1. Matt. 10:34-38; 16:24-26; Mark 8:34-36; 10:21; Luke 9:23-26. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. E. G. White. Mind, Character, and Personality, Vol. 2, pp. 418, 419. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)