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The Desire For Power

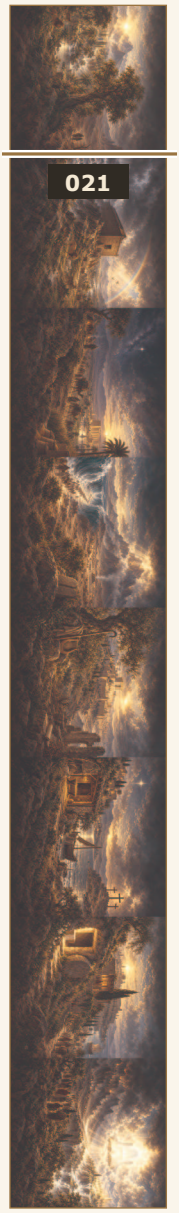
"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

PSALM 119:105



JOHN WEAVER

WEAVER BIBLE COLLEGE



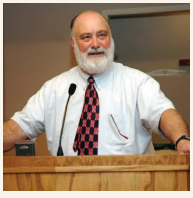
Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

PROVERBS 16:18

The desire for power can reveal motives that are easily hidden behind a claim of service. John Weaver considers ambition, authority, responsibility, and the standards by which leadership should be judged. These messages ask readers to examine the use of influence and to distinguish faithful stewardship from the pursuit of self-importance.

“Simply because someone has the power to do something does not mean that individual has the authority to do it.”

JOHN WEAVER



John Weaver

John Weaver's sermons form the teaching collection presented by Weaver Bible College. This volume gathers his teaching from that collection.

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The Desire For Power

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CHAPTER 1

The Desire For Power #1

SCRIPTURE READING - Psalm 62:1-12 (KJV)

Introduction: Power Belongs to God

Psalm 62, verse 1. David says, "Truly my soul waiteth upon God: from him cometh my salvation. He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defence; I shall not be greatly moved. How long will ye imagine mischief against a man? ye shall be slain all of you: as a bowing wall shall ye be, and as a tottering fence. They only consult to cast him down from his excellency. They delight in lies: they bless with their mouth, but they curse inwardly. Selah. My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him. He only is my rock and my salvation: he is my defence; I shall not be moved. In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God. Trust in him at all times; ye people. Pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah. Surely men of low degree are vanity, and men of high degree are a lie: to be laid in the balance, they are altogether lighter than vanity. Trust not in oppression, and become not vain in robbery: if riches increase, set not your heart upon them. God hath spoken once; twice

> have I heard this; that power belongeth unto God. Also unto thee, O Lord, belongeth mercy. For thou renderest to every man according to his work."
>
> I've entitled the message today, "The Desire for Power." God alone is all-powerful. He is the sovereign. He is the ultimate. He is the absolute. Properly speaking, all power belongs to God and to God alone. Power, authority, or jurisdiction that is given to men, properly speaking, is referred to as delegated authority.
>
> We would not have any authority, any power, any jurisdiction at all had God not given it to us. Delegated authority is a term that acknowledges that all authority is from God. Secondly, it acknowledges that those who have received delegated authority are accountable and responsible to the God who gave it.

The Bible tells us in Psalm 75, verses 6 and 7, "Promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another." So God, then, is the God of all power. Romans 13 and verse 1 says, "the powers that be are ordained of God." So no one can have any power except God has given them that power. This is referring to God's sovereignty over every authority and every position of power.

Daniel 2 and verse 21 says, "And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings. He giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding." So it is God who removes kings and sets up kings. He changes the times and the seasons, and He gives wisdom and knowledge. The rise and removal of rulers are therefore in God's hands.

Nebuchadnezzar was one of the most powerful monarchs in the world at that particular time. Daniel says, "Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory." The only reason you have a kingdom, the only reason you have any power, any authority, is God gave it to you. God delegated that authority to you. Even the authority of a powerful monarch was received from the God of heaven.

The Abuse of Delegated Authority

There is a simple problem with what you and I would call delegated authority, and yet it is one that is very prominent. That problem is its abuse, its corruption, and its perversion. Psalm 62, verse 3, reveals one of the main problems with delegated authority. It says, "How long will ye imagine mischief against a man?" Authority may be given by God, but it can be abused, corrupted, and perverted by those who receive it.

"Ye shall be slain all of you: as a bowing wall shall ye be, and as a tottering fence. They only consult to cast him down from his excellency: they delight in lies: they bless with their mouth, but they curse inwardly." Here, then, is delegated power corrupted, abused, and perverted. Most of us have heard Lord Acton's dictum: power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. That is true only when applied to sinners; it is certainly not true when applied to God. God is the most holy God and the omnipotent God. He has all power, yet He is not corrupted. God is absolutely holy in everything that He says and does.

Fallen man, however, is unlike God. Fallen man is power-hungry, power-driven, and power-mad. Have you ever noticed that the more power fallen men get, the more power they want? David said in Psalm 37:35, "I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree." Its branches and roots go everywhere and take over practically everything. That is what the ungodly are like: power-hungry and power-mad.

Fallen men seek to demonstrate and exercise power by controlling and manipulating their fellow men to do their bidding and fulfill their wishes, and by creating their own kingdom or utopia. It is not enough for fallen man to control and manipulate his fellow men. Fallen man not only wants to be like God; he wishes to be God. Psalm 62:4 says, "They only consult to cast him down from his excellency: they delight in lies: they bless with their mouth, but they curse inwardly." Thus civil rulers, and fallen men generally, unrestrained by God's grace, will always seek to replace the one true and living God.

Psalm 2 asks, "Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?" A vain thing is something useless or worthless. Then it says, "The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us." Fallen men want to break God's limitations and boundaries placed upon them. They want literally to usurp the position of God Himself.

The desire for power is a root sin and a root cause of many conflicts. Power-hungry men and power-mad men cannot be satisfied with limited, defined, and delegated authority. The more authority that is conferred upon them, the more power they want for themselves, even if they have to steal and arrogate and usurp that power to themselves. Once they have usurped that power to themselves, they have to demonstrate their godhood by exercising that power over all things and over all people.

Do you remember the temptation in Genesis chapter 3 and verse 5? Do you remember what the serpent said? He asked a simple question: “Doth thou not know? Doth thou not know that the day that you eat this fruit, you shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.” The Hebrew word for knowing has the force of determining: You shall be as gods, determining for yourselves good and evil.

In other words, you do not need God to tell you what to do, or what is right and wrong. You eat this fruit and you shall be gods for yourself. That same temptation that occurred in Genesis 3 and verse 5 is equally true today, historically, politically, and even temporally—that is, in our present time—because fallen man always seeks to play God.

Historical Myth: The Civil War and Slavery

One of the greatest myths of politically correct history is that the South fought the war of 1861 to 1865 to preserve slavery, and that the North fought the war of 1861 through 1865 to free the slaves. That is one of the greatest politically correct myths in existence today. Initially, Lincoln himself said the reason he started the war was to preserve the Union. However, after many devastating losses on the battlefield, it became politically expedient for Abraham

Lincoln to issue what is known as the Emancipation Proclamation. The Emancipation Proclamation did not release a single slave. However, propaganda and political correctness now dictate that the war was fought over the issue of slavery.

After all the smoke is blown away, and after all these years that we have had to study and think about it, do you not think that the desire for power or control had something to do with the War of Northern Aggression? Power involves all kinds of issues. You cannot talk about power without talking about economics, education, and occupations.

Let me give you an example: money. Do you realize that Scripture tells us in 1 Timothy 6 and verse 10 that the love of money is the root of all evil? Now watch: it is not money that is the root of all evil; it is the love of money that is the root of all evil. Why do men love money? Because of what they can get with money. If you have money, then you have power. You have power to do as you please. You have power to interfere, manipulate, and control.

Think, for instance, of taxes, tariffs, imports, and exports. Why has our court rightly ruled that the power to tax is what? The power to destroy. Why? Because the power to tax is nothing less than control, and control is power manifested. It is just that simple. In 1787, twelve of the thirteen states sent fifty-five delegates to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Originally, those delegates went there to overhaul the Articles of Confederation. Instead, after six weeks of absolute secrecy, the end result was what you and I have today as the Constitution of the United States.

Do you know which state did not send delegates to the Constitutional Convention, and why that state did not send delegates? The state that did not send delegates was New Jersey. The reason it did not send delegates was because it did not wish, it did not want, it did not desire for slavery to be interfered with.

Power and the Constitutional Convention

You have got to remember that many northerners became extremely wealthy by virtue of the slave trade. There was never a slave brought into this country under the Confederate flag—any Confederate flag. All slaves were brought into this country under the stars and stripes,

the very flag that all blacks now pledge allegiance to. That is the flag that brought them into this country as slaves. They were brought into this country by people of the North: New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and the New England states. The North held a monopoly on the slave trade because it also held, basically speaking, a monopoly on the shipping industry, which was mainly in those New England states. Not one slave was ever brought into this country under a Confederate flag. I am going to show you and prove to you absolutely today that slavery was not the issue and could not have been an issue.

The issue was rather power and control. When the Constitutional Convention met, it dealt mostly with power. How could power be equally shared? The larger states wanted representation based upon population, while the smaller states wanted equal representation. Take a state like New York and compare it with a state like Georgia. There were far more people in New York than in Georgia. So how in the world were they going to share this power? What was going to stop the larger states from usurping and ruling over the smaller states?

The delegates then settled what is known as the Bicameral Congress, in which two houses would act in a push-pull manner. The House of Representatives, our forefathers said, would be based upon population. That meant the northern states would have more representatives in the House than the southern states. But the Senate would be comprised of two members from each state. Thus, the smaller states would have equal representation in the Senate, although they would not necessarily have the same representation in the House. Basically speaking, the Senate was there to put the brakes, so to speak, on a runaway House.

Initially and constitutionally, where did the Senators come from? The states. The states appointed the Senators. The Senators were not elected by popular vote. The reason the Senators were appointed by the states was to preserve states' rights. Those senators represented the states, and if those senators did not represent the states, then the states could recall them and appoint others who would truly represent states' rights. So there was a balance of power between the larger states and the small states in the government.

Did the Constitution deal with slavery? The answer is yes, but I want you to understand that it did so in such a way as to preserve the balance of power between the North and the South. When the Constitution of the United States was ratified, every state had slaves in it, all the Northern states as well as the Southern states. It is true that there were more slaves in the South than in the North. But why in the world was that? The answer is very simple: because of climatic and geographical considerations.

Agriculture, largely speaking, was in the South. The South had a growing season unparalleled in the North and in many of the western states, perhaps excepting California. Alice and I have been out in Montana in July, and they still had their plants indoors in July because it was still too cool to plant them out in the garden. Their growing season was so short that they had to have everything inside, then stick it out for just a week or two so it could mature and they could collect the fruit. It is true that there were more slaves in the South, but basically because of climate, geography, and agriculture.

The Constitution dealt openly with slavery. For instance, Article 1, Section 2 refers to the slaves as "all other persons." Article 1, Section 9 calls them "such persons as any of the states now existing shall think proper to admit." Article 4, Section 2 includes them in the category of "persons held to service or labor."

The Three-Fifths Clause and Political Balance

In order to keep the North from dominating the South, since the North was more largely populated, the delegates agreed on what is known as the Three-Fifths Clause. It provided that three-fifths of the slaves would be counted as people populating the states, while two-fifths would not be counted. The blacks could not vote, and the slaves could not vote, but they were counted for population reasons so that the South could have a larger number of congressmen to balance the power in the House of Representatives.

The Congress and the Constitution also made provision to balance the number of slave states and free states admitted to the Union in the future. The Constitutional Convention went through all of this trouble to ensure a balance of power between the North and the South. Remember, the West did not exist at that particular time.

Although there was initially a balance of power, it did not last long, because the Northern states had a tremendous increase in population through immigration. By 1819, the North already outvoted the South in the House of Representatives by 105 to 81. Only in the Senate was there a balance: eleven free states and eleven slave states.

When Missouri petitioned Congress to enter the Union as a slave state in 1819, there was a firestorm. The elderly Thomas Jefferson said, "this momentous question, like a fire bell in the night, awakened and filled me with terror. I considered it at once as the knell of the Union." What was he saying? This precarious balance of power was going to be broken. Thomas Jefferson said there would be fighting before long. Northern states were concerned about southern power and influence; they did not want the South to have any power or influence.

They wanted to run and control things. Senator Rufus King of New York stated it succinctly: “The disproportionate power and influence allowed to the slave-holding states was a necessary sacrifice to the establishment of the Constitution. But the extension of disproportionate power to the new states would be unjust and odious. The states whose power would be abridged and whose burdens would be increased by the measure cannot be expected to consent to it.”

What did he say? It was a necessary sacrifice at first, he said, just to get everybody together. But now that everybody was together, they did not want it anymore. They wanted to be the ones in control. Senator King was admitting that the compromise was necessary at first, but since it was no longer necessary, the North was unwilling for any Southern states to expand.

If the North already outvoted the South in the House—and it did, 105 to 81—how could the admission of Missouri threaten that power? Missouri was not going to have enough people to give it representatives who would exceed the North. Josiah Quincy stated it this way: “The Slave Representation Clause is the cause of all the difficulties we labor under. The southern states have an influence in our national councils altogether disproportionate to their wealth, strength, and resources.”

Remember, the South did have fewer people. When the war broke out, there were 9 million people in the South, about 2 million of them slaves, compared with about 23 million in the North. Yet the southern states already had more power than the North wanted to acknowledge or allow. Although they were smaller, they produced about 80 to 90 percent of the money used by the federal government. Most of that money went to the North, and none of it came back into the South. Historian James Banner said it this way.

Territorial Expansion and the Power Struggle

What the Federalists wanted, and what their assaults upon the Three-Fifths Clause were designed to gain, was not the abolition of slavery, but the abolition of Negro representation. Freed, it appeared, the Negro was more of a political threat than enslaved. They did not want the slaves freed; they simply did not want the Three-Fifths Clause to count any longer. If that clause did not count, the South would have less and less power, while the North would have more and more power.

When Missouri wanted to be admitted as a state in 1819, trouble broke out. Finally, the Missouri Compromise was reached in 1820. Missouri was admitted as a slave state, and Maine was also admitted as a free state, once again giving us a balance of power. The great deadlock came between the North and the South over the extension of slavery into the new territories.

While none of the territories were yet states, the North did not want the South even to carry its slaves into those territories. The North not only wanted them to be absolutely slave-free; it said to the South, “You cannot even carry your slaves over there.” Keeping slaves out of the territories was a good way of keeping blacks out altogether. Blocking the spread of slavery was an easy way to block and contain the South’s political influence.

Suppose for a moment that you are a Southerner with two or three slaves, or perhaps a hundred. Suddenly, because of the Mexican War in 1846, all this vast territory is opened up out West. You may want to migrate there and settle down. It is not necessarily a slave territory; slaves may or may not be permitted once the territory becomes a state. But you want to go as a Southerner and carry your

slaves with you. If you cannot carry them with you, in all probability you would not go.

Denying the slaves access to those territories was an equal way of denying the territories to Southerners. Thus neither Southerners nor blacks would be in the territories, and the North would control them all.

The slavery question, which had lain dormant for about twenty-five years after the Missouri Compromise, suddenly came back into existence—not only because of the annexation of Texas, but also because of the Mexican War. President Polk worked out the annexation of Texas. He said, in effect, that Texas was in the South, in the southern region, and slaves were going to be there. What they would do, then, was admit Oregon in the Northwest and balance things out once again.

But in 1846, when the Mexican War was in full swing and it appeared that the United States would win those territories, let me give you a quote. I read this to my wife the other day, and I thought it was really enlightening.

I do not like Henry David Thoreau at all. Thoreau was a communist, a utopian, a socialist. But he said something so astounding it is unbelievable. Speaking about the war with Mexico, he said, “The United States will win the war with Mexico. But it will be as a man who swallows the arsenic. In swallowing Mexico, they will kill us.” Would you like to tell me who the fastest-growing ethnic group in this country is?

He was right on that. But anyhow, the war was going on. On August 8, 1846, Congressman David Wilmot of northern Pennsylvania proposed a rider to a war appropriations bill. Here is what the rider said: “as an express and fundamental condition to the acquisition of any territory from the Republic of Mexico by the United States, neither slavery nor involuntary servitude shall ever exist in any part of said territory, except for crime, whereof the party shall have been first duly convicted.”

This provision became known as the Wilmot Proviso. Here was a war appropriations bill, and he inserted this provision: We are going

to give this money to the war against Mexico, but with the provision that slavery could never exist in any territory acquired from Mexico.

Hence, what you have once again is a power struggle and a struggle for control. Northerners were incensed that the United States might win a victory against Mexico and that those territories would be open to slave states. Slavery might go there, and the North was incensed that it might enter an area where the United States military had, quote-unquote, conquered those territories.

On the other hand, the Southerners were incensed at being denied equal access to an area that their money and their lives had helped conquer. More Southerners fell in the war against Mexico than Northerners. If you study every war since the founding of this country, you will find that Southerners have done most of the fighting—World War I, World War II, it does not matter. The Southerner was incensed: it was their money and their men who were dying to conquer these territories, and now they were being told they could not even go there or carry their slaves there. Southern honor as well as justice was at stake.

John C. Calhoun is known as that ironclad Southerner. He led the charge against such Northern reasoning, arguing that Congress should not exclude slavery from those territories and did not have the authority to do so. He said, "Sir, these territories are the property of the states united, held jointly for their common use. Under the Constitution, citizens of any state must be free to migrate there with their possessions, including slaves."

"Is it consistent with justice? Is it consistent with equality that any portion of the partners, outnumbering another portion, shall oust them from the common property of theirs? Would that be consistent? Can it be consistent with the idea of common property held jointly for the benefit of all? Would it be so considered in private life? Would it not be considered the most flagrant outrage in the world, one which any court of equity would restrain by injunction, which any court of law in the world would overrule?"

He said, you cannot keep the citizens of any state out of common property held in trust for every citizen. It is absolutely monstrous.

Remember also that these territories acquired from Mexico, as a whole, were not suited for plantation life anyhow.

How many plantations do you know of that now exist in the desert of Arizona or in New Mexico? There is very little farming in many of those western territories even today, despite modern-day irrigation. As one southern congressman said in exasperation, the whole controversy over the territory related to an imaginary Negro in an impossible place: Why are you fussing over something that has not even happened?

President Polk suggested expanding the Missouri Compromise line all the way to the Pacific. In other words, the line would extend to the Pacific; anything north of it would always be free states, and anything south of it would always be slave states. Northern congressmen prevented this measure from resolving the issue.

I want you to understand, and I am saying this emphatically, that the issue was really not slavery, nor even the extension of slavery into the territories. The issue was control. The issue was power. Thus, there was a deadlock. The North said, “We do not want anybody carrying slaves into those territories.” The South said, “You have got the list. It is our men who fought and died. It is our money that was spent conquering those territories.”

Michigan Senator Lewis Cass endeavored to reach another compromise, which he called popular sovereignty. He proposed that each territory decide for itself whether it would enter the Union as a free state or a slave state. Thus, each territory would initially be open to slavery. Cass never specified at what point, prior to statehood, the territorial government could vote on or prohibit slavery. His compromise not only failed, but it also failed the United Party.

Keep in mind that the Free Soilers, the Free Soil Party, and even the Free Soil Democrats were really interested in one thing: keeping all blacks out of the territories. A territory was under the authority and control of Congress.

Congressman David Wilmot himself said: “The Negro race already occupy enough of this fair continent. Let us keep what remains for ourselves and our children, for the immigrant that seeks our shores, for the poor man that wealth shall oppress, for the free white laborer

who shall desire to hew him out of the home of happiness and peace on the distant shores of the mighty Pacific."

The Negro race already occupied enough of this fair continent. We don't want them out there. We're saving this territory for white men only. Thus, their slogan—free soil, free speech, free labor, and free men—referred only to free white men who were settling in the territories.

President Zachary Taylor suggested to some of these territories that they become states and bypass the territorial stage altogether. The people could decide as a group that they did not want to become a territory under Congress's jurisdiction, but would go ahead and become a state.

Secession Threats and Compromise of 1850

That is exactly what California did in 1849. New Mexico was about to do the same, and once again this upset the delicate balance of power between the states. Even in 1850, secession began to receive a serious hearing in the South. Congressman Robert Toombs of Georgia, before a convention in 1850, said:

"I do not then hesitate to avow before this house and the country and in the presence of the living God, that if by your legislation you seek to drive us from the territories of California and New Mexico, purchased by the common blood and treasure of the whole people, and to abolish slavery in this district, thereby attempting to fix a national degradation upon the half of the slaves of this Confederacy, I am for disunion."

What stopped the war from happening in 1850? Once again, the Union was saved by compromise. Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, and John C. Calhoun worked out what became known as the Compromise of 1850. Stephen A. Douglas pushed it through the House because some of these men died shortly afterward. John C. Calhoun died twenty-seven days later, but before his death he went to the House and made a statement.

John C. Calhoun, an ironclad southerner, said this: "The overbearing North," he warned, "was snapping the ties of the Union one after another. It cannot be saved by eulogies on the Union,

however splendid or numerous. They cried, 'Union! Union! The glorious Union!' can no more prevent disunion than the cry of 'help, help, glorious help' on the part of a physician can save a patient lying seriously ill."

He continued: "Only the North, politically stronger, could save a union by agreeing to a full and final settlement on the principle of justice of all the questions at issue between the two sections. Failing that, let the states we both represent agree to separate and part in peace. And if you're unwilling that we should part in peace, tell us so, and we shall know what to do when you reduce the question to submission or resistance."

So John C. Calhoun said, "Look, the North is politically stronger. If you want to settle this issue, let's settle it. You just do what is right. You do what is just. And we can settle the issue right now."

I want you to understand once again: the issue is power. The issue is control. The issue is who will rule. Will there be an elite? Will there be a sectarian? Or will there be a sectional control of the country?

Now I am going to give you the fullest and most absolute proof that the war of 1861 to 1865 was not over slavery. It is true that slavery was an issue used later in the war. It is equally true that the abolitionists, who were few in number, pushed for the abolition of slavery, but the war was not over slavery at all. It was about power and control. Now let me begin to give you what I am going to call the absolute proof that the war was not over slavery.

Absolute Proof: Proposed Constitutional Amendments

At the opening session of the second session of the 36th Congress, in December of 1860, President Buchanan recommended in his annual messages, right before Lincoln took over, three explanatory amendments needed to be added to the Constitution on the subject of slavery. The first was an expressed recognition of the right of property in slaves. The second declared the duty of protecting this right in the territories.

The third recognized the validity of the Fugitive Slave Law. That is another issue, and I am not going to deal with it here. The President said that amendments to the Constitution were needed to deal with this issue and resolve the conflict between the North and the South.

Numerous resolutions were offered to end the crisis, but the South preferred to secede rather than consider anything that was not near a unanimous vote. Why? Because if something passed without a unanimous vote, the Southern states realized that it would only be a matter of time before they faced the same exact issue again. Why keep fighting over the same thing? You are either going to resolve it, or you are not going to resolve it.

Most of the resolutions offered either declared that Congress should have no jurisdiction over slavery; that Congress should not interfere with slavery within the states; or that Congress must recognize that regulating the right to labor service was exclusively the right of each state. The Crittenden Amendment and the Peace Convention resolutions contained such articles.

Senate Resolution 54 came from the Thirty-second Congress, second session. It is verified by the Library of Congress as an actual copy, as is the next document. I received these from Roger Davenport. Roger had received them from a black man who understood what the war was about and was trying to prove to other black people that the war was not over slavery, but over control. He wrote the Library of Congress for this documentation, and they sent it to him. Roger then obtained a copy and sent it to me. Here it is: the Joint Resolution, SR 54, also known as the Crittenden Resolutions.

The date of this is January 3, 1861. Remember, the war did not break out until April 12. This is January 3, 1861.

The document is titled “Joint Resolutions. Proposing certain amendments to the Constitution of the United States, whereas serious and alarming dissensions have arisen between the northern and southern states concerning the rights and security of the rights of the slave-holding states, and especially their rights in the common territory of the United States, and whereas it is eminently desirable and proper that those dissensions which now threaten the very existence of this Union should be permanently quieted and settled

by constitutional provisions which shall do equal justice to all sections and thereby restore to the people that peace and goodwill which ought to prevail between all the citizens of the United States. Therefore," and then the resolutions begin.

Article 1 states: "In all territories of the United States, now held or hereafter acquired, situate north of latitude 36 degrees and 30 minutes, slavery or involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for a crime, is prohibited, while such territory shall remain under territorial government. In all the territories south of said line of latitude, slavery of the African race is hereby recognized as existing, and shall not be interfered with by Congress, but shall be protected as property by all the departments of the territorial government during its continuance."

Here it is stating that in the South there would be slavery. Article 2 says, "Congress shall have no power to abolish slavery in places under its exclusive jurisdiction and situate within the limits of states that permit the holding of slaves." Congress shall have no power to abolish slavery. Article 3 says, "Congress shall have no power to abolish slavery within the District of Columbia."

There were slave markets in Washington, D.C., with many slaves bought and sold in the nation's capital. Article 3 continues: "Congress shall have no power to abolish slavery within the District of Columbia so long as it exists in the adjoining states of Virginia and Maryland, or either, nor without the consent of the inhabitants, nor without just compensation first made to such owners of slaves as do consent to its abolishment."

Congress could not abolish slavery in the District of Columbia, and those who consented were to be paid for their slaves. Article 4 declared: "Congress shall have no power to prohibit or hinder the transportation of slaves from one state to another, or to a territory in which slaves are by law permitted to be held, whether that transportation be by land, navigable rivers, or by sea."

Article 6 stated: "No future amendment of the Constitution shall affect the five preceding Articles." It further declared: "And no amendment shall be made to the Constitution which will authorize

or give to Congress any power to abolish or interfere with slavery in any of the states by whose law it is or may be allowed or permitted."

The final resolution read: "Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that the laws now enforced for the recovery of fugitive slaves are in strict pursuance of the plain and mandatory provisions of the Constitution and have been sanctioned as valid and constitutional by the judgment of the Supreme Court of the United States," and continued from there. Here, then, was House Bill or Senate Bill 54, which said, in effect, that they would not interfere with the slaves in the South. The South could have its slaves.

This was only one of numerous resolutions, and for some time no agreement was reached. Finally, on February 27, 1861, the House Select Committee reported a resolution of its own: "No amendment of this Constitution having for its object any interference within the States with the relation between their citizens and those described in Section 2 of the First Article of the Constitution as 'all other persons,' shall originate with any State that does not recognize that relation within its own limits, or shall be valid without the assent of every one of the States composing the Union."

Maybe this is because there were lawyers around in 1861 as well. The proposed amendment said that there could be no amendment to the Constitution to interfere with slavery within the states where slavery existed, and that no non-slave-holding state could interfere with a slave-holding state without the consent of every state in the Union.

Do you think any southern state was going to consent to a northern state interfering in its business? Absolutely no. When that resolution was offered, Thomas Corwin of Ohio proposed a substitute, H.R. 80. He said, “What you've come up with is good, but it's just very difficult to understand.” So they put it in plain everyday language.

On March 1, 1861, the Corwin Resolution stated: “No amendment shall be made to the Constitution which will authorize or give Congress the power to abolish or interfere within any state with the domestic institutions thereof, including that of persons held to labor

or service by the laws of said state." Isn't that simple? Congress shall not have the power. I cannot believe there was a Yankee congressman putting it in black and white, yet preserving states' rights and saying, "Congress, you do not have the power."

The amendment passed the House, 133 to 65, and on March 2 passed the Senate, 24 to 12. It passed both houses and, on the same day, received the unnecessary approval of the President. Illinois, Ohio, and Maryland ratified it.

Other states did not act because it was not regarded as a sufficient concession to hold the southern states that had not seceded, much less recover those that had. The point is this: the resolution said that no amendment could authorize or give Congress power to abolish or interfere within any state with its domestic institutions. If that was insufficient, later in 1861, in a last-ditch effort, Abraham Lincoln proposed it as the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution. This was the only amendment proposed and signed by a sitting president. The Thirteenth Amendment President Lincoln wanted read exactly like the Corwin Resolution: "No amendment shall be made to the Constitution which will authorize or give Congress the power to abolish or interfere within any state with the domestic institutions thereof, including that of persons held to labor or service by the laws of said state."

If slavery, and only slavery, was the issue—if the North was really, truly fighting to free the slaves—why did they say otherwise? Why did a northern congressman and a northern president offer an amendment to the Constitution that would forever prohibit Congress from either abolishing or interfering with slavery?

If the South was really and truly fighting to preserve their peculiar institution, to preserve slavery, why fight when someone was giving them what they wanted? The North said, "Here, you can have your slaves. Keep them. We don't want them. We won't interfere. We will never abolish slavery." But the issue was not over slavery. It was over power and control.

Conclusion: The Ongoing Issue of Power

I ran across some amazing material in my studies in the last several weeks, which brought me to this startling conclusion, which I am going to preach on next week: The more things change, the more they remain the same. The issue, even today, is still over power and control. When fallen men abuse, usurp, and steal power that does not belong to them, it is only so that they may play God themselves and try to create their own utopia and their own little kingdom.

Power belongs unto God. When God delegates power, He does so to be exercised within certain limitations, within certain boundaries. As God said to the sea, “Hitherto shalt thou come, and no further.” So likewise, God says to all of His delegated authorities, “Hitherto shalt thou come, and no further.”

Father, we ask in the name of Jesus Christ for Your grace and Your mercy. We ask, Lord, that You would help us, give us understanding, teach us, build us up in the most holy faith, and enable us, Father, to worship and serve Thee acceptably with reverence and godly fear. Give us wisdom to know what to do in this day and time. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

CHAPTER 2

The Desire For Power #2

Introduction: The Unchangeable Nature of Sin

Jeremiah chapter 13, verse 23, says, “Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard his spots? Then may ye also do good that are accustomed to do evil.”

Look at it very carefully. “Can the Ethiopian change his skin?” What is the answer? No. “Can the leopard change his spots?” No. There are some things that are humanly impossible to change. The leopard cannot change his spots. The Ethiopian cannot change the color of his skin. Neither can a white American. It is just a simple statement. But then he goes on to say, “Then may ye also do good that are accustomed to do evil.” Just as the leopard cannot change its spots, or the Ethiopian cannot change his skin, likewise, a sinner cannot change himself. Those who are practiced, those who are habitually and accustomed to sinning, can only sin.

Jeremiah 22 and verse 21 says something similar. God says, “I spake unto thee in thy prosperity, but thou saidest, I will not hear.” Then God says, “This has been thy manner from my youth that thou obeyest not my voice.” This has been their manner from their youth:

they obey not His voice. Sinners, then, are not only incapable of changing themselves; they are habitual sinners and are contrary to God. The truth is, fallen men do not change themselves. Fallen men cannot change themselves because they are incapable of doing so.

Total Depravity and Total Inability

Romans 8, verses 7 and 8, shows total depravity and total inability. God says, “Because the carnal mind, that is, the natural mind, the fleshly mind, the mind that you were born with, is enmity against God.” Enmity is an extremely strong word for hatred. The carnal, or fleshly, mind is hatred against God, “for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.” Then verse 8 climaxes that truth: “So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.” Those who have nothing but the flesh are incapable of pleasing God. Once you understand this simple principle of total depravity and total inability, you understand not only why sinners do not change and cannot change, but also why sinful governments do not change.

Because they are run by sinful, fallen, helpless, depraved men. I don't think I need to enunciate this truth, but civil service does not change a man into a saint. The truth of the matter is the opposite: the more power a sinner gets, the more corrupt he becomes, as I demonstrated last week from Psalm 62.

Each of us has heard the expression, “The more things change, the more they remain the same.” The expression really indicates that, although there is an appearance of change, in reality there is no change. The change only appears to be real, but it is not. With the appearance of change, then you have business as usual.

The Illusion of Political Change

A good illustration of that, and some of you will remember it, is the truth given to us in the Republican Revolution and the Contract with America. Remember Newt Gingrich? Remember the Republicans who were clamoring about how excessively gigantic government was? They were going to reduce government; they were the administration that was going to downsize government, cut expenses, and reduce taxes.

Need I say that the more things have changed, the more they remain the same? The Republican Contract with America did not change one single thing. Remember how all the Democrats blamed all the problems on the Republicans and assured us that when they got into office, things were going to be different. It is amazing how different things remain the same, isn't it? I mention both Republicans and Democrats for a reason.

I want to be politically correct, because I want to be an equal opportunity offender. There is not a dime's worth of difference between either one of them. Both of them are absolutely corrupt, both parties, and have totally left not only the Word of God, but even the Constitution.

Many of us have heard the statement, “History repeats itself.” I want to correct you if you think this: that is a pagan concept. It is pagan to the core. The pagans believed in the cyclical view of history. History went round and round; the pagans viewed it as a vicious, non-ending circle. From the biblical perspective, history is linear. It has a straight line. There is a definite beginning, and it progresses to a definite end.

Acts chapter 15 and verse 18 substantiates this truth: “Known unto God are all of His works from the beginning of the world.” When God created the world, He knew exactly what He was going to do and exactly how He was going to end everything. There is a definite beginning and a definite ending. History is not cyclical; history is linear. God has not only ordained the end, but He has also ordained the beginning and everything in between.

The correct thing to say is not “history repeats itself,” but this: One thing we learn from history is that we do not learn from history. The reason we believe history repeats itself is not that history is cyclical, but that we make the same mistakes, commit the same sins, and fall into the same traps as our forefathers. The problem is not cyclical; it is sin and stupidity. It is not that history is going around. It is that we are still sinners and still stupid in thinking that we can sin against God and get by with it.

You could paraphrase another common saying: “Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it.” Let me ask you a

question. Mark asked me, coming over here today, “What brought last week’s message and this message to your mind?” I will share it with you. Some of the information I received, which I am going to quote and show you in just a moment, caused me to stop and think, “This has been done before. I remember this. I recognize this.” I want to show you that what is happening in our country today could, in essence, be described as, “We’ve been there, done that.” Why are we so blind today to what is actually going on?

Is it simply ignorance, or is it willful blindness? Are people apathetic and really do not care? There is another possibility: some genuinely do not believe that what is happening in this country could happen here. They believe that we, as Americans, are somehow above failure, defeat, tyranny, and totalitarianism—that these things could never, ever happen in this country.

Lincoln's Transformation of the Republic

The truth of the matter is this: We, as a republic, have been conquered many years ago. In fact, the very nature of our government itself was changed by the War of Northern Aggression. Alexander Hamilton Stephens, in his book—actually, there are two books, A Constitutional View of the Late War Between the States—said this. Remember, Alexander Hamilton Stephens was Vice President of the Confederate States of America:

“The contest which ended in the war was indeed a contest between two opposing principles. But not such as bore upon the policy of African subordination. They were principles deeply underlying all considerations of that sort. They involved the very nature and organic structure of the government itself. The conflict on this question of slavery in the federal councils from the beginning was not a contest between the advocates or opponents of that peculiar institution, but a contest, as stated before, between the supporters of a strictly federated, that is, a decentralized government on the one hand, and a thoroughly national or centralized one on the other hand.”

Alexander Hamilton Stephens says that they held up slavery as an issue, but what he was saying is that it was really not the issue. The issue was a contest between two opposing principles. One wanted a

decentralized government, and the other wanted an extremely structured and centralized, or national, government.

Abraham Lincoln was not simply a follower of the philosophy and politics of Henry Clay; he viewed himself as Henry Clay's successor. Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, and a number of other men were great centralizers. They wanted a strong national government. Clay and all those who believed like him fought for a central government to promote what they called economic growth, but they would promote that growth by internal improvements. By internal improvements, they meant governmental subsidies. It was actually British mercantilism: the government would have the power to improve the states, to run the interstate highways through the states, and to have the canals in the states—all at the expense of the taxpayers and citizens. It was not the states or the citizens who were doing it; it was the federal government.

The federal government, then, would be calling all the shots, not the states and not the citizens. They also believed in what is known as protectionism: they wanted high tariffs.

The tariffs would prevent outside competition for the North. Anytime you have a high tariff, the losers are always going to be the consumers. In this instance, it was the southern consumers. The North wanted a high tariff to protect foreign competition. Remember, all the manufacturing industry was basically in the North, with very little in the South. The South had all of its cotton, plantations, and agricultural crops, which it shipped to England. Instead of England giving cold hard cash, England traded manufactured goods. When the Southerners brought the manufactured goods back in, since they were from England, there was a high tariff. That meant the Southerners still had to pay, even though they brought them back in a bargain or a swap. If they wanted cash, they had to reduce their product so they could get cold hard cash.

Either way you looked at it, the South was losing. Henry Clay and all of his cronies wanted not only a centralized government, but also a strong protectionist tariff. In history, this was known as the Tariff of Abominations in 1828. That led to the nullification crisis in South Carolina, where John C. Calhoun said, "No, you've passed this law,

it's unconstitutional, we're going to nullify it." There was almost a war in 1828 over the abomination of the tariff. They wanted a strong central government, protection, and a national bank. Many probably do not know that Andrew Jackson, President Andrew Jackson, Old Hickory, actually kept the national bank out of the United States twice.

Once he prevented it from even coming into existence, and secondly, when it did come into existence, he refused to renew the charter or have the charter renewed. He said, "What we do not need in this country is a national bank." In vetoing the renewal of the national bank, Jackson said, "Distinction in a society will always exist under every just government." Pause and think about that: "Distinctions in a society will always exist under every just government."

“Equality of talents, of education, or of wealth cannot be produced by human institutions. In the full enjoyment of the gift of heaven and the fruits of superior industry, economy, and virtue, every man is equally entitled to protection by the law. But when the laws undertake to add to these natural and just advantages artificial distinctions, to grant titles, gratuities, and exclusive privileges, to make the rich richer and the potent more powerful, the humble members of society, the farmers, mechanics, and laborers, who have neither the time nor the means of securing like favors to themselves, have a right to complain of the injustice of their governments.”

When government grants subsidies, monopolies, and special privileges to a few, the average citizen may rightly complain. Andrew Jackson denounced the National Bank as dangerous to the liberty of the American people because it represented a fantastic centralization of economic and political power under private control.

Would you like to know who runs the money in this country? It is certainly not the United States Treasury or Congress. It is the Federal Reserve, a private bank in private hands.

These three points—a centralized government, a high tariff or protection, especially for the northern manufacturing industries, and a national bank—Henry Clay himself referred to as the American System. That is what he fought for, and it is exactly what Abraham

Lincoln fought for. This American System was nothing less than British mercantilism. It would bring our country national debt, political corruption, and a court party or political elite. Did it bring those three things to America? Of course it did. Thus, our republic was basically transformed into an empire.

Lincoln remained a staunch protectionist, promoted internal improvements, and insisted upon high tariffs. In an illustration from one of those messages in the series “Where We Are and How We Got Here,” Lincoln was being offered a way out without having the war, but all he could reply was, “My tariff, my tariff, what about my tariffs?” He was for tariffs. In fact, he used the war to force his agenda upon America. Although many Northerners may have believed and held the same positions, Lincoln initiated the American System and changed the nature of our government.

Lincoln as Dictator: Suspension of Habeas Corpus

Lincoln was a dictator. I could say it another way: Lincoln was a tyrant. Many Lincoln admirers openly and readily admit that he was a dictator, albeit a benevolent dictator. Clinton Rossiter, in Constitutional Dictatorship, said, “Dictatorship played a decisive role in the North’s successful effort to maintain the Union by force of arms.” He also wrote, “One man was the government of the United States. Lincoln was a great dictator. This great constitutional dictator was self-appointed.”

James Ford Rhodes, who practically worshipped Lincoln, wrote in 1900, “Never have the power of a dictator fallen into safer and nobler hands.” James G. Randall declared, “If Lincoln was a dictator, it must be admitted that he was a benevolent one.” I do not even want a benevolent dictator.

Which would you rather me do? Have you rather look at me and say angrily and forcefully, "You will give me your money or I'll sonar me to take it," or had you rather me smile and say, "Please give me your money, but you're going to give it to me either way I ask"? What's the difference? I'm just asking nicely. One time I may be a benevolent one, but I'm still stealing from you. It doesn't matter.

Lincoln was most certainly a dictator. He initiated a war against the South without consulting Congress. He declared martial law. He blocked southern ports, which was unconstitutional. He suspended the writ of habeas corpus for the duration of his administration. He imprisoned thousands of Northerners without trial and without charges. He arrested and imprisoned newspaper publishers and editors who were critical of him. He even deported a member of Congress, Clement L. Vallandigham of Ohio, because Vallandigham criticized Lincoln's policies. He created new states without the consent of the citizens of those states.

He censored and tapped telegraph communications. He nationalized the railroads. He ordered federal troops to interfere with local elections. He confiscated private property and firearms. He did all this and more in direct violation of the Constitution of the United States, which he took an oath to uphold. Lincoln was the man who began executive orders, but he was also the man who invented war powers out of thin air. He justified his unconstitutional acts by discovering in the Constitution presidential powers that no president before him had ever discovered. Even James Madison, the father of the Constitution, had never discovered these amazing war powers. Lincoln believed that he could safely ignore the Constitution in order to save the Constitution. It was his willingness to use force that allowed him to get away with basically destroying our Constitution.

Remember that force does not equal authority. I could come up to Chester, pull out a .357 Magnum, stick it to his temple, and say, "Give me all your money." He would give me all of his money. But although I have the power to take his money, that does not mean I have the right or the authority to take it. There is a difference between those two things. Might does not make right. Simply because someone has the power to do something does not mean that individual has the authority to do it.

I want to demonstrate the truth of the title of this message: “The more things change, the more they remain the same.” What is happening today happened under Lincoln in the 1860s. In reality, if I had the time, I could probably spend three or four more messages showing you this simple truth.

One of the first and foremost unconstitutional acts of Abraham Lincoln was that he suspended the writ of habeas corpus. Everyone should know what the writ of habeas corpus is. That is when a man is arrested and someone thinks that he was arrested wrongly. You supply the writ, you file the writ, and the court says, “You produce the body, you bring him back here, we're going to see whether or not things were done right.”

On April 27, 1861, Lincoln suspended the writ of habeas corpus, and this suspension remained in effect throughout his administration. The suspension of habeas corpus was vested only in the power of Congress, not in the executive branch. Even Supreme Court Justice John Marshall issued an opinion: “If the public safety should require the suspension of habeas corpus, it is for the legislature to say so.” Judge Roger Taney, who was also a Supreme Court Justice later on, concurred with Marshall. In fact, Judge Taney said that Lincoln's unconstitutional suspension resulted in, and I quote, “It resulted in that the people of the United States are no longer living under a government of laws.”

“But every citizen holds life, liberty, and property at the will and pleasure of the army officer in whose military district he may happen to be found.” When the writ is suspended, when you no longer have that right, you are literally at the mercy of the army of a dictator. Under Abraham Lincoln, military officers were given liberty to arrest and imprison at their pleasure, without charges and without a trial, without a warrant, without anything.

Do not think for one moment that these military officers simply arrested those whom they believed were genuinely treasonous. No. Men and women were arrested for discouraging voluntary enlistments in the Union Army. If you objected to the war and did not think young men should sign up, you could be arrested and imprisoned by a military officer. People were also arrested for being a noisy secessionist. Does that mean having a party at two o'clock in the morning? No! It meant speaking out and saying, "Well, hey, wait a minute, I believe the South has a right to secede." You could be arrested for that.

People were arrested for selling Confederate trinkets, and for hoorahing for Jeff Davis—saying, "Hoorah, hoorah for Jeff Davis."

They were arrested for expressing a political view contrary to Lincoln, and for writing and printing articles not favoring Lincoln and his policies. I wish I could give you the list of newspapers that were closed down by Lincoln—an innumerable list. Editors and publishers were arrested for writing articles contrary to Lincoln and his policies.

People were arrested for failing to pray for Lincoln. One pastor in Alexandria, Virginia, was arrested in the pulpit because he refused to pray specifically for Abraham Lincoln by name.

I kind of like what General Ewell said, however. When General Ewell was on his way to Gettysburg, there was a little town south of Gettysburg—I forget its name; we have been through it many times—but he went in and took control of that town. He was getting supplies for all of his Confederate men when some pastors came to General Ewell and asked him, "Would it be alright if they had Sunday services?"

He said, “Well, of course. The churches may remain open.” He said, “I would like to attend myself.” Then the next question was, “Well, would you object if we offered a prayer for Abraham Lincoln?” He said, “Of course not. I know of no other man who needs more prayers than he does.” But here was a pastor in Alexandria, Virginia, who was arrested for failing to pray for Lincoln.

You could be arrested for expressing a desire for peace, for being a peace activist, or for being suspected of simply being disloyal. If someone said that you were disloyal, then you could be arrested. In Maryland alone, 31 state legislators, the mayor of Baltimore, and one of the United States congressmen were all arrested for failing to support Lincoln and his policies. Lincoln thought that Maryland was going to secede as well, and he wanted to stop that. So he went in and arrested them. When they had an election, the right men won. He immediately stepped in and arrested those. The others had to literally flee for their lives.

The number of citizens arrested by Lincoln and his men and held without trial is staggering. Some suggest that it was as high as 40,000. We are talking about Northerners, not Southerners—40,000 of his own people. Whatever the number, I do

not care if it was only two; that would be too high. The number was so high that Fort Lafayette in New York Harbor became known as the American Bastille. I have a book entitled The American Bastille. It is about three or three-and-a-half inches thick, and all it contains are the stories of men and women who were arrested and thrown into Fort Lafayette without trial, without charges, and without a warrant, put there by Lincoln.

Modern Parallels: Bush and the Erosion of Liberty

This article, written by William Norman Grigg, is entitled "Suspending Habeas Corpus." You say, "Well, Lincoln did that, but that's not going on today." Listen to the headlines: "The Bush administration claims the power to detain enemy combatants indefinitely, without trial, a suspension of habeas corpus guarantee on which our justice system is founded."

I'm not talking about those Afghanis who are at Guantanamo Bay. I'm not referring to them, but listen to this. He begins the article by saying, "Some things are true even if the Washington Post says them. Reviewing the Bush administration's conduct in the case of accused terrorist Yasser Issam Hamdi, a June 20th Post editorial concluded that under the powers claimed by the Bush administration, any American could be locked up indefinitely without a lawyer on the President's say-so. Hamdi was among the Taliban and Al-Qaeda personnel captured by U.S. forces in Afghanistan. After Hamdi was transported to the United States Detention Center in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, it was learned that he had been born in Louisiana and may retain United States citizenship."

"He was relocated to a Navy brig in Norfolk, Virginia, where he's been held incommunicado. As an American citizen, he would have the right to legal counsel. A federal judge ordered the administration to allow federal public defender Frank Dunham to have access to Hamdi."

There was a real war going on between Bush and the court system. According to the Bush administration's brief, Bush's position was this: "The military has the authority to capture and detain individuals whom it has determined are enemy combatants, including enemy combatants claiming American citizenship. Such

combatants, moreover, have no right to access to counsel or to challenge their detention. Furthermore, the court may not second-guess the military's enemy combatant determination, because by doing so they would intrude on the President's plenary authority as Commander-in-Chief." In other words, if Bush declared you an enemy combatant, even if you were born in the United States and had United States citizenship, you had no right to a lawyer or a trial; he could hold and imprison you indefinitely.

The article goes on to say, “This position is in essence a suspension of the writ of habeas corpus.” It identifies the chief flaw of the administration’s case: only Congress, not the president or military authorities acting under his control, can declare war. Furthermore, the president does not enjoy plenary—that is, absolute or unqualified—authority as commander-in-chief. Only Congress has the power to suspend the writ, not the president.

The Bush administration has essentially resurrected Lincoln’s claim that a military commander acting under presidential orders can be the supreme legislator, supreme judge, and supreme executive within his area of responsibility. That assertion defended Lincoln’s creation of military tribunals to prosecute suspected Confederate agents and Northern civilians accused of disloyalty. Thus Bush is trying to resurrect the same war powers, the same plenary powers that Lincoln had.

Here is a man born in Louisiana who is a United States citizen. Yes, he may be a Muslim and may have been fighting over there, but Bush is saying, “Look, I don't care who he is. I have the right to declare him an enemy combatant. Wherever he was born, he has no right to a trial, no right to a lawyer. I can put him in prison indefinitely. All on my word.”

Everyone has heard about the Posse Comitatus Act. It was passed by Congress during Reconstruction to prevent army officers and military men from exercising control over civilians or civilian law. The Act says: “Whoever, except in cases and under circumstances expressly authorized by the Constitution or an act of Congress, willfully uses any part of the Army or Air Force as a posse comitatus or otherwise to execute the law shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than two years, or both.”

What did Janet Reno and Bill Clinton do in Waco? What did they do at Ruby Ridge? They used army personnel in attacking American civilians and trying to enforce civilian law, which is totally against the Posse Comitatus Act. It says they shall be fined and imprisoned not more than two years.

Two paragraphs published in the Washington Law Journal state: “In response to the military presence in the southern states during the Reconstruction era, Congress passed the Posse Comitatus Act to prohibit the use of the Army in civilian law enforcement. The Act embodies the traditional American principle of separating civilian and military authority and currently forbids the use of the Army and Air Force to enforce civilian laws. In the last 15 years, Congress has deliberately eroded this principle by involving the military in drug interdiction at our borders. Within one week of the bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City, President Clinton proposed an exception to the Posse Comitatus Act to allow the military to aid civilian authorities in investigations involving weapons of mass destruction. In addition to this proposal, Congress also considered legislation to directly involve federal troops enforcing customs and immigration laws at the border. In the 1996 presidential campaign, candidate Bob Dole pledged to increase the role of the military in the drug war, and candidate Lamar Alexander even proposed replacing the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Border Patrol with a new branch of the armed forces.”

All this is in the Washington Law Journal. Some of you have seen the film 9-1-1: The Road to Tyranny. Did you know that Army troops have conducted roadblocks in numerous states, checking licenses, registration, and insurance? Inevitably—and I have some of the documentation—state after state has experienced operations, exercises, or practices lasting two or three days, sometimes without the people's knowledge and sometimes without even the knowledge of law enforcement.

Do you remember that in North Carolina a policeman shot and killed, was it two army men? They were conducting an exercise and tried to take his gun. He did not know what was happening, so he shot and killed them. Why do you think the Bush administration and the Clinton administration have been moving in this direction? The

only difference between them is that Bush appears more moral. That is really the only difference. We have gone downhill further under Bush than we ever did under Clinton, and we have gone downhill quicker under Bush, as wicked and vile as Clinton was.

The growing haste with which the military is considered a panacea for domestic problems will only further undermine the Posse Comitatus Act. It is only a matter of time before we see the military openly in our streets. You say, "How in the world can you say that?" I have a couple of documents. Look at this one: "United States mulls military's domestic role."

Homeland Security Chief Tom Ridge said that the threat of terrorism made government planners consider using the military for domestic law enforcement, which is now largely prohibited by federal law. President Bush called on Congress to thoroughly review the law banning the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines from participating in arrests, searches, seizures of evidence, and other police activity on United States soil. Bush was saying, "Look, we need to consider using the military on a day-to-day basis." Ridge said this goes against our instincts as a country, but that the government was wise to examine the law. He said, "And clearly if you're talking about using the military, then you should have a discussion about posse comitatus." Two influential Democratic senators agreed with Bush and Ridge that the law ought to be reviewed.

They expressed no interest in granting the military new powers to arrest American citizens. Michigan Democratic Senator Levin said, “I don't fear looking at it to see whether or not our military can be a more supportive and assisting role than they have been up to now, providing equipment, providing training, those kind of things which do not involve arresting citizens.” Well, once you get them involved, what in the world are they going to do?

A second article declared, “The United States may debate giving military law enforcement power.” It stated that this “goes against our instincts as a country to empower the military with the ability to arrest,” though Ridge said, “Discussing it does not mean that it will ever be used, or the discussion will conclude that it even should be used.”

Have you ever noticed that when the government says they are not going to do something, you can mark it down: that is exactly what they are going to do? The Bush administration had already taken steps to investigate giving the military a larger domestic security role. Senator Joseph Biden said he might revive a proposal he had sponsored with former Georgia Senator Sam Nunn to revise the Reconstruction-era limits on the Army, Navy, and later the Air Force's law-enforcement authorities. That plan had been prompted by the bombing of the Oklahoma City Federal Building by domestic terrorists. In effect, he said, “We're going to revive this. We're going to do something about this. We're going to see if we can't get the military back involved in everyday citizens' lives.”

So how can they do this? The answer is not by authority, but simply by power. Remember, whenever the government denies something, that is exactly what they were going to do. It was Lincoln who first suspended habeas corpus, and Lincoln who first used the military to arrest citizens without trial, without warrant, and without charge.

The more things change, the more they remain the same. It happened under Lincoln, and it is happening today. Secondly, and this may surprise you, it was under Lincoln that a domestic spy network was first established. Lincoln simply did not wish to be opposed.

There were many Northerners who were sympathetic with the South, and many Northerners who wanted an end to the war. Such sympathizers were derisively referred to as Copperheads. Everybody knows what a Copperhead is: a poisonous snake, extremely poisonous and dangerous, because, unlike a rattlesnake, it does not rattle before it bites; it just bites.

Some of these Copperheads, in order to protect themselves and help the South, formed secret societies such as the Knights of the Golden Circle and the Order of the American Knights. In order to destroy these societies, infiltrate them, and silence them, Lincoln, his State Department, and his War Department initiated the spy network. Lincoln coordinated surveillance through a network of special agents, U.S. Marshals, Pinkerton detectives, local police, military officials, and private informers—citizen informers.

One such private informer was John T. Robinson, who lived at 22 North Howard Street, Baltimore, Maryland. He stood at a public polling place, when people were going to vote, and informed the authorities that one of his neighbors had helped to incite a riot on April the 19th. He accused another of bearing arms on April the 20th, and a third of insulting soldiers. All three were arrested.

It did not matter to John Robinson that federal soldiers had invaded Maryland and were interfering with a lawful state election. Robinson simply considered himself loyal and his neighbors disloyal. Let me put it another way: he considered himself politically correct, and his neighbors were not politically correct.

It was reported that Secretary of State William Seward bragged to Lord Lyons, the British ambassador, of his arbitrary power in arresting citizens. Seward said, "I can touch a bell on my right hand and order the arrest of a citizen of Ohio. I can touch a bell again and order the imprisonment of a citizen of New York. And no power on earth except that of the President of the United States can release them." "Can the Queen of England do as much?"

Is that arbitrary power? Yes. Is that an abuse of arbitrary power? The answer is yes.

Some of you have heard the news of the TIPS program introduced by President Bush. TIPS means Terrorism Information and Prevention System. President Bush wanted to use citizens to snoop and spy on each other. Lincoln did that.

The interesting thing is that they keep saying there is not going to be a database: "We will just forward it to the proper authorities." Let me ask you a question. Is there anyone in this room, or does anyone in this room know anyone else, who is capable of remembering perfectly every name, date, place, and bit of information he or she has ever received? Well, no. The older you get, the more you have to write notes to yourself. Why? You have to keep a database just so you can remember. If you try to tell me that when we begin to inform on each other there is not going to be something written down—something kept as to the informer, the information, and the ones informed against—you have got to be out of your mind.

Let me read this to you. “Administration mum on snooping program. The Bush administration says information published this week regarding a new government informant program was premature and that officials are nowhere near ready to implement it.” However, you can go to www.citizencorps.gov and get all this yourself. It was called Operation TIPS, a new anti-terrorism information program designed as a terrorism information and prevention system.

What they wanted to do was basically this. They said all this information got out prematurely and that it was ridiculous; the program was still under development. According to the Herald Report, the administration, under the guise of President Bush’s Citizens Corps Volunteer Program, begun in the wake of the September 11th attacks, was seeking to recruit up to one million mail carriers, utility workers, and others who had frequent access to private homes as terrorist informants.

Lest I forget to tell you this, those of you who have not been so enraged as I have over this: when Winn-Dixie, along with some of the other stores, began giving you a card that provided savings if you used it, I went to the manager. I had already said I was not going to shop there when they did that. One day I forgot and went in, and I saw that tomatoes were one price without the card and another price if you had the card. I was so incensed, I turned around.

I said, “I’m not shopping here.” As I walked out, the store manager happened to step into my path. I told him, “Sir, I resent the fact that you have to have a card here to shop. My buying of groceries is private. It is not for sale, and it is not your information. I do not buy groceries for marketing. I want you to know that I will not be shopping at Winn-Dixie because of this. If you advertise a sale, it should be open to anyone at any time. I am not shopping here anymore.”

One local store in our town says, “Shop here without a card,” and that is where we started shopping.

Yesterday—or the day before—I gave Alice a seven-page report stating that one food-line company turned over all its savings-card customers to the feds to investigate them as possible terrorists. Now,

because you are buying detergent and anything from which possibly a bomb could be made—ammonia and all this kind of stuff, tinfoil—your purchases will be under federal scrutiny, not just by the IRS but by the Justice Department. The company turned over all the records: a seven-page report.

The government did not even ask for them; they were simply patriotic and willing to turn them all over. The government wants up to a million mail carriers and others. TIPS is scheduled to be launched in late summer or early fall of 2002. Its goal is to establish a reliable and comprehensive national system for reporting suspicious and potentially terroristic related activity. Other reports claim that the government will initiate TIPS under the auspices of a 10-city trial program.

Officials are not saying which cities will be involved. They have also refused to explain how a federal informant program could pass constitutional muster when a similar state or local program likely would not. The TIPS website says information gathered by several industries would be collected at a single central reporting center.

The ACLU called the program “Operation TIPS Breeds Peeping Toms.” The administration apparently wanted to turn local cable, gas, and electrical technicians into government informants, or government-sanctioned peeping toms. The ACLU worried that volunteers would search people's homes without a warrant, that resources would be wasted on a flood of useless tips, and that the program would encourage vigilantism and racial profiling. The project was initially planned to begin in August in 10 selected cities. Another report was titled “Planned Volunteer Informant Corps elicits 1984 fears.”

The Terrorism Information Prevention System, or Operation TIPS, was described as a national reporting pilot program scheduled to start the next month in 10 cities. They were going to use at least 4% of Americans initially as informants. Volunteers whose routines positioned them to recognize suspect activities would report them to the Justice Department, which was running the project. The department would enter the information into a database broadly available within the department, to state and local agencies, and to

local police forces. At local and state levels, FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, would coordinate the program.

The ACLU again said this was an end run around the Constitution. Critics said that having Americans act as domestic informants was reminiscent of the infamous Stasi, the now-disbanded Communist East German Secret Police Service. John Whitehead, Executive Director of the Rutherford Institute, agreed: "This is George Orwell's 1984. It's absolutely horrible and very dangerous idea. It's making Americans into government snoops."

With all the criticism that has come up concerning this TIPS project, look at this headline: "Justice Department forges ahead with TIPS despite Armey ban." This is Dick Armey, the congressman, not the army. He said, "I don't want anything to do with it." Still, House Majority Leader Dick Armey inserted a ban on the program in the bill last week. They said, in effect, "We don't care whether you ban it or not; we're going to continue with this. This is our project, and we're going to have it."

Let me show you how ridiculous this gets. This is just one illustration, taken from the news: "Military jets escort plane after passenger seen passing notes." New York—where else? A passenger became alarmed by seven others who were passing notes and changing seats on a flight from Chicago to LaGuardia. About fifteen minutes before the American Transair flight was due to arrive, the passenger told a flight attendant, who notified the pilot. The pilot alerted the Federal Aviation Authorities, and two F-16 fighter jets escorted the Boeing 757, carrying ninety-eight passengers plus a crew, to the ground. The plane landed five minutes late, but no one was hurt. The seven passengers, who were from India, were released early Wednesday.

They belonged to a well-known Indian performance group and may have been rehearsing or discussing a performance when they attracted suspicion. Actors say, "Here's what we're going to do." So now there are two military jets. Why? Because someone became suspicious.

The point I'm trying to make is this: Would not common sense, along with our personal desire for safety and protection, be sufficient

to lead any American who believed he was seeing or observing terroristic action to report it to someone who could stop it? Would you not do that without a program? I would. If I saw someone trying to blow up a building, I would call the sheriff or someone who could stop him. If I did not happen to have a weapon with me to stop him, I would still do something. That is common sense.

Must I be suspicious of every farmer who buys ammonium nitrate for his crops? Must I be suspicious of every plumber who carries with him a truckload of PVC pipe which he uses daily in his occupation? Instead of Americans spying on Americans, why do we not just keep those people out of our country who are trying to harm us? Isn't that simple? It is not any citizen I know who issues passports and visas and allows foreigners into our country. It is our own government that does so. If any spying is to be done, it ought to be the citizens of this country eyeballing our government to make sure that it does not exceed its constitutional limits. That is the spying that needs to be done.

Let me give you something from Chuck Baldwin's Food for Thought, his July the 19th article. He says, "It should be obvious to everyone by now, wittingly or not, George W. Bush is in the process of creating a communist style form of government in the United States. As details emerge regarding his new Department of Homeland Security, we discover that Bush and his band of belligerent brothers have begun the process of turning the federal government into a gargantuan police state."

According to press reports, Bush plans to merge 22 federal police and emergency agencies into his new Department of Homeland Security. These will all be under federal control under George W. Bush, or whoever is president. He plans to create standardized biometric travel documents—in other words, basically a national ID; develop screening tools to predict human behavior, such as hostile intent; allow federal police to search and seize at will; allow them to incarcerate and indefinitely hold suspects without arrest or warrant, with no legal recourse by the person seized; implement a national driver's license; and allow the United States military to conduct lethal operations on United States soil.

So now, I am going to arrest John because I think he thought about robbing a bank—a pre-crime. The Posse Comitatus Act prohibits military operations on United States soil right now. That is why they are talking about doing away with it. The proposals also include allowing the President to unilaterally procure taxpayer dollars without the consent of Congress, allowing the federal government to act in secret, and creating a domestic informant program whereby millions of Americans are authorized to spy on their fellow citizens on behalf of the federal government. According to the Sydney Morning Herald and other news outlets, Bush plans to enlist—are you listening?—one in twenty-four Americans into a new citizen spy department.

The East German police never had such an informant system. If you think the man who comes by and reads my meter is going to snoop around, suspect me, and report on me, I am not going to let him on my property. I am not going to let a television repairman come if I think he is going to turn me in for having a shotgun in my front room. If this TIPS program goes through, you will not be able to turn around.

Dean Sprague, in his book Freedom Under Lincoln, writes: “At the outbreak of the war, the federal government was not a real source of power.” But when the arm of the Lincoln administration reached into Cooperstown, New York, and took away George Brown; when it slipped into Freedom, Maine, and speared away Robert Elliott; when it proved powerful enough to send three citizens of North Branch, Michigan, to Fort Lafayette; and when it imprisoned without any recourse to law a man in Des Moines, Iowa, “it was apparent that the federal executive had real power.”

“The balance of power inexorably changed and altered the fundamental workings of the American political system. Father Abraham had been born to the American people.” Lincoln changed the nature of our government. Inasmuch as the War of Northern Aggression was fought to preserve the Union, it was an explicit denial of the American Revolution. How could that be? The American Revolution was, and is indeed, proof positive of the fundamental right of secession. What did we do? We seceded from England. When Lincoln says, “I’m fighting to preserve the Union,”

he is denying the principle of the American Revolution. William Appleman Williams says, “Put simply, the cause of the Civil War was the refusal of Lincoln and other Northerners to honor the revolutionary right of self-determination, the touchstone of the American Revolution.”

The London Times, on September 13, 1862, hit the nail on the head when it wrote: “If Northerners had peaceably allowed the seceders to depart, the result might fairly have been quoted as illustrating the advantages of democracy. But when Republicans put empire above liberty and resorted to political oppression and war rather than suffer any abatement of national power, it was clear that the nature at Washington was precisely the same as the nature at St. Petersburg, Russia. Democracy broke down, not when the Union ceased to be agreeable to all of its constituent states, but when it was upheld, like any other empire, by force of arms.”

The London Times said that the Republican administration—Lincoln’s administration—put empire above liberty. When it invaded the South, it revealed that the nature at Washington, D.C., was exactly the same as the nature of St. Petersburg, Russia: totalitarian, dictatorial, and tyrannical. The proof that our Republic ceased in the War of 1861 through 1865 was that union was preserved by force of arms.

War as the Engine of State Growth

There was an empire built that had not previously existed. How did Lincoln effectively change our republic into an empire? The answer is by war. How did Lincoln establish a centralized, power-hungry, bureaucratic government? The answer is by war. Randolph Bourne correctly stated, “War is the health of the state.” How can war be considered the health of the state? In two ways.

First, during war governments always expand their powers, swell their base, increase taxes, regulate, control, and suppress liberty and freedom, all in the name of doing it for the good of our country. Second, after the war is over, there is never a return of the government to its pre-war size. It continues and adds to its usurped authority until it has assumed almost total control over everything.

It does not even have to be an actual war for this little trick to work. Does anyone remember our government's war against illiteracy? Has literacy been eradicated? No, but now we have government-controlled education. Some of you may remember, as I do, our war on poverty. Does poverty still exist? Yes, but now we have a totally governmentally controlled economy. What about the war against drugs? We have more drugs than ever before.

The truth of the matter is this: If our government were genuinely serious about stopping drug trafficking, all it would have to do is get out of the business itself. Our CIA imports more drugs than you can shake a stick at, probably along with many other agencies. The phony war on drugs is a way to control people, control medicines, control our lives, and keep our prisons full of cheap labor.

Percentage-wise, there are more people in prison in America than in any other country in the world. Does anybody remember the war against crime? We have more crime than we have ever had before, and the biggest criminals are now in government. Phony wars are just as good as actual wars.

Consider the war on terrorism: look at the power President Bush arrogated to himself and demanded from Congress, and at the bureaucracies being established. This is not less government; it is more government. More government simply equates to more control and loss of freedom.

Conclusion: Salvation Only in Christ

George Fitzhugh said it best in the 1800s: "Freedom is an evil that government is intended to correct." And it corrects it very well. That is unbiblical government. Freedom is an evil that unbiblical government is intended to correct.

When you look at what is happening today, remember this simple truth: The more things change, the more they remain the same. When you look at Bush and Lincoln, you can simply say, "Been there, done that." What Lincoln started, Bush is finishing: one centralized, totalitarian, tyrannical, gargantuan police state.

The leopard cannot change his spots. The Ethiopian cannot change the color of his skin. The sinner cannot change his nature.

One thing you should learn, and learn it well: our salvation is not in government. Our salvation is only in the grace of God. If we do not work for a Christian government based upon the Word of God, built upon the grace, mercy, and sovereignty of God, all we will ever have is what Lincoln and Bush can give us. Change comes through grace and through faith in Jesus Christ and in Jesus Christ alone.

You talk about a new world order; I will tell you when we will have the new world order: when Jesus Christ returns literally, visibly, and bodily. Then we will have one that is genuine and real.

Let's pray. Father, we ask You today to speak to our hearts, teach us, build us up in the most holy faith, enable us to live for Thee, and enable us, Lord, to be aware of what is going on and understand that we should not make the mistakes of our forefathers. It is not that history repeats itself. It is that we are sinners, forgetful, silly, and stupid, and we allow wickedness to continue when we should never allow it. Give us grace, Lord, to serve Thee acceptably with reverence and godly fear. In Thy name we pray, Amen.

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