

OUR TIMES

BEHIND THE RECENT TRENDS

Love and fear are the two great motivating principles in life. Because so little is known in the world today about genuine love (because so few know the true God and the accuracy of His Word and that "God is love"), fear has been the average person's motivation to carry out his responsibilities. The psychology behind the recent move by the media, in cooperation with the federal government, to discredit so-called "cults" operates by means of fear. Fear threatens people: "If you don't do this, you're going to get this consequence." You may remember this principle from the first session of the class on Power for Abundant Living. In contrast to the negative principle of fear, God's Word says, "Perfect love casteth out fear." Therefore, a man who has "perfect love," which is enjoyed by dwelling in the light of God's Word, will not be afraid. As always, the solution to the trend toward oppressing the citizens of our nation with fear lies in God's Word.

This fear of "cults" being promulgated by the media with the aid of the government has a deep foundation. I Timothy 6:10a points it out: "For the LOVE of money is the root of all evil." The LOVE of money is the root of the evils in our society. Ecological, social and financial problems are only the symptoms. Our government, seeking more sources of money for its spending programs, is attacking many small religious groups in an attempt to take away the tax deductibility of contributions to these groups. If they succeed in doing this, then they will almost certainly be able to revoke the tax-exempt status which a small religious group may be entitled to under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Once the government has found a way to tax the small organizations, it is simply a matter of time until they will tax the larger denominational bodies. They dare not begin with the Roman Catholics or major Protestant groups. It is easier to "start small" with what the government says are "cults."

The LOVE of money and the psychology of fear are two major trends in American society. Other developments, such as reverence for government above reverence for God (which is idolatry), increased pressure for gun control and irresponsible governmental spending, should also concern us as believers. We need to go to God's Word to find the reasons for these occurrences and the truths by which we of The Way International, as citizens of the United States, must live. Truth is found only in God's Word.

The media are not committed to telling the all-truth. What is being disseminated is mostly propaganda—in other words, lies. Those seeking the truth of God's Word may have questions on their minds regarding the present situation in our country. These questions will be handled spiritually from the Word of God at Advanced Class '79. If you have not yet registered, I encourage you to do so before January 31, 1979. I am primarily interested in teaching those who have never before taken the advanced class on Power for Abundant Living, but we will definitely have room for our Advanced Class grads. Send a \$50.00 down payment or your full donation with your registration form to the Academic Department, The Way International, Box 328, New Knoxville OH 45871.

The urgent reality of our times makes it clear: There is no alternative for the people of The Way International and of the United States but God's Word. The words of Jesus Christ are as true today as the day he spoke them in person:

*John 6:64-68:
But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him.
And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.
From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.*

Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?

Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

Some people may "faint from fear"; they may "drop out" because of pressure; but as Peter answered Jesus Christ, "Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life." In spite of the recent negative trends in the United States and the world, Jesus Christ alone is "the way" out of the confusion. He alone spells out God's will. As we turn to that Word of Truth, looking to Him in every situation, our thinking and our lives will change to become more closely aligned with His Word. By living in the light of God's Word, we are not affected by the psychology of fear, and we will shine as lights in the world to those who truly want to know Jesus Christ, "the way, the truth, and the life."

Victor Paul W

Our Common Commitment

*Who are my mother and brothers
But those who dwell in God's heart?
I can pour out my life for others,
But they only receive a part
Of the vistas of grace and compassion
To which God has opened my eyes;
Of the thankfulness growing within me,
Overshadowing fleshly lies.*

*There's no looking back in the household.
In our common commitment, we're blessed.
The comfort we share with each other
Is in Christ, who gives each of us rest.
A man freed from blind speculation
Is that man who dwells in God's heart:
He's found truth without reservation—
From that truth he will never depart.*

—Tom Burke