

# OCCUPY!

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## ARMING FOR OCCUPATION

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By the time you receive this month's **OCCUPY!** we shall know whether or not we will have to endure four more years of Jimmy Carter & Co., the greatest show on earth. As anyone who has thought seriously about the fundamental principles underlying the Carter Administration's tenure as God's appointed ministers over the American people must conclude, four more years of Carter and the Liberals' ungodly dominance over American society—if not over the international situation, the Russians and the economy—will surely place us in dire peril of God's judgment (see Mike Gilstrap's essay in the October **OCCUPY!**). And when you consider that if Carter and the Democrat and Republican Liberals are re-elected in sufficient numbers to continue their economically, socially and militarily suicidal policies it will be because enough Americans have been ungodly enough or (which is to say, biblically—see Proverbs—the same thing) foolish enough to vote for salvation by government, it becomes manifest, in the famous words of Pago, that "We have met the enemy, and he is us!" We will not deserve God's judgement so much because of the sins of Carter and the majority in the Congress as because of the sins of the majority of American voters. . . and non-voters.

Nor should we expect salvation by Reagan. Conservatives have longed for decades to elect one of their own to the supposedly magical office at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. But even institutionally speaking the presidency cannot be the salvific force that the Liberals have shaped and touted it to be. For there are also 535 folks in the Congress who are constitutionally given countervailing powers, and who must work in conjunction with executive designs in order to effect changes. And there are the legions in the bureaucracy. Not to mention the legislators in the courts!

Reagan is committed to reducing the ranks of the bureaucrats. And by the grace of Gad he may be able to replace a number of the Liberals who have perverted our fundamental law during their tenure on the federal courts. This the radical Liberals fear! But he can't do it alone. He will need massive help and support from the Congress. But this requires that the same American people who will hopefully turn out in the massive numbers to replace an ungodly administration with a godly one will also have the presence of mind and the biblical conscience to replace an ungodly Congress with a godly one. The problem, historically, is that many folks vote for presidents and congressmen on the basis of different criteria. And I'm talking about "Conservatives" here! Simply stated, for president they want a man of conservative principle; for Congress they want a man who delivers the goodies to his constituents: to them. They want military and foreign firmness and strength and domestic frugality and economic freedom from the President and economic protection and subsidies

for their economic interests from their congressman. They want a free market president and an interventionist, welfarist congressman or senator. Justice, in other words, from the president and theft from the congressman. But theft from everyone else to subsidize the rich or the middle class is no more just than theft from everyone else to subsidize the poor. Until we can overcome this perversion of principle in the "Conservatives" and in the American people we shall have more of the same politics of interest group competition for subsidies, with its consequent expansion of taxation, stifling regulations, enervating government borrowing on the capital markets, and crippling inflation. And until we have a people who vote in sufficient numbers on the basis of biblical principles of law and not the moral relativism of economic and social self-interest, we shall continue to be defenseless against the ravages of political Humanism.

Reagan's leadership alone will be insufficient, no matter how good he is at TV speechmaking. What we need are the votes in Congress. And what we need for that are principled Christian congressmen and senators. And what we need for that are biblically principled, active, influential and numerous Christian voters and statesmen. And though God is raising them up today, their numbers are not yet great enough to turn the country around.

Nor can we count on Reagan's leadership. His consideration of Ford, who stands diametrically opposite to Reagan's position on so many issues (abortion, ERA, the Panama Canal giveaway, the Soviet threat etc etc.), for the Vice Presidency is sufficient proof of that. And his choice of Bush as his running mate is further decisive evidence. In effect, Reagan has set Bush, a "moderate" whose politics are essentially those of a middle-of-the-road Humanist, up in a favored position as his successor for the presidency.

Reagan has always suffered from an incomplete Christian worldview. His "Eleventh Commandment" ("Thou shalt not speak ill of another Republican.") is proof enough of this. We are not to add to or take away from Gad's word (Rev. 22:18-19). Nor can a man serve two masters. We are to occupy, to have dominion, for Christ our Lord, in terms of His word and law, not in terms of eleventh commandments. The Old Testament and the New are clear that we are to conquer the Lord's enemies, not join with them in syncretistic matrimony or fraternity. To add to or take away from the word of Gad, to substitute other laws for His law, is ultimately idolatry, for it amounts to serving other gods through following their pseudo-laws. Reagan has unequally yoked himself together with Bush. His willingness to do this alone is an indication of an intellectual and moral failure of serious import for the nation. The addition of Bush, unless he undergoes a Schweiker-like transformation, cannot but impede the functioning of a Reagan presidency.

I speak as a pro-Reagan activist who has twice been a Reagan delegate to the Texas state convention and has backed Reagan since 1988. Blame the Bush choice on Reagan's advisors, if you will, but the buck must stop at Reagan's desk: ~~he~~ made the choice. If he surrounds himself with such pragmatic advisors when he is running for office, we cannot expect—especially given the Bush presence and the Ford influence—that he will choose more principled men for his Cabinet. Thus we cannot reasonably expect a drastic change in past policies from a Reagan administration. With more congressional support, perhaps. But it remains to be seen whether Americans will vote in a sufficiently righteous way to elect enough principled men to Congress—and principled radicals and pragmatic timeservers out of Congress. And there is also the problem of available candidates for Congress. How many are even professing Christians? How many of these are aware of the biblical requirements for godly rule? How many Christians are ready, informed and willing enough to instruct and pressure their congressmen and senators to vote and act biblically? How many Christians even know the difference between a Christian and a pagan congressman? How many pastors are knowledgeable or courageous or willing enough to instruct them?

In short, there is work to be done! We may put a Christian man (I mean a Christian man whose politics are not a baptized copy of the fads of Trilateralist Humanism) in the White House, at least temporarily. But we must aim at occupying the whole American regime for the Lord, from the courthouse to the White House, as the saying goes. Bible-believing Christians must be mobilized to truly fulfill the Great Commission, to do truly biblical evangelism: We are not only to lead men to a knowledge of the Lord, but also to teach them to do **all things** whatsoever He has commanded us (Matt. 28:18-20). The politics of antinomianism (the denial of God's law) is the politics of judgment and destruction (Deut. 28). Christians may no longer just follow fashionable standards of political ethics: we must follow God's standards. And we must elect men who will do likewise.

#### Faith with Works

If Carter and another dominantly Liberal Congress are elected God's judgment will rapidly be upon us. In fact that will in itself be a frightening judgment, as well as the means of our further judgment! If Reagan is elected with a Liberal or pragmatic Congress the judgment will, like that of Nineveh, be delayed. If Reagan is elected with even a moderately Conservative Congress, we will still be in trouble, because a Conservative Congress is not a Christian Congress. Its actions will be more just than those of the past half-century, but they will still fall short of the requirements of God's law. And the Bible is clear on the judgment of the Lord on those who abandon His law.

Keep your Reagan bumper stickers on your vehicles. Keep working for Reagan, and for your local, state and congressional candidates. Keep buying your gold and silver coins, spare parts and tools, and survival gear and food. Definitely keep praying—fervently! But arm yourself for godly dominion.

#### The Last Things

Rhetoric in the Republican convention mirrored the division in the Christian community over the important question of eschatology, the doctrine of the last things. Some speakers were very pessimistic about America's ability to survive four more years of Jimmy Carter and the Liberal Congress (a not unreasonable conclusion), and implicitly even pessimistic about the ability of America to survive in recognizable form with Reagan and a sufficiently Liberal Congress (a real possibility). Others were (perhaps predictably) optimistic about the ability of President Reagan and a Conservative Congress to not only save the country from destruction but also usher in a new age of American greatness.

Many Evangelical Christians today similarly hold a pessimistic view of the future. They expect the political situation to inevitably

decline, Satan to be victorious, while the Church is raptured out of the coming Tribulation. Only the return of Christ will bring victory of God over evil on this earth, they believe. The **Scotfold Bible** and The Late Great Planet Earth have done their work. Many Bible-believing Christians are convinced that Jesus Christ, the Sovereign Lord of the Universe, will be defeated in history, until He physically returns to earth. Others similarly hold that the Kingdom of God is really limited to Heaven, and confined institutionally to the church and the family, on this earth. In effect, both groups, however devout, are saying that "The earth is Satan's, and the fulness thereof." Their eschatological pessimism leads to a surrender of the social, economic and political realms of life to the Devil, for they are convinced that God has willed that these areas of life are going to the Devil. Such men neglect the counsel of God in 1 Corinthians 15:24, 25, in which we are infallibly told that the end shall not come until Christ "shall put down all rule, and all authority and power." "For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet." Our Lord will not return until this has been accomplished. The Bible says that God will be victorious over Satan on this earth as well as in Heaven. The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof. All power is given to Jesus Christ in Heaven and in earth. This is why Jesus Christ gave us the Great Commission not only to go into ~~all the world and preach, but also to teach men to do~~ all things whatsoever He has commanded us (Matt. 28:18-20). This is why He guaranteed us that he will build His church, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it (Matt. 16:18). The Church of Jesus Christ, defined as the believers and their activities occupying for Him in all areas of life (Gen. 9:1; Luke 19:13), will be victorious on earth, through the preaching and teaching of His word (Matt. 16:18-19), under the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit. God's commandment to occupy, to have dominion for Him, under His word and law, is not an idle word or an enigmatic oracularity; it is a command with teeth, promising victory, not defeat or a dubious tie. (See Marcellus Kik's excellent study, **An Eschatology of Victory** [Presbyterian & Reformed Publishing Co., P.O. Box 817, Phillipsburg, NJ 00885], and R.J. Rushdoony, **God's Plan for Victory** [Thoburn Press, 11121 Pope's Head Road, Fairfax, VA 22030].)

Happily, many Evangelical and Reformed Christians are inconsistent with their pessimistic eschatologies and consistent with God's command to Christianize our culture and eventually the world. At least now that it is becoming clear that the Humanists in the universities, the "public" schools, the media and the bureaucracy have in mind the effectuation and celebration of our demise. Or, at the minimum, that the consequences of Humanism, whatever the intentions, are suicidal. More and more are joining the battle.

Whatever your eschatology, whether you are a short-run or long-run pessimist, or even an optimist of some sort, you need to join the battle, too. ~~Whether we, in some sense, "win the election and its ensuing battles or not, Christ will win the war. However, it is both your self-interest and your duty to fight the good fight of the Christian faith, to join the ranks of the army of the Lord, to occupy in your sphere of influence for Him, till He comes.~~

First, however, you need to know the enemy—his nature, strategy and tactics. Then you need to be well armed. The following information will prove invaluable in your service of our Lord

#### The War and the Enemy

Obviously, the best place to begin is the only infallibly authoritative place to bag in learning about anything the **Bible**, studied in its entirety, taking its own words seriously—especially those in II Tim. 3:16, 17 "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

As this is being written, we still have no book summarizing the systematic teaching of the Bible, especially as matters of personal salvation and sanctification relate to the believer's duties and God's

titled **Unconditional Surrender**, and will provide both a biblical framework and a methodology of Christian reconstruction. It will discuss God, man and law, the Church, the Family and the State, concluding with chapters on the Kingdom of Satan, the victorious Kingdom of God, and how you can make your faith bear fruit in good works. Expect its publication Jan. 1, 1981. [List it for Christian Economics, P.O. Box 6116, Tyler, TX 75711]

While you're writing the I. C. E., inquire about the I. C. E.'s other newsletters: Christian Reconstruction (Gary North), Biblical Economics Today (Gary North), Biblical Ethics (Greg Bahnsen), The Biblical Educator (David Chilton, ad.), and for your pastor, **Tentmakers** (Gary North). [Don't forget: this ministry is supported by your donations!]

CHALCEDON [P.O. Box 158, Vallejo, CA 95251], headed by Rev. Rousas John Rushdoony, prints a number of important books, and sends out an excellent newsletter, The **Chalcedon Report**, together with periodic **Chalcedon** Position Paper and **Chalcedon Book Notices**. The **Chalcedon Report** is a must for Christians who want to be informed on the fundamental issues in all areas of life and culture as well as the biblical answers to man's problems. Rev. Rushdoony is a prolific author and speaker, who combines the practical application of scriptural truth with his important theological and philosophical ministry, devoting much of his time to testifying on behalf of bureaucratically-harassed Christian schools and churches around the nation. CHALCEDON richly deserves your support.

The CLA Defender [Christian Law Association, P.O. Box 30290, Cleveland, OH 44130; no price listed; a ministry of C. L.A., which is leading the legal defense of Christian schools and families around the country; C.L.A. is supported by voluntary donations—and well worth the support!] is also must reading for first-hand information on the legal battles for the Christian school, family and church liberties occurring at the local and state as well as the federal level around the country. Those who are really interested should inquire about back issues. The news of what the humanistic bureaucrats are attempting to do to our churches and our children will alarm and anger you—and perhaps awaken some of our slumbering brethren! Dr. David Gibbs, a founder of the C.L.A., is also a very articulate speaker on the legal and theological issues involved in the current battles. Inquire about his tapes. They will both inform and deeply move you to action in defense of our godly heritage. Then pass them onto your friends and neighbors. An aroused populace can spew the bureaucrats and their political supporters out of their positions of power—and must!

Another helpful summary of the humanistic war on the Church is found in Alan Stang's booklet, **Thou Shalt Have No Other Gods Before Me**. . Including the State [Heritage Book Shoppe, 2427-B Marconi Ave., Sacramento, CA 95821 (No, its not Jerry Brown's address!), \$1.50 & postage]. Must reading. Like the above works, it is very good to pass this one along to your friends. Spread the word!

**Temple Times** [2560 Sylvan Road, East Point, GA 30344; a church ministry supported by donations], edited by Rev. Robert McCurry, is an excellent source of information on bureaucratic persecution of the church. The **Miletus Epistle** [a ministry of The Miletus Church, P.O. Box 177, Cross Plains, TX 76443; weekly], by Rev. David L. Holmes, is also helpful.

#### Books & Tapes

For Christian reconstruction in the spheres of culture, politics and economics, indeed for the application of the Bible's teachings to all areas of life, it would be difficult to exceed for clarity, scope and depth the writings of Rev. R. J. Rushdoony. For introductory social and political matters, see his **Law and Liberty**, which makes clear the relationship between God's law and the political and economic blessings of liberty that we enjoy. His **Foundations of Social Order**; **Studies in the Creeds and Councils of the Early Church** makes

central doctrines of the Christian faith, as clarified in the early Church's creeds and councils. This is truly a valuable book, and must reading for understanding today's crisis of church-state relationships.

On the study of biblical law and its significance for Christian culture, Rushdoony's **The Institutes of Biblical Law** is mandatory reading. It is massive (over 900 pages), yet pithy and always interesting. He means "institutes" in the original sense of the term an introduction to the subject of biblical law. Both the first and second volumes (the latter delayed two years at the printer) will be must reading for Christian teachers, statesmen, lawyers, pastors and serious laymen.

Greg L. Bahnsen's shorter (637 pages!) study, **Theonomy in Christian Ethics**, which has caused a stir in Reformed circles, is a similarly brilliant companion to Rushdoony's **Institutes**. Bahnsen argues that the law of God, in exhaustive detail, is of abiding validity today, for the state and family as well as for the church. With Rushdoony, this is must reading for serious Christians, for without the law of God we are ultimately left adrift in a sea of moral and legal relativism, the consequence of which is a politics of will, power and flux, and the (temporary) defeat of the Church is precisely the denial of the only objective standard of justice, the law of God, which has led Christians to accept statism, changing laws, and the laying of the foundations of humanistic persecution of the Church. Read these and you'll know more than your pastor about the fundamental issues today,

Those interested in learning the relationship of God's law to the civilization that the Reformers were trying to build will be interested in the newsletter, **CaMn Speaks** [monthly, Geneva Divinity School, 708 Hamvassy Drive, Tyler, TX 75701; supported by tax-deductible donations], a series of translations into modern English of John Calvin's sermons on Deuteronomy.

All Christians, obviously, are affected by economics, whether they like it or not. Whether we like it or not, God's word and law speak to economics (cf. Deut. 28). Since we are not to live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord, Christians, therefore, should eagerly anticipate the publication of Dr. Gary North's first volume of his **Economic Commentary on the Bible, The Dominion Covenant: Genesis** [Institute for Christian Economics (Who else?!), P.O. Box 6116, Tyler, TX 75711; January 1, 1981, \$9.95]. Preliminary forms of this commentary have appeared in serial form in the **Chalcedon Report**. The Bible is not simple (thought it is clear), so neither is this commentary. But it will richly repay the serious student, and not only the economics major.

The contribution of Christianity to American history and government is obscured by the Humanists and affirmed, often without understanding, by many Christians. Two books by Rushdoony, **This Independent Republic**, and **This Nature of the American System** [available through **Thoburn Press**, at the address above], are important companion volumes, outlining the relationship of Christianity to American government and life.

Prof. M.E. Bradford's biographical sketches of the Framers of the Constitution, appearing in Vol. I of the new five-volume edition of Jonathan Elliot's **The Debates of the Several State Conventions on the Adoption of the Federal Constitution**. . . [Liberty Press/Liberty Classics, 7740 North Shadeland, Indianapolis, IN 46250] with his annotated edition of James Madison's **Notes on the Federal Convention**, will be a valuable addition to every Christian's, to every American's, library. Not one college student in a million reads the debates in the state ratifying conventions. Yet these are crucial to understanding the intentions of the men who framed and ratified the system of government that we were intended to live under—as opposed to the system we now live under!! Bradford's annotations to Madison's notes will be valuable in rescuing the Constitution from the ('scholarly' procrusteanizations of the Framers' intentions which have laid the basis for the contemporary perversion of the great

regime which they, by the grace of God, founded. Perhaps more valuable to the general audience will be Dr. Bradford's biographical sketches of the Framers of the Constitution. Two striking facts emerge from his findings. One is the political Wrought of the Framers, which, for all its diversity, belies the notion that they intended to prepare the way for centralization and the total state of today. The second is the manifest dominance of Christian belief and affirmation of the Framers. Though a few were lukewarm, many were unquestioning, if not vocal, Christians, and many were devout believers. At most three to five of the fifty-five were pagans. The book will be invaluable to Americans for appreciating the true stature of the unsung Framers, as well as for the knowledge of their political views and Christian faith (commendably, unvarnished with the usual evangelical veneration and perfectionism) that it imparts.

This brief section would be incomplete without reference to some leading Christian discount book distributors. Presbyterian & Reformed Publishing Co. [Box 817, Phillipsburg, NJ 06856] provides substantial discounts on Reformed books on all subjects. Puritan Reformed DieCount Book Service [1319 Newport Gap Pike, Plaza 51, Wilmington, Delaware 19804] handles the largest selection, from a number of Christian publishers, at good discounts. Membership is \$5 per year. He Rose Enterprises [P.O. Box 308, Pt. Hueneme, CA 93041] offers an excellent biblical tape ministry, oriented especially toward Christian history, politics, ethics, legal issues and theology. They also have a \$10 per month deferred payment plan (Look at their tapes and you'll want to take advantage of this offer!). This is also the address of the Christian **Reconstruction** Book Club, which offers excellent discounts on important books that may not be handled through ordinary Christian book discounters. Finally, the Mount Olive Tape Library [P.O. Box 422, Mt. Olive, Mississippi 39119] offers a large catalogue of reel-to-reel or cassette tapes, for purchase or rent; rental tapes may be duplicated, so long as you do not resell them. All aspects of theology, and the application of biblical teaching to history, politics, economics, psychology, etc. are covered by leading Reformed pastors and theologians. Send them \$1 for the revised 100 + page catalogue: it is well worth it.

#### Christian Action Organizations

The payoff from your reading and study of the books, newsletters and tapes above is in your communicating their principles to others, either individually or in groups. We are to be doers of the word, and not hearers only. And in doing the word of the Lord we are to produce the maximum profit for Him. Below are a few organizations which can enable you to join with others for maximum godly impact. We shall mention others in subsequent issues of OCCUPY! An excellent

introduction to many of these groups will be found in "The Pro-Family Movement," a special report in the May/June issue of **Conservative Digest** [7777 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22043 \$1.50 Per issue, \$15 per year]. This report is well worth the price of the magazine, and the magazine is very informative in its own right. You can't join them all, but there is plenty of room for involvement and influence.

Christian Voice [413 Forest Avenue, Pacific Grove, CA 39350] is headed by Rev. Richard Zone. It lobbies, educates the Christian public, solicits letters from constituents to their representatives, and publishes the voting records of our elected representatives. Similar organizations are Religious Roundtable [1500 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22209], led by Ed McAtaer, which coordinates Christian leaders around the nation; The Moral **Majority** [Box 1745, Washington, D.C. 20013 headed by Rev. Jerry Falwell; run by Dr. Robert Billings, it also publishes a hi-weekly, issue-oriented tabloid]; the National Christian Action Coalition [418 "C" Street N. E., Washington, D.C. 20002; headed by Dr. William Billings, it features a **Christian's Political Action** Manual and a Family Issues Voting Index, which could be invaluable to educating the public about the performance of their congressmen.] Support for Action [705 Avenue B, Suite 606, Garland, TX 75040] offers a monthly newsletter and a spiritual warfare campaign of daily prayer and monthly letter-writing. Richard Ford's RCA (Responsible Christian Action) Forum [P.O. Box 401804, Dallas, TX 75240] offers political involvement and training seminars to companies, churches, and groups. John Beckett's **Intercessors for American** [P.O. Box D, Elyria, OH 44035] involves tens of thousands in prayer over the moral issues facing our nation.

The growing pro-family movement also features a number of organizations and publications. Outstanding among them are JoAnn Gasper's monthly newsletter, The Right Woman [410 First St., S. E., Washington, D.C. 20003 \$28 per year]; Lottie Beth Hobbs' **Pro-Family** Forum [P.O. Box 14701, Ft. Worth, TX 76117]; Margaret Hotze's **Life Advocates** [4901 Richmond St., Suite 101, Houston, TX 77027; which publishes the monthly newspaper, The Life Advocate (largely Roman Catholic in viewpoint; very articulate and well-informed), supported by donations]; and, of course, Phyllis Schlafly's **Eagle** Forum [Box 618, Alton, Illinois 62002] (Mrs. Schlafly, thank the Lord, is no chicken!). Other pro-life groups include Paul Brown's **Life Amendment Political Action Committee (LAPAC)** [P.O. Box 14283, Ben Franklin Station, Washington, D.C. 20043], and Judie Brown's **American Life Lobby** [P.O. Box 490, Stafford, VA 22554].

O.K. Now you have the weapons and access to the means to hone and use them.

What are you waiting for?

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