

When a Nation Forgets God

Lessons we must learn from Nazi Germany

A Bible Study utilizing the book by
Erwin Lutzer

Lesson Four – *Propaganda can
Change a Nation*

Dr. Paul Jehle

1

Review of Lessons One through Three

- God is Sovereign – over individuals, homes, churches *and* civil government – *to the degree that man is sovereign a proportionate loss of religious and civil liberty results*
- Individuality (choice) marks a Biblical economic system. *When the free market is no longer cherished, an economic crisis can be exploited to implement socialism*
- Self-government can only be maintained if the source of internal control for the most influential people in the society is God. *Otherwise, the most common occurrence is to go to some form of anarchy that results in tyranny and control*

2

The Biblical Principle of Stewardship

- Genesis 2:15 – *Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it...*
 - God put man (and woman) in the garden to labor (tend)...
 - He also put them in the garden to *keep, manage, guard or steward* what was produced, to keep it “*hedge about, guard, protect, attend*”
- This Biblical principle, introduced in Genesis, highlights:
 - Hedge about – to set decentralized goals with responsibility
 - Steward – to *manage domestic concerns... administrate*
No right is absolute, though it is God-given.
Every right is hedged about and managed by personal responsibility.

3

The Practice of Biblical Stewardship

To Hedge about – conscience

- To be attentive to key ideas
- To exercise a clean conscience
- To actively discern / evaluate
- Faithful in great (eternal) is...

To Steward – manage property

- To exercise priorities in love
- To individually steward actions
- To restrain fraud and libel
- proportionate to the temporal

He who is faithful in what is least is faith also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own? – Luke 16:10-12

4

Deception of Sloth and Gluttony in the market of Ideas

“He... that is slothful... is brother to him that is a great waster.”
Proverbs 18:9

“Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied”
Proverbs 27:20

Sloth – slowness, tardiness, disinclination to action

A failure to set goals and discern standards or premises

- Embracing an attitude of being a victim... *inactivity*
- Accepting information *passively*

Gluttony – One eager of any thing to excess.

A failure to set limits on what is best to read and receive

- An obsession with having to do or know it all... *indulgence*
- Information excess *no priorities*

5

Noah Webster's definition of Liberty (1828)

- *Natural liberty consists in the power of acting as one thinks fit, without any restraint or control, except from the laws of nature. It is a state of exemption from the control of others, and from positive laws and the institutions of social life. This liberty is abridged by the establishment of government.*
- *Civil liberty is... only abridged and restrained, as is necessary and expedient for the safety and interest of the society, state or nation... which exemption is secured by established laws, which restrain every man from injuring or controlling another. Hence the restraints of law are essential to civil liberty.*

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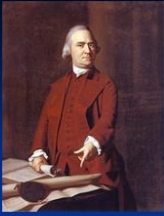
- *Liberty.. depends not so much on the removal of all restraint from him, as on the due restraint upon the liberty of others....*
- *Religious liberty is the free right of adopting and enjoying opinions on religious subjects, and of worshiping the Supreme Being according to the dictates of conscience, without external control.*
- *Liberty of the press, is freedom from any restriction on the power to publish books; the free power of publishing what one pleases, subject only to punishment for abusing the privilege, or publishing what is mischievous to the public or injurious to individuals.*

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Notes from these Definitions

- There are internal restraints on liberty and freedom
 - The law of nature – God's law revealed through Creation
 - Established civil laws for the common good, (liberty is not license)
 - A free press is only restricted from *publishing what is mischievous to the public or injurious to individuals.*
 - Mischievous and injurious rest on moral premises – which ones? (either Christianity or some other set of premises inspire laws)
- These restraints are inherent in a Biblical worldview, but other worldviews rely on external, government control which often leads to a loss of the very liberties promised to protect

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The Stewardship of Ideas The Committees of Correspondence Faneuil Hall, November 2, 1772

That a committee of correspondence be appointed, to consist of twenty-one persons, to state ‘the rights of the colonists, and of this province in particular, as men, as Christians, and as subjects; to communicate and publish the same to the several towns in this province and to the world, as the sense of this town, with the infringements and violations thereof that have been, or from time to time may be made; also requesting of each town a free communication of their sentiments on this subject.’”

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Righteous Correspondence; A Three-Part Report

Conscience



and

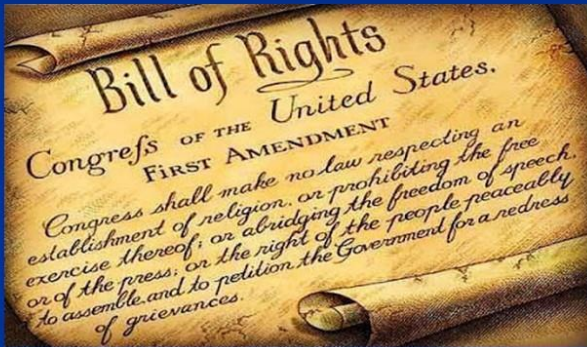


Stewardship

- **Part One – Statement of Principle** (Sam Adams)
 - Rights as Men, Christians and Subjects
- **Part Two – Enumerate Violations of Rights** (Joseph Warren)
 - Ten Part explanation of Parliament’s usurpation of powers not delegated to her...
- **Part Three – Invitation to Communicate** (Benjamin Church)
 - Letter of Correspondence to other Towns

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The Establishment and Free Exercise Clauses of the First Amendment



Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

The First Amendment

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The Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798

- The 1794 Jay Treaty with Britain angered the French (at war)
- 1797 Adams administration refuses the French XYZ bribe
- *Federalists* (Adams) accused the *Democratic-Republicans* (Jefferson) of being in league with France (to start a war)
- To keep aliens abroad and media at home in check, Congress passed four Acts in 1798
 - Increased residency requirements for citizenship to 14 (from 5)
 - Alien Enemies Act – arrest and deport male citizens of France
 - Alien Friends Act – deport any non-citizen plotting against the US
 - Sedition Act – punish libel against the Adams administration

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Let us remember the extremes we must avoid

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The Sedition Act of 1798 – *gluttonous control*

An example of the attempt by the *Government to control* free speech and the press in order to correct abuses

- The 1798 Law outlawed “*false, scandalous and malicious writing*” against Congress or the president; illegal “*to oppose any measure or measures of the government.*”
- The *Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions* of 1798 claimed the law violated the First Amendment – free speech and press
- Between 1798 and 1801 – 26 prosecuted (mostly editors)
- By 1802 the Sedition Act was repealed after Jefferson won

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What about Propaganda? – *slothful passivity*

- Today's modern dictionary defines it as “*information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote or publicize a particular political cause or point of view.*”
- There is no such word propaganda in Webster's 1828! Why?
 - Every position is biased by nature – there is no such thing as an un-biased presentation of facts – every assertion has a premise!
 - Propaganda is thus either *evil* (concealing its true motives or premises) or *righteous* (based on truth and defending its premises)

So how does one curb the abuse of government control on one hand and the deception of the media on the other?

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How can Freedom of Speech and Press be successfully maintained in a culture?

- Christianity and its standard of truth embraced by the most influential group of people (believers) in the culture
- The standard of truth according to the Scriptures such as:
 - *Virtue, faith, character, perseverance, kindness* - 2nd Peter 1
 - A goal to protect life (children), liberty (religious, civil) and property (rights of conscience and use of property) – Genesis 1-2
- The responsibility of the individual and civil government:
 - *Discern premises / examine all sides in love* (Heb. 5:14; Pr. 18:13)
 - Civil government *punishes* fraud, libel and deceptive advertising

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Hitler and Propaganda

Lutzer - *In my opinion, he was a master at reading human nature and knowing how to manipulate the masses to gain a zealous following...*

- Hitler – *The most striking success of a revolution will always have been achieved when the new philosophy of life as far as possible has been taught to all men, and if necessary, later forced upon them....*
- Lutzer – *It is chilling to think of what Hitler could have done if he could have used today's media to gain followers.*

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Hitler controlled Media and concealed Goals

- *In Hitler's Germany the people were to see and hear only what the government wanted them to see and hear.*
- *... the masses should never be told the 'end-game;' that is, where the leader actually intends to take the people.*
- *Sanitized terms were used to camouflage unspeakable crimes*
 - *"Cleansing the land" – exterminating the Jews*
 - *"The best of modern therapy" – euthanasia of the elderly*
 - *"Children's Specialty Centers" – place where children were killed*
 - *"Low-calorie diet" – starving children to death*

Myths ride a "cultural current" until they are believed as true

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Steps to implement deceptive Propaganda

The Nature of Deception

- Doubt – Genesis 3:1 – *has God said?*
- Denial – Genesis 3:4 – *you shall not surely die*
- Discontent - Genesis 3:5 – *you will be like God*
- Disobedience - Genesis 3:6 – *she took of its fruit... also gave to her husband*

The Steps of Evil Propaganda

- Hide the premise of the Enemy
 - To dethrone God and enslave man
- Embrace a false Premise
 - Deny consequences of sin
- Ridicule/Label a victim
 - Either oppressor or oppressed
- Use force and manipulation
 - Want to be a god / making hell look like heaven...

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The Steps of Evil Propaganda

Lies

“the Father of Lies” – John 8:44

Intimidation

“like a roaring lion, seeking who he may devour” – 1st Peter 5:8

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Exposing Evil Propaganda in Today's Culture

- *Homosexual activist leaders* – used Hitler's methods
 - Utilizing lies and intimidation to make it acceptable
 - But its goal was *not* acceptance, but forcing all to agree
- *“Islam is peaceful”* – but the 15% who want jihad are ignored
- *“Peaceful Protests”* – yet Antifa and other organizations high-jacking and organizing riots are ignored...
- *Tech Companies* – canceling posts they don't agree with...
- *Critical Race Theory* – sees all issues through lens of skin color
 - Use lies (all blacks/whites) and intimidation as methods of change
 - The solution to racism is Marxism and the control of the State

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Lessons on Propaganda in Nazi Germany

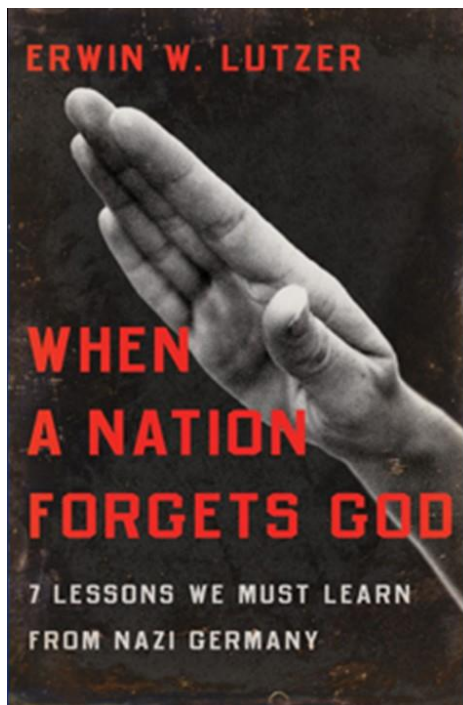
- *Perhaps the most enduring lesson of Nazi Germany is that ordinary people, simply concerned about living their own lives, can be motivated to become a part of an evil movement.*
- Hitler – *“By clever and persevering use of propaganda even heaven can be represented as hell to the people, and conversely the most wretched life as paradise.”*
- *The universities and the newspapers all ended up swimming along with the Nazi current as it flowed toward the greatest atrocities in history... a part of the groupthink that made them blind to their bias...*

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So what is our Challenge today?

- Discerning the premise often disguised to refute the lies
 - Hebrews 5:14 – *“those who by reason of use have their senses (minds) exercised to discern both good and evil.”*
 - Fallacies such as *Red Herring* (Ad Hominem, Appeal to People, Straw Man) or *Making Assumptions* (Equivocation, Loaded question)
- Examining all sides of an Issue to preserve love toward others
 - Proverbs 18:13 – *“He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him.”*
 - Have a “search and see” attitude – a little research goes a long way
 - We must reverse the false theology that we aren’t to use your minds!

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Suggested Reading from Lesson Four

- Read Chapter Four (pgs. 75-95)
 - *Identify how most issues are “used” to achieve an end-game that will not be satisfying to most of those who were on board with the movement they joined*
- Consider carefully the consequences of remaining passive in our minds and expecting the media to be simply controlled by government (p. 94)

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