Eye on the World March 17, 2018

This compilation of material for "Eye on the World" is presented as a service to the Churches of God. The views stated in the material are those of the writers or sources quoted by the writers, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the members of the Church of God Big Sandy. The following articles were posted at churchofgodbigsandy.com for the weekend of March 17, 2018.

Compiled by Dave Havir

Luke 21:34-36—"But take heed to yourselves, lest your souls be weighed down with self-indulgence, and drunkenness, or the anxieties of this life, and that day come on you suddenly, like a falling trap; for it will come on all dwellers on the face of the whole earth. But beware of slumbering; and every moment pray that you may be fully strengthened to escape from all these coming evils, and to take your stand in the presence of the Son of Man" (Weymouth New Testament).



An article titled "Saudi Crown Prince: If Iran Develops Nuclear Bomb, So Will We" was posted at cbs.com on March 15, 2018. Following are excerpts of the article.

The next leader of Saudi Arabia says his country would quickly obtain a nuclear bomb if arch rival Iran successfully develops its own nuclear weapon. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman made the statement about a possible nuclear arms race in the Middle East to "CBS This Morning" co-host Norah O'Donnell, in an interview set to air on this Sunday's "60 Minutes."

The interview is the first with a Saudi leader for a U.S. television network since 2005. O'Donnell, a contributing correspondent for "60 Minutes," asked the 32-year-old crown prince about the political, economic and social reforms unfolding in his kingdom.

The heir to the throne has ushered in significant changes for women in the conservative Sunni Muslim kingdom, including granting them the right to drive for the first time. The crown prince discussed foreign policy, including his views on Saudi Arabia's longtime foe, Shiite Muslim-ruled Iran.

Below is a preview of O'Donnell's conversation with the crown prince.

NORAH O'DONNELL: You've been rivals for centuries. At its heart, what is this rift about? Is it a battle for Islam?

MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN: Iran is not a rival to Saudi Arabia. Its army is not among the top five armies in the Muslim world. The Saudi economy is larger than the Iranian economy. Iran is far from being equal to Saudi Arabia.

O'DONNELL: But I've seen that you called the Ayatollah Khamenei, "the new Hitler" of the Middle East.

MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN: Absolutely.

O'DONNELL: Why?

MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN: Because he wants to expand. He wants to create his own project in the Middle East very much like Hitler who wanted to expand at the time. Many countries around the world and in Europe did not realize how dangerous Hitler was until what happened, happened. I don't want to see the same events happening in the Middle East.

O'DONNELL: Does Saudi Arabia need nuclear weapons to counter Iran?

MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN: Saudi Arabia does not want to acquire any nuclear bomb, but without a doubt if Iran developed a nuclear bomb, we will follow suit as soon as possible.

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An article by Ben Hubbard titled "Saudi Crown Prince Likens Iran's Supreme Leader to Hitler" was posted at nytimes.com on March 15, 2018. Following are excerpts of the article.

Saudi Arabia's powerful crown prince has compared the supreme leader of Iran to Adolf Hitler, and said that his country would acquire a nuclear bomb "as soon as possible" if Iran developed nuclear weapons.

The comments by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman ratcheted up the rhetoric in the increasingly volatile rivalry between Saudi Arabia and Iran, which has fueled sectarianism and war across the Middle East. His statements were in an excerpt, released on Thursday, of a prerecorded interview with "60 Minutes," the CBS News program.

Iran's Foreign Ministry responded by calling the prince a delusional and devious novice who "has no idea of politics."

Saudi Arabia, a Sunni monarchy, blames Iran for funding militias to undermine Arab states, while Shiite Iran accuses Saudi Arabia of backing Sunni extremist groups. Their struggle for regional dominance has put the two nations on opposite sides of conflicts in Yemen, Syria and Iraq that have killed hundreds of thousands of people and displaced millions.

Prince Mohammed, who jailed hundreds of the kingdom's most potent figures while swiftly consolidating his own power, is scheduled to arrive in the United States on Monday for an extended trip.

His plans include meeting with President Trump in the White House and with business, entertainment and technology leaders in a number of American cities.

One of his primary goals is to persuade Americans to invest in his reform plans, which aim to diversify the Saudi economy away from oil, increase the kingdom's military self-sufficiency and raise its citizens' quality of life.

His comments on Iran also suggested that he would seek further cooperation with the United States in combating Iranian influence in the Middle East, a goal he shares with the Trump administration.

In the interview, Prince Mohammed, 32, played down Iran's power, saying its army was not well ranked in the Muslim world and that Saudi Arabia had a larger economy.



A Reuters article by John Shiffman and Reade Levinson titled "Made in America: U.S. Body Brokers Supply World With Human Torsos, Limbs and Heads" was posted at reuters.com on Feb. 8, 2018. Following are excerpts of the article.

On July 20, a Hong Kong-flagged cargo ship departed Charleston, South Carolina, carrying thousands of containers. One of them held a lucrative commodity: body parts from dozens of dead Americans.

According to the manifest, the shipment bound for Europe included about 6,000 pounds of human remains valued at \$67,204. To keep the merchandise from spoiling, the container's temperature was set to 5 degrees Fahrenheit.

The body parts came from a Portland business called MedCure Inc. A socalled body broker, MedCure profits by dissecting the bodies of altruistic donors and sending the parts to medical training and research companies.

MedCure sells or leases about 10,000 body parts from U.S. donors annually, shipping about 20 percent of them overseas, internal corporate and manifest records show.

In addition to bulk cargo shipments to the Netherlands, where MedCure operates a distribution hub, the Oregon company has exported body parts to at least 22 other countries by plane or truck, the records show.

Among the parts: a pelvis and legs to a university in Malaysia; feet to medical device companies in Brazil and Turkey; and heads to hospitals in Slovenia and the United Arab Emirates.

Demand for body parts from America—torsos, knees and heads—is high in countries where religious traditions or laws prohibit the dissection of the dead.

Unlike many developed nations, the United States largely does not regulate the sale of donated body parts, allowing entrepreneurs such as MedCure to expand exports rapidly during the last decade. No other nation has an industry that can provide as convenient and reliable a supply of body parts.

Since 2008, Reuters found, U.S. body brokers have exported parts to at least 45 countries, including Italy, Israel, Mexico, China, Venezuela and Saudi Arabia. Whole bodies are studied at Caribbean-based medical schools.

Plastic surgeons in Germany use heads from dead Americans to practice new techniques. Thousands of parts are shipped overseas annually; a precise number cannot be calculated because no agency tracks industry exports.

Most donor consent forms, including those from MedCure, authorize brokers to dissect bodies and ship parts internationally. Even so, some relatives of the dead said they did not realize that the remains of a loved one might be dismembered and sent to the far reaches of the globe.

"There are people who wouldn't necessarily mind where the specimens were sent if they were fully informed," said Brandi Schmitt, who directs the University of California system's anatomical donation program. "But clearly there are plenty of donors that do mind and that don't feel like they're getting enough information."

MedCure shipments are now the subject of a federal investigation. In November, the Federal Bureau of Investigation raided the company's Portland headquarters. Though the search warrant remains sealed, people familiar with the matter say it relates in part to overseas shipping.

MedCure is cooperating with the investigation, said its lawyer, Jeffrey Edelson. He declined to comment on the FBI raid, but said: "MedCure is committed to meeting and exceeding the highest standards in the industry. It takes very seriously its obligation to not only deliver safe specimens securely, but to do it in a way that respects the donors."

Edelson also said MedCure "partners with government and industry agencies to follow and exceed requirements for shipping human tissue," and that "shipping handlers, drivers and carriers are specially trained for the safe handling and transportation of human specimens."

Infected parts at the border

As a Reuters series last year revealed, the body donation industry is so lightly regulated in the United States that almost anyone can legally buy, sell or lease body parts.

Although no federal law expressly regulates the body trade, there is one situation in which the U.S. government does exercise oversight: when body parts leave or enter the country. Border agents have the authority to ensure that the parts are not infected with contagious diseases and are properly shipped.

This authority played a leading role in the government securing a conviction last month of Detroit broker Arthur Rathburn, who stored body parts in grisly,

unsanitary conditions, according to trial testimony. The FBI began to focus intently on Rathburn's business, International Biological Inc, after repeated border stops in which he was found ferrying human heads, court records show.

The jury found that Rathburn defrauded customers by supplying body parts infected with HIV and hepatitis.

"The fraud scheme orchestrated by IBI shocked even the most experienced of our investigative team," said FBI special-agent-in-charge David Gelios. Even in death, Gelios said in a statement after the verdict, donors were "victimized as IBI intentionally and recklessly marketed and transported contaminated human remains . . . Personal greed overcame decency."

Rathburn was also convicted of transporting hazardous materials—the head of someone who had died of bacterial sepsis and aspiration pneumonia. The transportation conviction underscored the U.S. government's growing concern about shipments of body parts that might endanger public health, officials said.

Martin Cetron, director of Global Migration and Quarantine for the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, said that when brokers dissect a body that is infected, there is added risk of transferring that disease to anyone who handles the parts.

"In the case of saws (used) to cut bones or limbs, there may be additional procedures that could potentially turn a fluid into an aerosol that could be inhaled and be communicable," Cetron said.

A Reuters review of government records shows that border agents intercepted body parts suspected to be infected at least 75 times between 2008 and 2017. Border agents pay more attention to goods entering the country than those departing, and virtually all of the intercepted shipments were remains of American donors whose body parts were being returned to United States.

Typically, body parts are returned to America for three reasons: to comply with foreign laws on final disposition; when cremation is not available in the foreign country; or when a U.S. broker intends to reuse the parts.

In 2016 and 2017, for example, federal agents stopped shipments being returned to MedCure at the border, law enforcement records show. The body parts they stopped included torsos carrying infectious biological agents that cause sepsis, a body's extreme response to infection. At least one carried the life-threatening MRSA bacteria, the records show.

For more than a year, records show, U.S. officials and some body brokers have disagreed over whether the presence of sepsis in a corpse—without further information about a person's cause of death —poses enough of a risk to warrant special packaging and warning labels.

"Sepsis itself is not a disease diagnosis but it raises a red flag," said Cetron, the CDC official. The pathogen that caused sepsis, he said, "could be a bacteria, could be Ebola, could be salmonella, could be E. coli."

That's why further documentation, including a death certificate, must accompany any body part imported into the United States, he said.

The CDC has an exemption intended to allow for shipping blood and other lab testing samples. Reuters found dozens of examples of brokers labeling customs manifests and packages with a version of the term "exempt human specimen" to ship body parts.

"I think that's a deceptive practice," Cetron said. "If they are human remains, part or in whole—heads, arms, limbs, etc.—they are not exempted."

Several brokers said the government should clarify the rules—whether the CDC's or those of other regulatory entities. They cited, for example, a U.S. Department of Transportation regulation that, they believe, exempts body parts. Transportation officials declined to comment on their regulations.

Alyssa Harrison, executive director of Oklahoma-based broker United Tissue Network, said most in her industry want to follow the law. But, she added, "there are many guidelines that are unclear and or contradictory to other department's regulations."

The disconnect between what the industry and government believe is dangerous, and what precautions are required by law, should be resolved, said Matthew Zahn, chairman of the public health committee for the Infectious Diseases Society of America, a group that represents doctors, researchers and other health professionals.

"It's a situation where we don't have a huge amount of regulation or clarity as to what the risks are," Zahn said. "It feels like one of those cracks in the system where a practice has developed and the risk factors and oversight have not fully matured."

Exporting Americans

MedCure, founded in 2005, describes itself, as do most body brokers, as a non-transplant tissue bank. It has distribution hubs and surgical training centers near Portland, Oregon; Las Vegas; and Providence, Rhode Island. The company also has distribution hubs near Orlando and St Louis.

When MedCure donors die, the cadavers are transported to one of these five U.S. hubs. According to former employees, MedCure deploys a temperature-controlled truck to carry body parts between the five facilities.

MedCure began shipping cadavers and body parts overseas as individual orders, one by one, and largely by airplane. The former employees said the company later calculated that it could increase profits by shipping bulk quantities of body parts to Europe, and distributing them from there.

In 2012, MedCure opened its European hub in Amsterdam. Since then, MedCure has sent to the Netherlands at least six refrigerated cargo containers filled with frozen human remains, manifest records show.

The first container—40 feet long, 8 feet wide, 9.5 feet tall—departed the Port of Tacoma in Washington state in July 2012. The body parts weighed about 5,000 pounds (2,268 kg) and were valued at \$259,210.

MedCure continued to export via truck and plane as well—for example, shoulders to a hospital in Mexico, knees to a surgical training center in Taiwan and a head to a university in Chile.

The shipments are detailed in internal MedCure documents and in data from two companies that collect trade manifests: Descartes Datamyne of Ontario, Canada, and PIERS, a unit of IHS Markit Maritime & Trade, based in London.

One reason foreign doctors and researchers rely on U.S. companies for body parts: Their nations restrict the dissection, sale and distribution of donated cadavers.

In many nations, certain sects of religions – from Judaism to Islam to Taoism—frown upon separating the bodies of the dead into parts. Huang Yi-Ling, who worked in Singapore for a medical device manufacturer, said that importing body parts from the United States avoids "conflict with donor intent" in regard to religion.

"MedCure makes donor tissue available for researchers and teaching facilities even in places where religious and cultural norms discourage body donation," said Edelson, the MedCure lawyer.

Holger Gassner, director of the Finesse Center for Facial Plastic Surgery in Regensburg, Germany, said he began importing body parts from the United States in 2009 because he couldn't obtain the volume of heads he needed locally for medical conferences.

He also said most German anatomy departments use formalin to preserve bodies; MedCure supplies fresh body parts, which are more useful for teaching.

"You have to practice on human tissue in order to become a good or better surgeon," Gassner said. "There's no alternative."

Gassner described MedCure as "very reputable" and noted that it sent an inspector to Germany to approve his facilities. "At the end of the day," he said, "this has been a very positive thing for us and for the university."

"Serious worry"

The FBI search of MedCure in November is part of a national investigation by the bureau of body brokers, many of whom did business with each other.

MedCure, for example, was among the brokers who supplied Rathburn, the Detroit businessman convicted last month. MedCure was not accused of supplying any body parts at issue in the Rathburn trial.

A different Rathburn supplier, Steve Gore of Phoenix, pleaded guilty to providing customers with infected body parts.

A Reuters report in December described how Gore's business used construction saws to dismember donated bodies and employed an untrained intern to rip out cadavers' fingernails with pliers.

In early 2016, authorities stopped nine torsos that were being returned from Vancouver, Canada, to MedCure in the United States. According to U.S. government records reviewed by Reuters, some torsos were infected with sepsis. At least one had MRSA, methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus.

Border officials in both countries struggled to verify the identities of the torsos and how they were used. The records show that officials determined that a Vancouverarea bioskills seminar to which the torsos were purportedly sent did not exist.

Canadian and U.S. officials said they do not comment on specific cases. Edelson, the MedCure lawyer, said the government's account is inaccurate and "the training course was a legitimate medical program."

He said the company does not sell or rent out human remains infected with HIV or hepatitis, and that body parts with other "non-contagious conditions are shipped overseas only with the permission of the CDC, including CDC permit, proper labeling and packaging and full disclosure" to its foreign clients.

In January 2017, another shipment being returned to MedCure from Hong Kong was stopped at the U.S. border. This one contained six torsos with legs. MedCure had sent the body parts to the Orthopaedic Learning Centre at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, which trains surgeons.

The specimens were used to test the biomechanics of a knee implant procedure, including the impact of the technique on muscles connecting to the pelvis and femur, said the center's director, Jack Chun Yiu Cheng. The doctor would not disclose which company or individual had organized the workshop.

Reuters reviewed a copy of the MedCure medical summary accompanying the specimens noting that two of them carried sepsis, including one from a donor who died in part from "septic shock."

When asked about the summaries, Cheng said there was not enough information provided to determine what caused the septic shock, but he said that he would not have used the body parts himself.

"I would have serious worry," Cheng said.

Any training workshop carries risk, he said. But going forward, the doctor said, the training center will probably reject torsos with sepsis, "or at least discuss it directly with the workshop leader, not just send them the forms."

Edelson, the MedCure lawyer, said the company discloses appropriate medical information. He added, "Recipients are medical professionals who are expected to use basic safety precautions when handling any human tissue, including wearing gloves, masks and scrub suits."

Reading the fine print

Some donor relatives said they were disappointed to learn their loved one's parts were sent overseas.

"I should have read the fine print," said Marie Gallegos, whose husband's head was shipped to a dental school in Israel months after he died of a heart attack in May 2017.

Six hours after he died, she said, an employee from Donate Network of Arizona called to discuss body donation. The employee promised the body would advance medical research and be treated with dignity, Gallegos said.

She recalled signing two consent forms, one for Donate Network and one for the company she was told would handle the cremation, United Tissue Network. The UTN form authorized use of her husband's body parts "both domestically and internationally."

Later that summer, UTN delivered her husband's ashes, which she buried at a veterans' gravesite. She said she did not realize the ashes represented only a portion of her husband's remains. UTN still had his head and in the fall shipped it to the Tel Aviv dental school.

"Had I known that my husband's head was over there, I would have waited to have the ceremony," she said. "If they really wanted my husband's body for these purposes, they should have told me upfront and verbally."

Donor Network declined to comment about this case. UTN executive director Alyssa Harrison said, "We make it very clear for families to understand our whole process before deciding to donate."

Heads in limbo

If not for the keen eye of a Phoenix airport worker, Marie Gallegos might not have learned what became of her husband's remains.

On November 1, as Daniel Gallegos' head and the heads of six other donors were returning from Israel to UTN in Arizona for cremation, someone noticed a discrepancy on the shipping documents.

According to records reviewed by Reuters, the shipping manifest described the contents as "electronics" valued at \$10 each. A label on the coffin-sized package described the contents as human remains.

Government records show that border officials were troubled that the package appeared punctured and a strong smell was wafting from the box. They also demanded death certificates to ensure that the specimens were disease-free, records show.

One of the donors, records show, carried staphylococcus aureus, an infection the CDC website says poses a potentially serious risk to healthcare workers.

After officials stopped the package in Arizona, documents reviewed by Reuters show, UTN employees disagreed with border authorities about whether the package was damaged or death certificates were required.

It took three weeks to resolve the dispute, according to the documents. The government then released the heads and they were cremated.

UTN's Harrison told Reuters the electronics designation was "human error" and the package was sent in a leak-proof container.

She disputed the government's contention that further documentation should have accompanied the shipment, arguing that "a diagnosis of sepsis in the clinical setting does not confer any specific risk."

Harrison said UTN and the freight company followed all laws and regulations covering the export and import of human medical specimens.

"The CDC should not have gotten involved," she said.

Milli Raviv, whose Tel Aviv-based International Dental Studies center leased the heads from UTN, said her school maintains "high standards" to protect students.

On shipping documents, Raviv was listed as the contact person in Israel for shipping the heads back to UTN's Phoenix office. Even so, the dentist professed ignorance about why the package was mislabeled.

"No idea about shipping," she said.



"Eye on the World" comment: The following list of articles consists of headlines of extra articles, which are considered international. The articles were not posted, but the headlines give the essence of the story.

- An article by James Carstensen titled "Allies Rally Round Britain As It Expels Russian Diplomats Over Nerve Gas Attack" was posted at cnsnews.com on March 15, 2018.
- A Reuters article by Dustin Volz and Timothy Gardner titled "In a First, U.S. Blames Russia for Cyber Attacks on Energy Grid" was posted at reuters.com on March 15, 2018.



An article by Daniel John Sobieski titled "Scalpels Kill More Kids Than Guns" was posted at americanthinker.com on March 12, 2018. Following are excerpts of the article.

If you shoot children in a school, liberals are justifiably outraged, as are we all, even if our solutions to the problem are different.

But what about when children are murdered in their mother's womb?

Liberals like to talk about the need for safe spaces, sanctuary cities, and the need to keep our kids safe from gun violence. Yet they support the ultimate form of violence in what should be the safest space of all, again, their mother's womb.

As one who believes that life begins at conception and ends at natural death, I object to this double standard which says the NRA fosters violence against America's children, but Planned Parenthood does not. As one wag put it, one of these groups sells arms while the NRA supports the Second Amendment.

One Democratic presidential wannabe who argues for total gun control while ignoring this double standard is Sen. Kamala Harris, the poster child for self-righteous indignation:

Senator Kamala Harris, a liberal Democrat from California, tweeted after the Parkland massacre: "We cannot tolerate a society and live in a country with pride when our babies are being slaughtered."

Conservatives pointed out that she votes in lockstep with liberals on abortion.

She is perfectly happily to live in a society where it is wrong to kill a Parkland, Florida student with a gun, but perfectly okay for that student to have an abortion.

Ironically, one of the three women killed at a veteran's home in California was pregnant. Some would say four were killed. Kamala Harris would stop counting at three.

Harris cares not if unborn children are extinguished by abortionists like the infamous Kermit Gosnell. Gosnell was a Philadelphia doctor who was charged with seven counts of first-degree murder and one count of third-degree murder for killing seven babies who survived his abortions and a woman who died after a botched painkiller injection.

Compare what went on at Gosnell's clinic to school shootings like the ones at Newtown, Connecticut, or Parkland, Florida.

If Dr. Gosnell had walked into a nursery and shot seven infants with an AR-15, it would be national news and the subject of presidential hand-wringing.

As J. Kenneth Blackwell, writing in the *Washington Times*, noted, those who chant "black lives matter" obviously exclude the abortion rate of black babies that Planned Parenthood founder Margaret Sanger and the KKK could only dream of.

- 138,539 black babies, nearly one baby in three, were killed in the womb in 2010.
- According to the CDC, between 2007 and 2010, innocent black babies were victimized in nearly 36 percent of the abortion deaths in the United States, though blacks represent only 12.8 percent of the population.

- Some say the abortion capital of America is New York City. According to LifeSiteNews, the city's Department of Health reported that in 2012, more black babies were aborted (31,328) than born (24,758). That's 55.9 percent of black babies killed before birth. Blacks represented 42.4 percent of all abortions.
- In short, the life of a young black male is more likely to be ended in his mother's womb with a scalpel than by a white cop or a gang banger in a drive-by shooting.
- Abortion doctors kill more black people in a week than the KKK has in the past century.
- here are almost 2,000 black lives ended by abortion every single day in the United States, and overall, a black baby is more than 5 times as likely to be executed as a white baby.
- Try to reflect on this statistic: abortion kills more black people than heart disease, cancer, strokes, accidents, diabetes, homicide, and respiratory illness—COMBINED.
- Comparing just the two causes of death, it appears that abortionists kill about 700 times more black people than do cops.
- Consider that, if not for abortion, the black population would be 36 percent larger than it is currently.
- Without Planned Parenthood and its partners in the Infanticide Industry, black people would be much less a minority in America. It's abortion that keeps their percentages so low. It's abortion that victimizes them more than anything.

It victimizes people of all races and should be called what it is—abortion violence.

The wailing cry of those who think that the Second Amendment needs to be abridged is that gun violence causes too many deaths.

The national statistics show that there are approximately 15,000 deaths a year from gun related violence. Unfortunately, that number has slowly risen in recent years.

In an effort to put some significance to that number, the CDC reports that there are 2,712,630 deaths annually in the United States.

- Gun related deaths from all sources (violent acts, accidental discharge, suicides, etc.) total 38,000 and account for about 1.5 percent of all deaths.
- Abortion can then be seen as accounting for 25 percent of all deaths in the United States each year.
- Some organizations admit to committing 321,384 abortions a year.

Bump stocks? How about the scalpel of an abortionist?

Which is more dangerous to our children—the NRA or Planned Parenthood?

The NRA's political influence is decried, but not Planned Parenthood's.

For the unborn, a scalpel is considered an assault weapon. We are told the abortion involves the right to choose.

No child, whether in a school or in a womb, chooses death. All have an unalienable right to life. All should be mourned and all who kill them should be despised.



An editorial by Ann Coulter titled "Secret Debate Tip for GOP" was posted at anncoulter.com on March 14, 2018. Following is the article.

On CBS's "60 Minutes" Sunday night, Lesley Stahl asked Education Secretary Betsy DeVos about the "institutional racism" in school discipline.

It was like neither of them had ever heard of Nikolas Cruz. The Parkland, Florida, school shooter is our most recent case study of what happens when liberals start babbling about "institutional racism."

There's never been such an incredible paper trail as there is with Cruz, leading straight from idiotic liberal ideas directly to mass murder. We know that Broward County Public Schools knew about Cruz's felonies.

We know that his behavior wasn't reported because it would negatively impact the record of a student of color. The school district bragged about the policy.

Perhaps having no criminal record would have helped Cruz get a good job someday. But it is a fact that one of the consequences of not reporting his crimes was that HE COULD GET A GUN.

Unless liberals are going to say that guns had nothing to do with the Parkland shooting, it was the racial bean-counting in school discipline that unleashed this psychotic on innocent students and teachers at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School four weeks ago.

Stahl treated as cold hard fact the idea that schools punish "students of color more harshly than their white classmates," citing this real-world example:

"Let's say"—lots of serious journalism begins with "let's say"—"there's a disruption in the classroom and a bunch of white kids are disruptive and they get punished, you know, go see the principal.

But the black kids are, you know, they call in the cops. I mean, that's the issue: who and how the kids who disrupt are being punished."

I remember this plot on "Law & Order," but there aren't many examples of it in real life.

Teachers in St. Paul, Minnesota, have been hospitalized and permanently disabled by their "disruptive" African-American students, thanks to former St. Paul Public Schools Superintendent Valeria Silva's commitment to ending the "school-to-prison pipeline."

One kid was "disruptive" by punching and strangling a science teacher, John Ekblad, giving him a concussion and permanent brain injuries. The African-American student walked away from Ekblad's body splayed out on the floor, saying, "Did you see me slam that white-ass teacher?"

This "disruptive" rascal was sentenced to 90 days house arrest and probation. Luckily, he wasn't punished more severely, or he might have ended up on the "school-to-prison pipeline." I'm sure he's doing well now.

A popular grade-school teacher, Debbie York, had to undergo repeated surgeries after an 85-pound first-grade student of color assaulted her when she tried to intervene as he was throwing furniture and biting other children. He threw a chair at York, missed her, then body-slammed her, causing permanent injuries.

While on sick leave after the incident, York emailed parents to explain why she was gone. For informing parents about the assault in class, she was promptly cashiered from her 30-year teaching career.

What matters isn't the safety of teachers and students. Nor is it whether anyone is learning anything. All that matters is that no one ever writes down the bad behavior of black and brown students.

When public school teachers—not a conservative bunch—in Minnesota—not a conservative state—are showing up in a boiling rage at school board meetings to complain about their African-American students having carte blanche to bully and defy them, the problem may not be that our schools are being run by Bull Connor.

One teacher, David McGill, complained that an out-of-control African-American fourth-grader had "significantly compromised an entire year of science instruction for the great majority of his classmates."

He said there was nothing he could do about it because of the school's racial quotas on student discipline.

Superintendent Silva's response was to get snippy about the teacher's word choice:

"You said they are 'infecting' other children. I almost fell out of my chair," Silva said.

"I didn't mean it —"

"Doesn't matter. You said it."

Eventually, the school district had to buy off Silva with a \$800,000 severance agreement just to get her to leave. It was her or the teachers.

CBS's Stahl is either an ideologue, intentionally painting a picture that is the polar opposite of the truth by implying that students of color are the true victims here—or else she is so stupid and untutored in the subject that she has no business reporting on it. I could go either way. Your choice.

(We need an expression for this sort of broadcast. Something like . . . FAKE NEWS!)

A smart Republican would be dying for liberals to bring up the "school-to-prison pipeline." The more it is talked about, the more ripe the insanity becomes.

A kid expelled from high school is twice as likely to end up in prison!

Yeah, because he's a thug. He's a thug when he's in high school and he's a thug a few years later, when he's an adult.

NO! It's keeping a record of his crimes that's the problem! By the time he becomes an adult, he has no choice.

No Democrat should be allowed to run for election this year without taking a position on Parkland's "school-to-prison pipeline" policy.

Worried about suburban moms, Republicans? Make the Democrats defend a toxic ideology that prohibits students of color from being arrested for their criminal acts. They'll either defend it and lose the parents, or they'll oppose it and lose their George Soros funding.

Republicans should pray that the Parkland shooting comes up in debates. You hear "Parkland," and you say: "Let's talk about the 'school-to-prison pipeline." You hear, "equity in school discipline," and you say: "Nikolas Cruz."



An editorial by Walter Williams titled "Trump's Steel and Aluminum Tariffs" was posted at jewishworldreview.com on March 14 2018. Following is the article.

There are a couple of important economic lessons that the American people should learn. I'm going to title one "the seen and unseen" and the other "narrow well-defined large benefits versus widely dispersed small costs."

These lessons are applicable to a wide range of government behavior, but let's look at just two examples.

Last week, President Donald Trump enacted high tariffs on imports of steel and aluminum. Why in the world would the U.S. steel and aluminum industries press the president to levy heavy tariffs?

The answer is simple. Reducing the amounts of steel and aluminum that hit our shores enables American producers to charge higher prices. Thus, U.S. steel and aluminum producers will earn higher profits, hire more workers and pay them higher wages. They are the visible beneficiaries of Trump's tariffs.

But when the government creates a benefit for one American, it is a virtual guarantee that it will come at the expense of another American—an unseen victim. The victims of steel and aluminum tariffs are the companies that use steel and aluminum.

Faced with higher input costs, they become less competitive on the world market. For example, companies such as John Deere may respond to higher steel prices by purchasing their parts in the international market rather than in the U.S.

To become more competitive in the world market, some firms may move their production facilities to foreign countries that do not have tariffs on foreign steel and aluminum.

Studies by both the Peterson Institute for International Economics and the Consuming Industries Trade Action Coalition show that steel-using industries—such as the U.S. auto industry, its suppliers and manufacturers of heavy construction equipment—were harmed by tariffs on steel enacted by George W. Bush.

Politicians love having seen beneficiaries and unseen victims. The reason is quite simple. In the cases of the steel and aluminum industries, company executives will know whom to give political campaign contributions.

Workers in those industries will know for whom to cast their votes. The people in the steel- and aluminum-using industries may not know whom to blame for declining profits, lack of competitiveness and job loss.

There's no better scenario for politicians. It's heads politicians win and tails somebody else loses.

Then there's the phenomenon of narrow well-defined large benefits versus widely dispersed small costs. A good example can be found in the sugar industry.

Sugar producers lobby Congress to place restrictions on the importation of foreign sugar through tariffs and quotas. Those import restrictions force Americans to pay up to three times the world price for sugar.

A report by the U.S. Government Accountability Office estimated that Americans pay an extra \$2 billion a year because of sugar tariffs and quotas.

Plus, taxpayers will be forced to pay more than \$2 billion over the next 10 years to buy and store excess sugar produced because of higher prices.

Another way to look at the cost side is that tens of millions of American families are forced to pay a little bit more, maybe \$20, for the sugar we use every year.

You might wonder how this consumer rip-off sustains itself. After all, the people in the sugar industry are only a tiny percentage of the U.S. population.

Here's how it works. It pays for workers and owners in the sugar industry to come up with millions of dollars to lobby congressmen to impose tariffs and quotas on foreign sugar. It means higher profits and higher wages.

Also, it's easy to organize the relatively small number of people in the sugar industry. The costs are borne by tens of millions of Americans forced to pay more for the sugar they use.

Even if the people knew what the politicians are doing, it wouldn't be worth the cost of trying to unseat a legislator whose vote cost them \$20 a year.

Politicians know that they won't bear a cost from sugar consumers. But they would pay a political cost from the sugar industry if they didn't vote for tariffs.

So they put it to consumers—but what else is new?



An editorial by John Stossel titled "Lies About Trade" was posted at town-hall.com on March 14, 2018. Following is the article.

Maybe Donald Trump is such a powerful communicator and pot-stirrer that other countries, embarrassed by their own trade barriers, will eliminate them.

Then I will thank the president for the wonderful thing he did. Genuine free trade will be a recipe for wonderful economic growth.

But I fear the opposite: a trade war and stagnation—because much of what Trump and his followers say is economically absurd.

"(If) you don't have steel, you don't have a country!" announced the president.

Lots of things are essential to America—and international trade is the best way to make sure we have them. When a storm blocks roads in the Midwest, we get supplies from Canada, Mexico, even China. Why add roadblocks?

Steel is important, but "the choice isn't between producing 100 percent of our steel (and having a country) or producing no steel (and presumably losing our country)," writes Veronique De Rugy of the Mercatus Center.

Today, most steel we use is made in America. Imports come from friendly places like Canada and Europe. Just 3 percent come from China.

Still, insists the president, "Nearly two-thirds of American raw steel companies have gone out of business!"

There's been consolidation. But so what? For 30 years, American steel production has stayed about the same. Profits rose from \$714 million in 2016 to \$2.8 billion last year. And the industry added nearly 8,000 jobs.

Trump says, "Our factories were left to rot and to rust all over the place. Thriving communities turned into ghost towns. You guys know that, right?"

No. Few American communities became ghost towns. More boomed because of cheap imports.

It's sad when a steelworker loses work, but for every steelworker, 40 Americans work in industries that use steel. They, and we, benefit from lower prices.

Trump touts the handful of companies benefiting from his tariffs: "Century Aluminum in Kentucky—Century is a great company—will be investing over \$100 million."

Great. But now we'll get a feeding frenzy of businesses competing to catch Trump's ear. Century Aluminum got his attention. Your company better pay lobbyists. Countries, too.

After speaking to Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull of Australia, Trump tweeted: "We don't have to impose steel or aluminum tariffs on our ally, the great nation of Australia!"

Economies thrive when there are clear rules that everyone understands. Now we've got "The Art of the Deal," one company and country at a time.

I understand that Trump the developer liked to make special deals, but when presidents do that, it's crony capitalism—crapitalism. You get the deal if you know the right people. That's what kept most of Africa and South America poor.

But Trump thinks trade itself makes us poorer: "We lose . . . on trade. Every year \$800 billion."

Actually, last year's trade deficit with China was \$375 billion. But even if it were \$800 billion, who cares? All a trade deficit shows is that a country sells us more than we sell them. We get the better of that deal. They get excess dollar bills, but we get stuff.

Real problems are imbalances like next year's \$1 trillion federal government budget deficit. That will bankrupt us. Trade deficits are trivial. You run one with your supermarket. Do you worry because you bought more from them than they buy from you? No. The free market sorts it out.

Trump makes commerce sound mysterious: "The action that I'm taking today follows a nine-month investigation by the Department of Commerce, Secretary Ross."

But Wilber Ross is someone who phoned Forbes Magazine to lie about how much money he has. Now he goes on TV and claims, "3 cents worth of tin plate steel in this can. So if it goes up 25 percent, that's a tiny fraction of one penny. Not a noticeable thing."

Not to him maybe, but Americans buy 2 billion cans of soup.

Political figures like Ross—and Trump—shouldn't decide what we're allowed to buy. If they understood markets, they'd know enough to stay out of the way.

* * * * *

An editorial by Cal Thomas titled "Apocalypse Now?" was posted at town-hall.com on March 15, 2018. Following is the article.

Since the beginning of recorded history there have been end of the world predictions. In recent years we have had radio preachers, politicians and scientists declare with certainty that the world would soon end, either because of our decadent lifestyle, or because of "global warming," now known as "climate change."

Responses to these Chicken Little declarations have ranged from people hiding in caves to the most recent announcement by Costco that it has a dooms-

day meal kit for sale. The cost is \$6,000. The online listing says the kit contains 36,000 servings of food that will feed a family of four for one year.

Marc Morano's new book "The Politically Incorrect Guide to Climate Change" (Regnery Publishing) is just in time to refute the argument that "climate change" will destroy all life on Earth. It is a mark of Morano's dark humor that he features as an "endorsement" of the book a comment by the liberal Daily Kos, which calls Morano "evil personified."

The book is a point-by-point takedown of the predictions of disaster made by the climate change movement, none of which have materialized, but when one is part of a cult, facts don't matter.

In the book's foreword, the late John Coleman, who was a meteorologist, TV weatherman and co-founder of The Weather Channel, writes: "We meteorologists are well aware of how limited our ability is to predict the weather. Our predictions become dramatically less reliable as they extend into the future. When we try to predict just a few weeks into the future our predictions become increasingly inaccurate.

Yet the 'climate change' establishment that now dominates the UN bureaucracy and our own government science establishment claim that they can predict the temperature of the Earth decades into the future."

Coleman then gets to the heart of the issue: "Their global warming scare is not driven by science; it is now being driven by politics. So today anybody who defies the prevailing 'climate change' scare puts his career and his reputation into extreme danger."

Among the facts revealed in Morano's book are these.

- The world spends \$1 billion a day to "prevent" global warming
- A UN scientist says the "97 percent consensus" on global warming was "pulled from thin air," presumably hot air from many politicians
- Scientific organizations claim climate change 'consensus,' but have not polled their members
- Climate policies are not helping, but "crushing the world's poor"
- The Paris climate accord theoretically postpones global warming by just four years, but will cost \$100 trillion if fully implemented
- Climate change has been blamed for prostitution, barroom brawls, airplane turbulence and war
- One climate activist is quoted as saying we should "protect our kids by not having them"
- Recent "hottest year" claims are based on statistically meaningless year-to-year differences

■ Antarctica is actually gaining, not losing ice; carbon dioxide levels today are 10 times lower than in some past Ice Ages.

Morano argues that the debate over climate change is not settled, as many claim. Science is never settled and apparently neither is the politics of climate change, which is being advanced by people who want more control over every aspect of our lives.

Real scientists who specialize in climate and related fields are quoted in the book. These are voices we rarely, if ever, see mentioned in the mainstream media because the media are part of the collusion.

Read this book and you will become an informed climate change denier, armed with arguments and facts to counter the propaganda being pushed by climate change fanatics. It will also save you \$6,000 the next time you visit Costco.



An editorial by Armstrong Williams titled "Here's What a Modern Political Witch Hunt Looks Like" was posted at townhall.com on March 14, 2018. Following is the article.

Want to see a witch hunt?

You don't have to go back to the 1600s and Salem, Massachusetts. Just look at what's happening to Republican Governor Eric Greitens in the state of Missouri in 2018.

A Democrat prosecutor in St. Louis, Kim Gardner, has indicted the sitting Republican Governor. It's an astonishing case—and an abuse of the legal system unlike anything we've seen in recent memory.

Here's what we know: The prosecutor admitted in court that she brought the indictment without the evidence to win the case.

In fact, in open court, she had to beg and plead with the judge for more time to gather the facts. Conveniently for Democrats in Missouri, her idea of more time was a trial date just before the mid-term elections in November.

That, of course, helps her and her fellow Democrats continue to take shots at the Governor, the most popular conservative figure in Missouri in a generation.

I've known this Governor for over a dozen years. When I was a Commissioner for the White House Fellowship program, his application came across our desks. And he was a slam-dunk candidate.

He was a Navy SEAL, with a Rhodes Scholar's mind and a boxer's toughness—and a compassionate heart. He had worked with refugee and orphan children around the world as a humanitarian. We awarded him the White House Fellowship, and he was then, and remains now, one of the most impressive alumni of that program I'd ever come across.

When he ran for Governor on a strong, conservative platform—emphasizing his commitment to veterans, his belief in small businesses, and, in a state that was still reeling from the riots in Ferguson, his steadfast support of law enforcement—those who knew him were sure he'd win. And he did. The people of Missouri wanted a strong outsider, and that's what they got.

And in the last year, he's governed as you'd expect a Navy SEAL to govern: he's gotten things done, made a few enemies along the way, but managed to pursue a conservative agenda of bringing back American jobs, lowering taxes, and keeping the people of Missouri safe.

The problem for Democrats, of course, is that he's been successful. A Republican Governor in America's heartland is proving that conservative values and beliefs actually work.

And in the same way that Democrats at the national level use any tool at their disposal to attack President Trump, so the Democrats in Missouri are using the legal system to come after Governor Greitens.

Here's the fundamental issue: this case isn't just an attack on a single conservative Governor. This is an attack on the very foundations of the American justice system.

If we allow prosecutors to go after their political opponents using the legal system, then the law ceases to have any meaning, and politics ceases to have any fairness. One of the reasons that our Founders wrote the Constitution the way they did is because they wanted to eliminate the use of the law as a weapon to settle political scores or pursue personal animus.

If you want to see what happens when politics burrows its way into the legal system, take a look at authoritarian regimes and Communist dictatorships.

There, your fate in the legal system is determined by how the leader feels about you that day; there may be a judge, maybe even a jury, but it's all a show, a fiction, a set-up.

That is what Kim Gardner has brought to the city of St. Louis and the state of Missouri: a legal process that would make Kim Jong Un and Saddam Hussein proud. In a testament to just how much she's borrowing from the authoritarian playbook, she's even circumvented the police.

Rather than use officers of law enforcement—men and women who swear oaths to uphold our Constitution—Kim Gardner paid a \$10,000 retainer and \$250 per hour to out-of-state private investigators to look into the Governor.

Here's the part that would make her the envy of dictators around the world: in her contract with these private investigators, they are forbidden from writing any of their findings down.

That's right: All "evidence" they collect must be submitted to her orally, in person, hidden entirely from public view.

That is not how the justice system of the United States of America works. But Kim Gardner doesn't care about justice.

What she cares about is politics. How do we know?

Because throughout this case, she has plastered herself all over the liberal media in Missouri, giving interview after interview and quote after quote about this case. It's her fifteen minutes of fame—a chance to go from unknown prosecutor to state-wide celebrity.

And like other liberal politicians who use politics to become celebrities, Kim Gardner is paving her political future at the expense of the people of Missouri, their tax dollars, and the integrity of their justice system.

We have a justice system in this country for a reason. And when the duly elected officials of that justice system use it to pursue political and personal ends, it insults our founding creeds and tarnishes the legal and ethical foundations of this country.

Kim Gardner is nothing short of a threat to the United States of America as we know it. It is my hope that the good people of Missouri and the stewards of its judicial system stop her before it's too late.



A Reuters article by David Morgan titled "In Warning for Trump, Democrat Claims Too-Close-To-Call Pennsylvania Vote" was posted at reuters.com on March 13, 2018. Following are excerpts of the article.

Lamb's strong showing could buoy Democrats nationally as they seek to win control of the House from Republicans in the November elections.

Democrats see 118 Republican-held districts in play. If they flip 24 seats, they could reclaim a House majority.

Saccone's poor performance is worrying for Republicans who were sure that tax cuts they passed last year, the party's only major legislative achievement under Trump, would be a vote winner.

A Lamb win could vindicate a strategy Democrats are using in some races to enlist candidates whose positions and ideologies are well suited to the district even while conflicting in significant ways with the positions of the Democratic leadership in Washington.

Lamb advocated for gun rights and said Nancy Pelosi should be replaced as House Democratic leader, making it harder than expected for Republicans to attack some of his positions.

Representative Tim Ryan, a Democrat from the Ohio Rust Belt who unsuccessfully challenged Pelosi's leadership in late 2016, said he believed Lamb's

apparent victory sent a message to other candidates not to be afraid to break with party leadership.

"I hope it means that other candidates will take the lead, and run a very organic race based on the communities that they come from," Ryan told reporters.

Representative Cheri Bustos, a Democrat from a largely agricultural and blue collar district in Illinois, said Lamb was a strong candidate because he mirrored his district.

"When you have swing districts, you better make sure you've got a candidate that fits that district," Bustos said.



An article by J. Marsolo titled "Saccone Lost Because He Didn't Make the Election a Referendum on Trump" was posted at americanthinker.com on March 15, 2018. Following are excerpts of the article.

The district includes southern Allegheny County (excludes Pittsburgh) and Westmoreland, Washington, and Greene Counties. Lamb won because of the vote in Allegheny County. Saccone carried the other three counties.

The district will disappear and be apportioned to other districts if the redistricting map done by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court survives the legal challenges.

Lamb will serve until January 2019. There will be an election in November 2018 for the new district, so Lamb and Saccone may again run against each other.

Given President Trump's landslide victory in this district, Saccone, or any Republican, should have won by at least 5 to 10 points. Why?

I am a resident of this district. Saccone lost because the Republicans ran a lousy advertising campaign. Saccone should fire the campaign managers and consultants who produced the ads and hire new ones for the November election. These consultants should not work any other election.

- Simply put, the Republican strategy was to nationalize the election by presenting Lamb as a tool of Nancy Pelosi. The problem with this is that Lamb announced on day one that he would vote against Pelosi as House speaker.
- The Republicans should have nationalized the election by praising President Trump. They should have highlighted Trump's achievements such as his tax cuts, reducing regulations, the booming economy, the booming stock market, the defeat of ISIS, and the enforcement of our immigration laws.
- There were a few ads on the tax cuts, but they were negative in that one ad said Lamb opposed the cuts. Problem is, Lamb wasn't in Congress to vote against.

- The Republicans sought to demonize Lamb. The problem is that there was nothing to demonize. Lamb has never held public office.
- Demonization worked against Hillary Clinton because she has much to attack.
- The Republicans should have run a positive campaign stressing how Saccone would help Trump achieve his agenda of building the wall, enforcing immigration laws, cutting taxes, reducing regulations, and bringing back manufacturing jobs.

The bottom line is that Trump won this district by 20 points, which means his agenda is well received here. But the Republican strategy was to link Lamb to Nancy Pelosi instead of linking Saccone to President Trump.



"Eye on the World" comment: The following list of articles consists of headlines of extra articles, which involve the United States. The articles were not posted, but the headlines give the essence of the story.

Finances

- An article by Susan Jones titled "155,215,000: Record Number of Americans Employed" was posted at cnsnews.com on March 9, 2018.
- An article by Michael W. Chapman titled "Black Unemployment Rate Still at Historic Low—6.9%" was posted at cnsnews.com on March 9, 2018.
- An article by Terence P. Jeffrey titled "Manufacturing Jobs Up 31,000 in February; 263,000 Since Trump Took Office" was posted at cnsnews.com on March 9, 2018.
- An article by Craig Bannister titled "AFL-CIO United Steel Workers Praise Trump for Tariffs They Couldn't Get Dems to Impose" was posted at cnsnews.com on March 9, 2018.
- A Reuters article by Tracy Rucinski titled "Toys R Us Plans to Close all U.S. Stores; 33,000 Jobs at Risk: Source" was posted at reuters.com on March 14, 2018.
- An article by Tom Knighton titled "Republican Lawmaker Pushes Tax-Per-Mile to Replace Gas Tax" was posted at pjmedia.com on March 15, 2018.

Illegal immigration

- An article by Monica Showalter titled "Mexico Flags Fly at San Diego Anti-Trump Rally and Press Tries to Hide It" was posted at americanthinker.com on March 14, 2018.
- An article by Richard Gonzales titled "Court Ruling on Texas Anti-Sanctuary City Law Sets Stage for More Legal Battles" was posted at npr.com on March 14, 2018.

Comments about weapons

- An article by Lemor Abrams titled "California High School Teacher on Leave After Questioning School Shooting Walkout" was posted at cbssacramento. com on March 14, 2018.
- An article by Jared Gilmour titled "Walkout was Meant to Be Peaceful; But These Students Tore Down Flag, Jumped on Cop Cars: Tennessee Police Say" was posted at kentucky.com on March 14, 2018.

Comments about Trump Opposition

- An article by Patrick Goodenough titled "Pelosi in 2016—Tillerson's Too Cozy With Putin; Pelosi in 2018—Tillerson Fired for Being Outspoken Against Putin" was posted at cnsnews.com on March 13, 2018.
- An article by Katie Pavlich titled "Bitter Former Secretary of State Attacks American 'White Women' on Foreign Soil Because They Didn't Vote for Her" was posted at townhall.com on March 13, 2018.
- An article by Rebecca Ballhaus titled "Special Counsel Robert Mueller Has Subpoened Trump Organization in Russia Investigation" was posted at wsj.com on March 15, 2018.

News about the media

- An article by Jeffrey Lord titled "Jake Tapper Highlights Farrakhan Outrage as Rest of Media Snoozes" was posted at newsbusters.org on March 10, 2018.
- An article by Donna Carol Voss titled "Pocahontas, Fauxcahontas: Elizabeth Warren Just Stepped in It on 'Meet the Press' " was posted at townhall.com on March 14, 2018.

General interest

- An article by Michael W. Chapman titled "Missouri Bill Would Ban Porn on Cell Phones, Computers, Unless Access Fee Paid" was posted at cnsnews.com on March 8, 2018.
- An article titled "Astronaut Scott Kelly Now Has Different DNA Than His Identical Twin Brother After One Year in Space" was posted at cbsdenver.com on March 13, 2018.
- An article by Cindy Hsu titled "Millennials Replacing Engagement Rings With Diamonds Embedded in Their Fingers" was posted at cbsnewyork.com on March 14, 2018.
- An article by Kerry Sheridan titled "Top Bottled Water Brands Contaminated With Plastic Particles: Report" was posted at yahoo.com on March 15, 2018.
- An article by Jason Lemon titled "Some Chinese Takeout Has As Much Salt As 5 McDonald's Big Macs: Health Experts Warn" was posted at ajc.com (Atlanta, Ga.) on March 15, 2018.



Isaiah 55:6-11—"Seek you the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. 'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,' says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."