

# **Confronting Social-ISM with the God of Redemption**

**A Collection of Four Related Essays**

The Inescapable Connection of Socialism to the Murder of 100 Million Captives

Humanistic Ethics Cannot Possibly Create a Free and Just Society

Exposing the Intellectual Fraud of Marxist Dogma

Rationally Speaking, Only Redemption in Jesus Christ Can Bring Heaven to Earth

# The Inescapable Connection of Socialism to the Murder of 100 Million Captives

Why naïve utopian socialist fantasies will lead us AND our descendants into anguish

*Socialism*, by its suffix (*ism*), is a concept that is altered from merely including concern for the poor, to becoming an obligatory and all-extensive imposition of governmental power over all people. This is very future that younger generations are clamoring after.<sup>1</sup>

Socialism, by definition, stands in bold contrast to the tenets of Capitalist economics as presumed by the United States Constitution. Stated plainly, Socialism is a *top-downward* administration, while U.S. society, by stark contrast, entails a “*we the people...*” formulation of a *bottom’s-up* approach to governance. Discussing these contrasting programs in solely *abstract* (as opposed to *actual*) realities can easily diminish the magnitude of the damning consequences of a vision which portends instead to create fair and equal societies, i.e., a utopia.

In addition to expressing a *top-downward* relationship between the “governing” and the “governed,” Socialism also imposes strictures on the latter which deprive them of rewards for their labors. The slogan, “*From each according to his ability to each according to their needs,*”<sup>2</sup> may, on the one hand please those who seek to avoid work, but on the other hand deprive *sincere* workers of financial benefits of their labor, and also both innovators, of their organic successes, and additionally visionaries, from seeing their insights unfold into reality. Only 90 miles south of the Florida Keys lies a “living” example of such a “*failed [socialist] State*”<sup>3</sup> that began in prosperity (albeit morally-degenerate) yet quickly plunged into enslaved poverty.<sup>4</sup> Venezuela too is another state which much more recently suddenly plunged from prosperity into similar levels of destitution as a result of a socialistic overhaul.<sup>5</sup>

This set of deprivations obstructs fairness both at individual and societal levels. Clearly members of the human race are NOT uniformly motivated in similar directions. Viewed then solely under *rational* (as opposed to *religious*) terms, Socialism, as reflected upon with care, brings a death-knell to free self-determination for a vast percentage of any population. Not only is it *statistically*<sup>6</sup> clear that socialistic economies *do* not work, but they ***cannot possibly do so*** except by means of punishment from enforcers. Such indeed are the grounds for the murders of *intellectually*-driven and financially-successful people by Socialist regimes.<sup>7</sup> This indeed is cause for scorning university academics who continue spreading the fables to their students that un-tethered Socialism inspires the human spirit. Pol Pot’s agenda proves, to the contrary, the consequences if such faculties faced his regime.<sup>8</sup> Such indeed is the logical fallout

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<sup>1</sup> <https://reason.com/2019/07/06/socialism-is-back-and-the-kids-are-loving-it/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://artsandculture.google.com/entity/from-each-according-to-his-ability-to-each-according-to-his-needs/m0cxcxc?hl=en>

<sup>3</sup> President Joe Biden’s depiction in his public comments on July 15, 2021, of Cuba’s governance.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/comandante-pre-castro-cuba/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2019-venezuela-key-events/>

<sup>6</sup> E.g. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/venezuelas-economic-collapse-explained-in-nine-charts-11553511601>

<sup>7</sup> E.g. <https://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/pol-pot>

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

of universities replacing the classical goal of pursuing truth by all means possible, with imposing political activism whose so-called “teaching” methods contradict the former.

Although well-known movie stars, international business corporations, and successful athletes<sup>9</sup> are often cited for lauding the “goodness” of present Socialist governments, they do so either at a *geographical*, or a *socially-safe*, distance from the *actual* experiential realities of the under-ling-commoners who exist in daily fear of punishment and squalor just outside of the “camera’s eye.” After all, it defies the will of Socialist Tyrants to unveil the traumatic realities that the enforcement of its principles requires.

Yet the most objective, and so, decisive indicator of the clear destructive consequence of Socialism is the testimony that in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century alone, over one hundred million people were murdered by their own despotic governments. Their methods entailed either 1) torture, 2) wide-scale imposed starvation, 3) traumatizing, 4) shootings, 5) gassings, 6) imprisonment, 6) forced dissolutions *of /or* severance of individuals *from* their families, 7) thuggery, 8) black-mail, or 9) in combination.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.indiewire.com/2021/07/jackie-chan-chinese-communist-party-member-1234651221/> \*\* <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/07/13/op-ed-american-corporations-must-stop-selling-out-to-chinas-brutal-regime-.html> \*\* <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/sports/lebron-james-criticized-saying-rockets-gm-misinformed-hong-kong-n1066351>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/volokh-conspiracy/wp/2017/11/07/lessons-from-a-century-of-communism/>

## Humanistic “Ethics” Cannot Possibly Create a Free and Just Society

*“The least [initial] deviation from truth is multiplied later a thousandfold.” (Aristotle, On the Heavens)*

“Humanism” and its pragmatic-synonym, “secularism,”<sup>11</sup> make similar bold social claims:

*“Humanism is a progressive philosophy of life that, without supernaturalism, affirms our ability and responsibility to lead ethical lives of personal fulfillment that aspire to the greater good of humanity.”<sup>12</sup>*

While this treatise on “ethical” potential raises several questions, the one aspect of ethics I choose to contest is the humanist claim that we have an autonomous<sup>13</sup> capacity to “lead ethical lives.” And my challenge is further heightened because the plan they envision entails not merely individualistic betterment; but overhauling a national order! Any claim that that goal can improve America solely by repudiating the “sins” of our Founders is utterly naïve.<sup>14</sup> The fact that humanistic college academicians<sup>15</sup> give a “pass” to the conduct of 20th Century-Marxists<sup>16</sup> while vilifying Washington and Lincoln is, on its face, absurd. It is on the one hand true that secularism has tolerably coexisted alongside our republican democratic social order for a century. Nevertheless, in terms of social considerations, their “success” has occurred not as if they collaborated in a positive way, but because of their parasitic reliance on the social resources, drawn from a parent society, that are rooted in the Bible.<sup>17</sup>

My point is NOT to begrudge their free ride, but rather to highlight the reality that the promises cited in our Declaration of Independence have their source NOT in humanistic ideology, but in the principles that flow from a Christian worldview. Though secularists will undoubtedly mock this assertion by charging “those Christian sinners” (meaning “us”)... with “hypocrisy,” the points they miss include (1) the universality of sin in that everybody without exception breaks the golden rule, (2) in an absence of a universal moral code, societies will naturally degenerate into tyrannical-chaos,<sup>18</sup> and (3) in a spirit of defiance of authority, the expected result can only be that law-breakers will loot the defenseless. In addition to the Covid19 onslaught, our society has recently suffered from devastating rioting over a hundred days, vis-a-vis the gross neglect by Leftist authorities to protect their citizens. According to Rom. 1:18f., such misery naturally results from their defiant denial of the moral law of God.<sup>19</sup>

Virtually a hundred million people were murdered in the 20th century; not by *enemy* armies, but their very own atheistic *despotic* leaders!<sup>20</sup> How could such travesties happen? Were the culprits—not just the ones who plotted the horrific schemes, but also the underlings carrying them out—maladjusted or psychologically dysfunctional? No, not generally! They instead illustrate what people who are handed the power are capable of doing IF fear of punishment is removed as a perceived threat, either by government or the existence of a holy God.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> <https://www.secularism.org.uk/what-is-secularism.html>

<sup>12</sup> The Humanist Manifesto III, 2003 (boldface mine).

<sup>13</sup> The term “autonomous” affectively means self-powered (pun intended). Think “*automobile*.”

<sup>14</sup> John. M. Ellis. The Breakdown of Higher Education. (Encounter, 2020), p. 113.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid*, p. 31.

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/volokh-conspiracy/wp/2017/11/07/lessons-from-a-century-of-communism/>

<sup>17</sup> “That the founders of [our nation] believed in a religious basis for our society can be illustrated abundantly from their speeches and writings.” Russell Kirk. The Roots of American Order. (Regnery Gateway, 1991), p. 433.

<sup>18</sup> Think of a society where each driver is permitted individually to abide by their own laws.

<sup>19</sup> St. Paul writes, “*Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap*” (Gal. 5:7).

<sup>20</sup> Robert Conquest. “Reflections on a Ravaged Century.” <https://sites.fas.harvard.edu/~hpcws/asreview.htm>

<sup>21</sup> BIOLA University Prof., Clay Jones concludes from extensive study that they were mostly normal people shielded from threat of punishment.

Fictional character Mitya Karamazov, in the novel, *The Brothers Karamazov*, ponders in casual conversation with another, “Without God and mortal life? All things are lawful then, they can do what they like?”<sup>22</sup> To state matters bluntly, deniers of “supernaturalism” have for decades recklessly sought to banish biblical values from our culture, the results of which are that morals are becoming increasingly loathsome in the eyes of humanistic cultural leaders. Consider examples of the common core issues behind this downward spiral:

- In 1947 Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black implied (without certitude) that Thomas Jefferson intended his “wall of separation,” to protect the State from the encroachment of the Church.<sup>23</sup> Legal scholar Daniel Dreisbach challenges that claim by noting that it has “*become the **sacred...dogma** that champions a secular polity in which religious influences are systematically and coercively stripped from public life*” (boldface mine, notice the truthful irony of the uniting of the two words).<sup>24</sup>

- In the 1960s, on the basis of the US Constitution, homosexuals demanded (legitimately) both social toleration and equal treatment and access to the rights that it guarantees. But now the *traditional* concepts of both marriage and gender identity are not merely mocked, but bureaucratically banished so that new arrangements are both imposed onto society and enforced under the threat of judicial punishments. Concerning sexuality and morality in general, the question of a correlation between fidelity and social/societal health, British sociologist J.D. Unwin anticipated the present moral deterioration in our own day after studying the sexual morays of eighty “primitive” tribes and six civilizations across 5,000 years of history. He stated,

*“In human records there is no instance of a society retaining its energy after a complete new generation has inherited a tradition which does not insist on pre-nuptial and post-nuptial continence.” In addition he wrote, “After a nation becomes prosperous it becomes increasingly liberal in regard to sexual morality and as a result it loses its cohesion, its impetus, and its purpose.”*<sup>25</sup>

- In the 1960s the Free Speech Movement began (appropriately) as a protest movement to Lynden Johnson’s Administration’s refusal to engage with college students over the policies concerning the Vietnam War. Today by contrast, political Leftists (**PL**), from newscasters to social media outlets, suppress news and urge censorship of ideas they oppose to the end that they outright hijacked the recent Presidential election.<sup>26</sup>

- Despite claiming to be champions of science, PLs have betrayed an utter indifference to truth insofar as it hinders their dishonest agendas.<sup>27</sup> For example, they have exhibited no curiosity at all about alleged, though documentable, massive voting irregularities. Indeed they resolutely refused to investigate sworn testimony, while having the gall to insist that Republicans trust the election blindly and outrightly.

- The Democrat Party (DP) betrayed its’ multi-faceted moral-duplicity over the nightly rioting this past Summer. It was DP Mayors (**DPM**) who stood idly by as damage mounted, even as they armed

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<sup>22</sup> Constance Garrett, tr. Fyodor Dostoyevsky. *The Brothers Karamazov*. (Signet, 1999), Pt. 4, Bk. 11, ch. 4, p. 557

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.heritage.org/political-process/report/the-mythical-wall-separation-how-misused-metaphor-changed-church-state-law>.

<sup>24</sup> Thomas Jefferson’s Letter to the Danbury Baptist Association. <https://billofrightsinstitute.org/primary-sources/danburybaptists>.

<sup>25</sup> J.D. Unwin. *Sex and Culture*. (Oxford, 1934). The text can be found at <https://archive.org/details/b20442580/page/n5/mode/2up>

<sup>26</sup> See my essay, “The Blind Array of Cowardly Ploys the Left Employs,” at my blog, [offensivechristianity.blogspot.com](http://offensivechristianity.blogspot.com), 12/26.2020.

<sup>27</sup> See my essay, “Leftism’s Claim to be Champions of Science is a Gigantic Fraud,” at my blog, *Ibid*, 11/10/2020. and protecting the innocent. So also, like-minded news shows refused to either air their deeds or tie the devastation to DP purposes.

the rioters, while by contrast, restraining police from halting obvious culprits.<sup>28</sup> At the same time the “alphabet” news outlets and internet social media were also complicit in this same cover up.<sup>29</sup>

In sum, Humanists 1) relentlessly distort our Constitution, 2) belittle morality, 3) suppress and censor facts they deem distasteful, and 4) enable thuggish tactics in order to cling to power. All the while, they offer no semblance of a blueprint of their vision. They also despise the values necessary even to merely maintain the blessings we have inherited because of our forefathers. Consequently, their prospects for attaining a better future are nil. Their ploys are equivalent to shooting a standard arrow **away** from the target and expecting to hit a bulls’ eye. So the only path to a society which unites in freedom an *entire* population in which all of us are literally sinners, is assured only by recovering that vision which 250 years ago laid that very foundation which we are in danger of throwing away. Since secularism (**SEC**) by definition (top) denies a “super-natural” law-giver which alone can validate morality as an undeviatingly-valid concept, all that SEC is left with is a *pragmatic* body of “do’s and don’ts” useful only to those forcing the masses at will. Since these “few” cannot rationally claim to be any less sinful than the crowds they judge, they have no grounds at all for us to trust the self-acclaimed “enlightened” minds who are intent on denying the history that gave us all the gift of freedom.<sup>30</sup>

#### Addendum

Just recently I received the following notice from the *Family Research Council*:

“A recent post-election survey by renown Christian pollster, Dr. George Barna, revealed troubling numbers. “His polling found that the majority of those who voted for President Joe Biden were less likely to have a biblical worldview. **And 75 percent of the president's base thinks there is no absolute moral truth.** Barna responded to the findings, saying, ‘The more the United States puts distance between itself and its moral and spiritual moorings, the less likely we are to have an effective, vibrant government and a healthy and vibrant way of life.’” He further notes, “This message rings all to true as American institutions succumb to moral degradation, **including public schools.** And he finally states, “California recently demonstrated how far they would go to not only reject a Christian worldview but replace it with what looks like idol worship, *encouraging chants, and prayers to Aztec gods!*”<sup>31</sup>

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Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (NALC), Berlin, PA, USA

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<sup>28</sup> Indeed the only benefit their “useful idiot,” Antifa, served was to divert overt attention from DPM’s connection to the terrorizing of people and demolishing of property.

<sup>29</sup> See my essay, “Fox News Alone Visually Connects Rioting with the Democrat Party,” at my blog, 09/09/2020, Op.cit. (16).

<sup>30</sup> “It’s not just the concentration of one political viewpoint [in particular] that corrupts academia. Making politics of any kind central to campus life must be damaging because the habits of mind of academic teachers are in so many ways the exact opposite of...political activists. First of all, political motives will always stunt intellectual curiosity. In any worthwhile college education a student’s mind must have the freedom to think afresh and to follow wherever facts or arguments lead. But that freedom...is constrained when its conclusion is fixed in advance by a political agenda. Students will never learn to think for themselves if their thought processes must always [fit] into a predetermined belief system.” Ellis goes on to analyze four other negative intellectual consequences of current trends in academics. Op.cit. (4), p. 39.

<sup>31</sup> [https://www.frc.org/d-2105\\_7](https://www.frc.org/d-2105_7), (May 19, 2021).

## Exposing the Intellectual Nakedness of Marxist Dogma

*"But [the Emperor] hasn't got any clothes," said the little boy. "He's all bare."* (Hans Christian Anderson's, *The Emperor's New Clothes*)

The largest stars that scientists observe are so much bigger than our Sun that if one of them, say, *Stephenson 2-18 (S-2-18)*, replaced our Sun, Saturn's orbit would track inside it (8:52, 9:43).<sup>32</sup> In comparison, our Sun is as small as *"a grain of dust."* (9:22). So the enormity of *S-2-18* could easily wow us! Yet only our much smaller star *can* provide the conditions we earthlings need in order to exist and even thrive.<sup>33</sup> By contrast, supergiant star *S-2-18* is on its "death-bed." Having burned up most all of its gas, it lacks the gravity needed to keep holding its' huge yet nearly empty shell together. It is about to collapse into an explosion that will dissipate its' remains out into space. Size isn't necessarily superiority!

Similarly, **Marxist Socialism (MS)** today in America is posturing itself as an ominous force for cultural overthrow that is accelerating with *apparently* unstoppable momentum. Despite the 20<sup>th</sup> Century's track record of failure across Asia and Eastern Europe (a fact "academics" today suppress),<sup>34</sup> socialism is capturing the hearts of 40% of Americans aged 20 to 40. Nevertheless, the alleged gravitas behind such boasting is **illusory**. MS dogma is as unstable as a house of cards because it is NOT premised on a body of facts, but only on assumptions of flawed *"dead white men"* (Rousseau, Hegel, Marx...) <sup>35</sup> that were based on *now*-discredited science. To give three examples: its flaws include **firstly** its dogmatic commitment to **philosophical materialism**. This *faith* position insists that reality is limited to **only** physical entities. That is, there is no God or gods; no angels, demons, or even souls.<sup>36</sup> Yet this worldview is refuted in part by the *scientific* discovery that the cosmos came into being out of nothingness at the Big Bang (**BB**).<sup>37</sup> Only a God who exists outside of nature can bring this about! **Secondly**, MS names **Darwinian evolution (DE)** as the very means by which nature moves toward completion. Yet, among other matters, two transitional chasms in the path of biological development unknown to Darwin (from both rocks to organisms and the existence of information in the cell), are so vast as to be conceptually impossible to cross in the absence an overseeing intelligent Creator (God).<sup>38</sup> **Thirdly**, MS assumes that **humans too will ultimately be perfected** whenever utopia is reached. Yet historical evidence from the last hundred years utterly discredits these naïve beliefs that humans are progressing toward perfection.<sup>39</sup>

Such clashes between MS and demonstrable facts, indicate **concrete** errors in the MS dogma. And it even further discredits itself by its determination to hide its designs from the masses. In order to further its own purposes as opposed to the peoples, **MS demands imposition of these governing ploys**:

- **Control** media and news content
- **Censor** both "unacceptable" points of view and events that damage its cause
- **Insulate** State leaders from scrutiny
- **Refuse dialogue** over opposing views
- Pack schools with **socialist** "teachers"

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3mnSDifDSxQ>

<sup>33</sup> Hugh Ross. *The Creator and the Cosmos*. (RTB, 2018), pp. 207-8.

<sup>34</sup> Mark Levin. *American Marxism*. (Threshold Editions, 2021), pp. 10, 260.

<sup>35</sup> Mark K. Levin cites these three, *Ibid.*, pp., 18f.

<sup>36</sup> See my paper, "The Case for the Soul," at my website, [www.christianityontheoffense.com/articles](http://www.christianityontheoffense.com/articles).

<sup>37</sup> See my papers, "Was the Big Bang the Big Beginning?," "What Atheism Cannot Explain," and "God's Prints are Everywhere," *Ibid.*

<sup>38</sup> Stephen Meyer. "The Origin of Life and the DNA Enigma." *Return of the God Hypothesis*. (Harper One, 2021), ch. 9.

<sup>39</sup> See my paper, "The Inescapable Connection Between Socialism and the Murder of One Hundred Million captives." *Op.cit.* (4).

- Force propagandistic ideas and rhetoric
- **Resist scrutiny** of government schemes
- **Severely punish dissidents**
- **The State** is the **only moral authority**

If the MS agenda was persuasive and true, it would refuse to employ such thuggish and cowardly ploys!

Gary Jensen, Pastor© August 15, 2021  
Holy Trinity Lutheran church (NALC), Berlin, PA, USA



## Rationally Speaking, Only Redemption in Jesus Christ Can Bring Heaven to Earth

*"Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." – Jesus (Matthew 6:10)*

I take no pleasure in advancing the logic that the realities posed by the two previous articles<sup>40</sup> are thrusting upon us. I had, prior to Memorial Day evening of 2021, naively assumed that secularists were satisfied to co-exist in good-faith with those who embrace Judeo-Christian values. That illusion was exposed and quickly shattered that evening when well-deserved protests over the murder of George Floyd in particular, mutated into emotion-charged protests over the larger demand for equal rights under the law for all peoples (so far, well-and-good). Yet these protests hindered prospects of coming together in good-faith by, to the contrary, igniting rioting of a degree that led to both the decimation of family dwellings and businesses across multiplied blocks over scores of American cities, and the wanton terrorization and murdering of innocent, defenseless citizens. The three-month night-after-night summer stretch following that evening exposed a secularistic rejection of allegiance to either the U.S. Constitution<sup>41</sup> or the morality which kindled the principles of the former which gave birth to our freedoms as a nation. That vision is being repudiated with accelerating speed by a denial of our national history, our national vision for the future,<sup>42</sup> traditional morality,<sup>43</sup> and indeed of rationality itself.<sup>44</sup>

In the previous posting I highlighted rational reasons why secularism fails to offer efficient social resources that could conceivably create a trajectory leading to a free and just society. For that reason, any belief that the utopia they herald to an ideally-naïve expectant public rests on sheer fantasy. Such an outcome would demand magical (as opposed to miraculous) forces in order to bring its vision to fruition. Consequently, the prospect of secularism issuing in the society I describe above is utterly worse than an expectation that theism (belief in God) can bring about the same for the reason that a miracle has its source in God while magic entails no existence of a sufficient cause.

The solitary arrow in the quiver of Socialism has been exposed as pointless, and consequently worthless for three reasons: 1) Karl Marx *naively* (it seems) predicted that the laws of “evolutionary progress” would prevail over the economic strife that would conceivably ensue,<sup>45</sup> 2) Materialism is demonstrably utterly impotent to have been the cause and existence of the natural order,<sup>46</sup> and 3) the fact of both the murder of 100 million of its captives in the 20<sup>th</sup> century alone, and the decimation of every single communistic economy with the exception of China.<sup>47</sup> In other words, even though I am a Christian, I am not making the argument that Socialism will fail for the reason that God opposes it,<sup>48</sup> but instead that socialism is intellectually impotent to fulfill its utopian promises.

The laws of nature are not arbitrary but harmonize with reality as a whole.<sup>49</sup> For similar reasons, non-Christians do not differ in essence from Christians,<sup>50</sup> since they too are made in the image of God,<sup>51</sup> and so share the same aspirations for security, sustenance, and fulfillment as do the latter.

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<sup>40</sup> See my two papers, “The Inescapable Connection Between Socialism and the Murder of 100 Million Captives” and “Humanistic Ethics Cannot Possibly Create a Free and Just Society,” at my website, [www.christianityontheoffense.com/articles](http://www.christianityontheoffense.com/articles)

<sup>41</sup> See my paper, “Flawed Liberators? Or Clueless Thugs? Perfectionism as the Enemy of Rational Choice.” Ibid.

<sup>42</sup> See my paper, “The Intellectual Death Toward Which Secularism is Taking our Society.” Ibid.

<sup>43</sup> “Humanist Ethics...” Op.cit. (1).

<sup>44</sup> See my papers, “Don’t Swallow Leftist Pseudo-Scientific Demands,” and “Leftist’s Claims to Be Champions of Science, is a Gigantic Fraud.” Op.cit. (1).

<sup>45</sup> Saul Alinsky. *Rules for Radicals*. (Vintage, 1971), pp. XXII. Quoted in Mark Levin. *American Marxism*. (Simon and Schuster, 2021), pp. 212,3.

<sup>46</sup> See my two papers, “God’s Prints are Everywhere,” and “Was the Big Bang the Big Beginning? (Or Merely the Latest Chapter)?” Op.cit. (1).

<sup>47</sup> Op.cit. (1). “The Inescapable Connection...”

<sup>48</sup> Psalm 2, Psalm 127:2.

<sup>49</sup> Granville Sewell (Prof. of Mathematics, UTEP). *In the Beginning*. (Discovery Institute, 2010).

<sup>50</sup> “You have made us for yourself, O God, and our hearts are restless until we find our rest in you.” Augustine.

<sup>51</sup> Genesis 1:27.

Consequently, those on the Left bear the same dreadful stakes which follow from a Socialistic/Marist society as do those who are self-described conservatives.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ not only has the facts of science, history, and human experience in its favor.<sup>52</sup> It also aligns with a sober assessment of human nature as both our having fallen out of relationship with God our creator, and consequently out of harmony with His will; and also being in bondage to our lusts and self-centeredness. This biblical position contrasts with the naïve secularistic view that sets people into the role of chronically judging others while exempting oneself from the obligations to keep the same standards they impose (1:1f). It is vital to note here that seeing ourselves as at the center of our social experience stands in utter contradiction to the fundamental societal requirement that every person live under the same set of purposes and moral values. The view I here describe is entirely consistent with both orchestra musicians all playing the same piece while under the direction of the same Conductor, and football players stepping from their huddle up to the line to carry out the play that the quarterback was just called. Departures from such goals can only lead to chaos.

It is of course human nature in our fallen state to err from the design's I just described (Romans 3:23). Perfection can never be achieved in our present state. On the other hand, the reality of our fallenness must not turn away us from the possibilities which remain within the context of grace. The demand for perfection must never become the enemy of the good.

This is where the "Gospel of Redemption" I described in my title above offers five utterly vital necessities for "*bring[ing] heaven to earth.*" 1) That the God of Scripture declares Himself to be holy supplies society with a moral compass that is revealed most explicitly in the Ten Commandments, 2) it consequently highlights the reality of our sinfulness, the insights of which urge us to confess our sins to both God and each other. This dark aspect of our nature led to our U. S. Constitutional demand for the three branches of our government. This fact also serves as a rationale for resisting tyranny at all costs. 3) The reality of God's redemption for all who will receive it, breaks the cycle of demanding perfection of either our neighbors or ourselves. 4) Trusting His daily presence is a source of empowerment for individual strength to live in confidence for the future, as opposed to the moment. 5) His promise of future judgement, on the other hand, urges us to bear our own responsibility for moral choices and actions.

The choices between either Socialism or a Constitutional Republic such as we inherited from our founders in 1787 push one in opposite directions. The former vision must, by its very nature, lead on the one hand to "promises" of "security" which will, as the record of history testifies, to one's loss of freedom and self-destiny. The latter vision, on the one hand, while demanding moral and intellectual discipline, while also securing what is required to ensure safety and freedom and justice for all.

We currently stand at a such crisis as Moses witnessed when he announced to Israel just before they entered the promised land where he declared, "*Behold, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil... Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live*" (Deuteronomy 30:15, 19).

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<sup>52</sup> Op.cit. (7).