

Assassination! . . . Redemption?

What do you make of the events of recent days, since the infamous Saturday (July 13), when President Trump was shot but miraculously saved? Or even back to June 27, when President Trump debated "President" Biden? And now, as I write this, the Republican National Convention is taking place in Milwaukee, inspiring us with stirring speeches and strong emotions of relief and joy that our candidate survived an intended assassination!



What a mixture of events, of the best and worst of human actions and motivations, of gladness that our nation averted a terrible crisis, and deep sadness for the innocent victims of the shooting who were guilty only of supporting Trump!

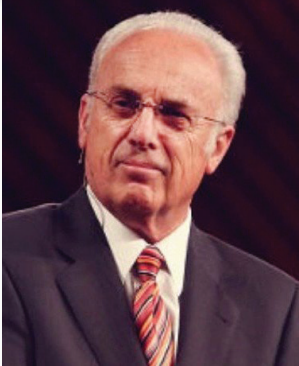
Adding to this whole picture is the entrance of a new character, unknown to many until now – J.D. Vance, Republican Senator from Ohio. He is now known to the entire world as President Trump's running mate for this election cycle. All of a sudden, we are wanting to know who this man is and how he will fit in to our nation's challenge to somehow emerge from the depths to which we have sunk.

I have a few thoughts about it all, but no conclusions or convictions about the big picture involving our once great nation.

First, I agree with Jack Hibbs of Calvary Chapel, Chino Hills, and with John MacArthur of Grace Community Church, that God



has withdrawn His blessing from the United States. Mr. MacArthur seems to go further when he states his belief that the United States is under God's judgment. Both attribute it to the many ways we have turned our backs on God, and even spit in his face.



Our many sins as a nation include baby murder; sexual promiscuity and deviant behavior; child pornography; child mutilation; loss of care about God and His blessing on us. We have dumbed down our populace for at least three generations

so that they really cannot be responsible citizens who vote to protect the God-given calling to be a light to this world, a witness to God's offer of salvation through Jesus Christ. And we have swamped ourselves with millions who don't know or care about our calling and heritage and so have muted our message.

Most churches are nowhere to be found in the spiritual battle being fought over this nation and the world. They are selling out the gospel message to become more acceptable to the world, to fit in and not offend. Instead, they, and we, should be shouting out against our failings and calling us to repentance before God!

Second, the evidence that this is a spiritual battle shows up when you read and watch the reaction of the left to the failure to eliminate Donald Trump. There is an almost insane rage, a foaming at the mouth, about the fact that the shooter failed to assassinate Trump. Demons foam at the mouth. Satan inspires that kind of irrational anger, and he infects these people with the spirit of deception and delusion so that they can't think straight and can't be reached with reasonable conversation.

Third, about J.D. Vance, the relatively unknown guy running for Vice President. I went to Amazon to get his book "Hillbilly Elegy", written about eight years ago.

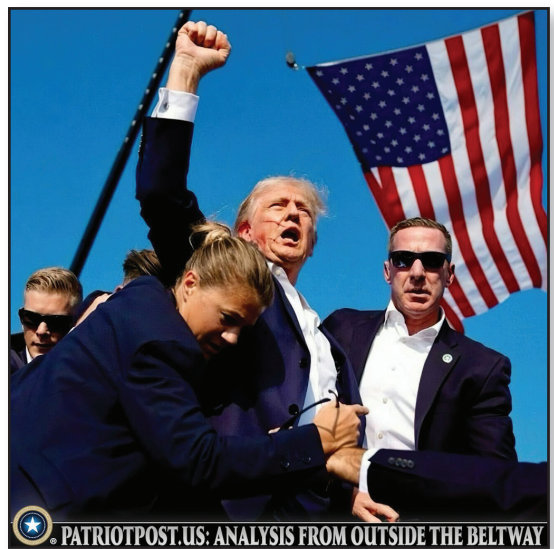


I have read only the introduction and first chapter and I get the picture of a fallen society, like what we see in California all over the place, including Lucerne Valley. J.D. grew up amongst people who now merely exist, without much hope, and who don't care enough to do anything about it. Their lives are characterized by alcohol and drugs, broken homes, serial sex partners, and violence and fighting. It's heartbreaking to read in J.D.'s book. It's even more heartbreaking to witness it here at home.

In his Sunday morning sermon on July 14, the day after the assassination attempt on Trump, Jack Hibbs sidelined his prepared message on Romans and instead shared his response to the events. He wore a black robe that he has used only six times, at times of severe crisis, and titled the message "A Call to a Solemn Assembly." He was on fire, but not about the assassination attempt per se. His target was us.

Here are some of his thoughts, paraphrased by me (sorry, Jack!):

- Yes, Trump showed great courage when he raised his fist and shouted, "Fight, fight, fight", and we finally heard him give God credit for saving his life. But has he fallen to his knees in surrender to God through Jesus Christ? Is he talking about God or to God? The same question applies to each and every one of us.
- Our culture is attempting to assassinate God Himself, either by intent or by letting it happen. Most of us are "recreational



Christians" who aren't serious about our commitment to God and about the state of our nation, which is gasping for breath, in its last few moments, its "last gleaming." We know the gospel, but don't follow it.

- Unless we ourselves repent from our sin and aberrant (deviant) conduct, judgment is coming. (I think it's too late, and judgment IS coming. – LG) We must fall on our faces before God!
- We must stop talking about God and come to know Him personally. Ditto President Trump!
- This country is not ours. It was given to us as a gift. (None of us did anything to deserve the blessing of living here. – LG) And now the nation traffics in the souls of men, women, boys and girls. We borrow from China to keep us going, leaving us terribly vulnerable to China. This nation has spent its vitality on its lust for sex and for power.
- What will unfold in the next few months until November? There is a great sense of urgency. We must stop being idle. (We must find out what God wants of each of us in this terrible time. – LG)

Personally, I want to revel in the probable victory of commonsense governance in November. I want to throw caution to the winds and just be glad that there seems to be an awakening of the American people, at some level, at least. I want to see the Left, Satan's servants, face-plant spectacularly, and to see them eat their own, um, excrement.

But most of all, I want to see all Americans, and especially Donald Trump and J.D. Vance, turn to God and become HIS servants. It's the only hope for this nation and for the world to be turned away from the evil swamping it!

Linda Gammel

On The Lighter Side of Serious Stuff . . . from the Web

