

in our society, a vacuum will serve as an invitation to Islam or any other force aggressive and bold enough to assert its will to fill the void.

God's intent for mankind is that all would come to a knowledge and acceptance of His Son as *the Savior* of those who are lost. Unless we choose to re-write Romans 6, we must believe that all mankind is in need of redemption. . Remember, in Islam teaching, there are Muslims and there are infidels. Muslims go to heaven. Infidels are lost. They make *no* other distinction. The unity movements of "Christians" are muddying the water to the point where there is no longer the saved and the lost. There are instead, those who are "on their journey" to find God.

Even a casual reading of the Scriptures reveals that God's plan for salvation *clearly* states that the *obedient* are the recipients of God's love (John 14:21; I John 2:4-6). Those who choose to follow any teaching that makes allowances for alternative ways of redemption *other* than coming into contact with the blood of Christ in the waters of baptism, will receive the consequence of that choice. If "Christians" held as restrictive a view as do the Muslims, perhaps we would then hold salvation in higher regard. The reality is that because Christians have become so intent on making all things acceptable lest we offend anyone, our faith is seen as nothing more than another belief in the religious world. God has been modernized into a loving Father with *no expectations* of mankind. That watered down view of God suggests that even though He made all of the arrangements to send His only begotten Son to redeem mankind, He will nevertheless accept mankind's *denial* that His Son *is* the Redeemer. The trend today is one that claims "as long as a belief refers to God in some capacity, that's good enough for salvation." How absolutely wrong and condemning.

When Muslims *boldly revealed* to America (through the 9/11 attacks) that they intended to make America a Muslim nation instead of a Christian nation, it *should have been a wake up call to Christians* that the war for souls had escalated to new heights. From that moment on, Christians should have known that they had to *boldly* proclaim that Christ is the *only* way to be redeemed. Muslims are *effectively using* the religious freedoms we have enjoyed for many generations in our country to *promote* their false beliefs while Christians are *allowing* the Word of God to be set aside with hardly a complaint. If we intend for our children and grandchildren to enjoy the same freedoms we have enjoyed, we must teach that there *is one way* and that way is Christ. Then — and only then will we remain a "Christian nation."

 Please note — there will not be a December 15<sup>th</sup> or January 1<sup>st</sup> issue of Diligence. We will resume publication on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Have a joyous holiday season. 

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# DILIGENCE

"We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure." — Hebrews 6:11

A ministry of Dennis and Sherri Owens

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## 9/11 — The Muslim Public Declaration Of Exclusivity

Most of us remember exactly where we were and what we were doing when we first heard the news of the violent attacks carried out against this country on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001. Those attacks announced to this nation that radical Muslims believed that anyone who would not convert to and embrace the Islamic faith was considered an "infidel" and should be destroyed. The choice made by that segment of Muslims to use physical force to intimidate people around the world resulted in a decision by the United States and other countries to engage in a war against the presumed source of that aggressive action.

As citizens of the United States of America we have freedoms that allow many opportunities for all of us. As we shall see later in this article however, those freedoms can also create challenges. Nevertheless, not many of us would be willing to give up the freedoms we have in exchange for the restrictions that were prevalent in Iraq at the time the USA first engaged in the war.

While that war in Iraq has continued on for quite sometime now, Christians should be aware of *another* war that *preceded* those attacks of aggression carried out by radical Islamists on 9/11. That *other* war is the war that opposes Christ as the Redeemer of mankind. *That* war began long before the Muslims made that *violent public declaration* that their way to God was the *only* way *they* would tolerate and that any other way was worthy of physical death. In the war that opposes Christ as the Redeemer of mankind, the aggressors of course, have not been limited to Muslims as were the attacks on 9/11 — the aggressors in *this* war include atheists, agnostics and numerous others who are simply anti-religious, anti-Christ and anti-God.

Far too many Christians have been completely oblivious to this war against Christ — well, perhaps "oblivious" is not the correct word. A more appropriate phrase might be "asleep at the wheel." Even though the Scriptures give multiple examples of individuals *taking a public stand* for Christ and His Word (Acts 6:8-15; Acts 4:18-20; Acts 2; etc.) as well as explicit instructions to do so (Jude 1:3; Matt. 28:19-20; etc.), Christians more and more frequently practice the position that they should *never offend* anyone by teaching that Christ *is* the *one and only* means of redemption for mankind and the *one and only* path to God. When "Christians" accept that brand of "evangelism," the entire Christian community is weakened because of it. If "Christians" *will not teach* that salvation is *only* through the blood of Jesus Christ, are they not abandoning the teaching of the Scriptures? It seems that a large number of "Christians" have bought into the idea that a "loving God would not send anyone

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to hell.” That idea is *clearly* refuted in the Scriptures (Matt. 5:22; Matt. 10:28; Matt. 23:33; Luke 12:5; John 15:6 and on and on). “Christians” have bought into the *worldly* — *not* Biblical — teaching that “only a *bigot* would believe that the Bible describes the *only* path to God.” To hold to and declare such a *Scriptural* belief in today’s environment is to be labeled as “radical” and equivalent to those Muslims who will use any means to intimidate infidels into accepting their belief. Even those Christians who *previously* accepted the Scriptures have fallen victim to worldly pressures that encourage and endorse all sorts of unity movements that soften that Biblical Truth. “Christians” are now very often deeply involved in unity movements that clearly imply that they too believe there are *many* paths to God. The Bible *does not teach* any such thing. Jesus is the way — the *only* way to God.

It is quite obvious that the Muslims are intently teaching by intimidation that *Islam* is the only path to God (or Allah, in their terms). They have *certainly* not softened or compromised *their* teaching. They are in fact *using* the very freedoms that we enjoy as Americans to *further their* teaching that *Islam* is the only path to God (more on that later in this article). So while the Muslims are using American freedoms to *gain* ground for their beliefs, Christians are *losing* ground *because* they no longer believe and accept what the Scriptures teach concerning fundamental beliefs. Many no longer teach that there is a hell *or* that salvation is *only* through contact with the blood of Christ in the waters of baptism. Many “Christians” seem now to incorrectly believe that we are here on this earth to win friends rather than to save souls from eternal damnation (Luke 6:26; Matt. 10:34-38; Matt. 5:11; etc.). While the Muslims are moving *forward* in winning souls for Satan, Christians are moving backward in winning souls for Christ.

Well, by now, if you are still reading this article, you may be thinking that we’re just over-reacting — that Christians are still Bible believers and that Muslims are just “doing their own thing” — and we needn’t really worry about *anything* because God is in control and *He* will take care of everything. Yes — God *is* in control but He has given Christians very specific commands that He *expects* us to obey. This country has been exceptionally blessed by God for many, many years. Let us not forget however, that just because this country has many Christians in it, that doesn’t necessarily mean that God will *continue* to bless it. For *all* of those many years, this nation has been considered a “Christian nation.” There are *numerous efforts* afoot nowadays to attempt to *change* that. Those efforts are claiming that “it is *discriminatory* to *other* faiths (Muslims, Buddhists, atheists, etc.) to continue referring to America as a “Christian nation.” Because of these efforts, slow but sure advances are being made to change that image of America. And while that is going on, many Christians are unfortunately “asleep at the wheel” resting in assurance that *God* would never let that happen. If “Christians” are no longer willing to teach that His Word *clearly* states that there is *one* mediator between God and man (I Tim. 2:5), why would those same “Christians” assume that God will *continue* to bless this nation? “Christians” have not only become lazy and lethargic in their devotion to God, they have become unwilling to put them-

selves at risk of being un-liked or ridiculed by their peers for the sake of teaching Christ to a world that now views the *Scriptures* as “radical” and “hate-filled.”

We stated earlier that some may think this article is an over-reaction. Some say that our duty as Christians is to “unify” with those who do not accept and practice a faith that is according to the Word — and by doing so, they would eventually all be drawn to Christ. One question — if “Christians” *will not teach* that Christ *is the only* way for salvation, why would anyone *change* from their current practices? Christians are implying that they are saved anyway. When “Christians” *will not teach* that there *is* but *one* path to God (through Christ’s blood) how would anyone *know* they they must come to God via that *one* way? What good is it for a “Christian” to *believe* that there is but one path to God if he or she feels no need to tell that to others so they too can believe the same Truth. Ah — perhaps that’s the problem nowadays — too many “Christians” *don’t* believe any longer that there is just one path to God. Perhaps many have bought into the worldly teaching that each individual pursues his or her *own* “journey” to God — and that journey is *different* for each person. One problem — that’s *not* what the Bible says!

Those who think that unifying with *all faiths* and *all beliefs* is the “Christian” way to show love and win souls over to Christ, should look around America and see what’s going on today. *Many* changes can be seen in the public school system. Since it is government ran, it is easily influenced by public opinion — or perhaps we *should* say by those who are the most *vocal* about what they believe and *stand up* for that belief — something no longer done by many “Christian” — (they fear it may make us appear un-loving). For example, long ago evolution was introduced to public schools as the “truth” concerning creation. More often than not, Biblical creation is now portrayed as a story of *fiction* accepted only by those who are weak and simple minded. We also now see prayer, Bibles, *any* reference to Christian holidays, etc. being *completely* removed from public schools. As these things are removed — because they are considered “pro-Christian,” there is a simultaneous push for *acceptance* of pro-abortion, pro-gay and yes, pro-Muslim agendas. The recent push to create an all Muslim public school in New York city has brought only minimal resistance, so it continues to move forward. Can you imagine the outcry if an “all *Christian*” school was suggested in the public school system? The ability of Muslims to succeed in not only making some schools provide special basins for foot washings but also celebrating Muslim religious holidays as well as allowing *their* prayers to have a place in many public schools, signals a *clear change* in the direction of a country that was once proud of the fact that it called itself a “Christian nation.” Over reaction?? Perhaps. But the facts are becoming so evident that many books are emerging about this phenomenal shift to boldly *denounce Christianity* and accept atheism and other religions.

Unless Christians have been asleep or cloistered in their church cocoons, they can not help but take note of the erosion of the impact Christianity once had on a society now given over to secularism. Once the impact of Christianity is neutralized