

May 11, 2020



## *Bringing Biblical Principles of Governance*

### Dr. Garlow Looks at Controversy

Greetings My Friends,

As weeks fly by, we eagerly await for restrictions to ease and people to get back to work safely. **I wrote a letter to California Governor Gavin Newsom** in our last newsletter, which you can read **HERE**. At this time, Newsom is saying he will continue the lockdown until slightly past the Rapture. (Okay, he did not say that, but we need some humor in this otherwise very serious time).

One obvious question is how is abortion "essential," but churches are not? When did it become normal to arrest people for trying to open their businesses to feed their families or walk along the beach? **How do states justify the release of hundreds of criminals from jail for "safety" reasons?**

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### THE INFORMATIONAL WAR



Dr. Dan Erickson & Dr. Artin Massihi, from Bakersfield-based Accelerated Urgent Care, held a video press conference on April 22, 2020



"Plandemic" movie featuring Dr. Judy Mikovits

Wildly popular videos featuring two Bakersfield, CA Emergency Room Doctors – Dan Erickson and Artin Massihi – and "Plandemic" – featuring Dr. Judy Mikovits – are **repeatedly being pulled down by YouTube. I am NOT advocating for either video, but I welcome the vigorous debate which the two videos have produced.** That is America. We value open discussion. **Why does YouTube – a private company – feel the need to continually remove the videos?** They need to allow the discussion to take place. Allow people to interact – for or against. But there is no need to continually remove the videos as YouTube has done due to their personal "Community Standards." **This continual oppression of the videos only makes them even more popular and causes further distrust of government.** Even the discussions of hydroxychloroquine have become political rather than scientific. **This is harmful to constructive debate.**

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## THE GAP

Meanwhile, many state governments have stepped across the fine line of violating civil liberties. As states plan to reopen in phases, **there is a distinct and rather interesting difference we see in leadership from Blue States vs. Red States.** Why is that?

What are the underlying philosophical differences between Democrat governors – who want to keep states on lock-down – and Republican governors – who are pressing to open things up. Why? Are Democratic states simply having more COVID-19 cases? Not as a general rule. Then why? The most obvious factor is their view of the role of government. **It appears that one group feels the state is all powerful and can order citizens into submission indefinitely.** An example would be Governor Newsom's unwillingness to allow churches to reopen while schools do. The other group – the Red State Governors – feels that persons have certain fundamental freedoms and liberties, and thus open things up, using prudence and caution.

I contend that it is not ultimately a Republican vs. Democrat issue. It is not even a Right vs. Left issue. **It is Right vs. Wrong.** One view is scripturally defensible. The other is not. While I personally am still willing to “shelter in place” (most of the time, due to my age), and to wear masks and gloves the rare times I am in public, **the statistics indicate that our nation's governors need to allow people to assess the risk/reward factors and let them make up their own minds.** If persons with the five or so underlying conditions could have been quarantined, the rest of society – perhaps 80 or 85% – could have continued unabated.

### The Emerging America: Right vs. Wrong

We have seen many protests erupt across America. You can read my article "Theology of Protest" [HERE](#). We are also witnessing governors implement rules of **tracking their citizens** and state websites encouraging people to snitch on businesses and those not following stay-at-home orders to be fined. This is horrific.

In the Democratic state of Hawaii, violation of the stay-at-home rule is a fine of \$5,000 or imprisonment in jail for a year, or both! Chicago, Illinois doubles that fine up to \$10,000, and their Mayor Lori Lightfoot said, **"We will shut you down. We will cite you. We will arrest you, and if we need to, we will take you to jail."**

In Gallup, New Mexico, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, for a limited number of days, shut down all roads and businesses between 5 p.m. and 8 a.m. Anyone who violated the Riot Control Act would be guilty of a fourth-degree felony. Notice the language of the invoked law: the “Riot Control” Act! Was there a “riot” in Gallup? No. As in the days of old, we cry out, **“Let my people go!”**

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## Right

Meanwhile, in the Red State of Texas, **Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick offered the Dallas, Texas Salon owner, who was imprisoned for opening her business, to cover her fine and serve house arrest on her behalf.** She was released from jail after a surge of pressure on the judge who jailed the owner.

Tennessee Governor, Bill Lee, did not extend his stay-at-home order and issued his statement, "Tennesseans pulled together to flatten the curve, and it is time for people to begin to **get back to work and back to their businesses...** We are pursuing a careful, measured approach to reopening our economy that does not depend on heavy-handed mandates but instead provides practical tools for businesses of all sizes."

## Wrong

Blue States such as Michigan, Rhode Island, Washington, Maryland, Oregon, and Maine, just to name a few of them, have extended their stay-at-home orders. When it comes to the state of Michigan, Governor Gretchen Whitmer actually banned the sales of seeds and plants, child car seats, and extended her executive stay-at-home order, though liquor and the sale of lottery tickets were not included in this ban. She would not allow people to travel between houses owned, for example from the prime residence to a lake home. The good news is she has since retracted this order, but **Michigan's Republican leaders of the House and Senate are suing Whitmer for her extension of the state of emergency deeming it "unlawful."**

Although I have lived the last 25 years in California, my home state is Kansas. The rulings of the Governor of Kansas have been particularly onerous, although **there has not been a single death in approximately 90 of the 105 counties of the state.** Of the fifteen that reported a death, almost half of those reported one death. Yet Governor Laura Kelly ramped up her regulations when other nearby governors were reducing theirs.

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## OH, BUT IT GETS WORSE

As if we don't have enough surveillance of private citizens, the House of Representatives is being presented with a new bill to begin tracking the virus in people through the "**TRACE Act.**" This bill - H.R.6666 (yes, that's the actual number!), the COVID-19 Testing, Reaching, And Contacting Everyone (TRACE) Act – is being proposed by many House Democrats.

You can check it out **HERE**. Presumably it won't go far, but this gives you a glimpse into the Orwellian "Nanny State."

## RIGHT CLASHING WITH WRONG

Here in California, leaders of several **evangelical churches vow to open their doors for worship on May 31**, regardless of Governor Newsom's schedule to reopen Churches. One article claims that 3,000 churches are prepared to violate Newsom's severe anti-First Amendment overreach.

Affirming the value of churches, the Arizona Attorney General, Mark Brnovich, stated to OneNewsNow, "There's no mandatory six-foot requirement imposed on churches or attendance at churches because they're essential activities." Another significant event that occurred was **the Justice Department sided with Temple Baptist Church in Greenville, Mississippi** after police officers fined churchgoers \$500.00 each, sitting in their cars, with their windows rolled up, listening to their pastor on the radio in the parking lot.

## GOOD NEWS

**U.S. Attorney General William Barr commented that, "the Constitution is not suspended"** and "[police officers] appear to have...singled churches out as the only essential service that may not operate despite following all CDC and state recommendations regarding social distancing." We have seen the leadership by our President to implement steps to reopen safely. You can read my views of President Trump [\*\*HERE\*\*](#).

## The Three Freedoms

**Freedoms run together in a triumvirate, a triad: political, economic and religious.** Where one freedom rises up and breaks through, the others tend to follow, like they did in Eastern Europe in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Where one goes down, the others are quick to follow, as demonstrated in Cuba and Venezuela.

**We have witnessed all three freedoms stunningly evaporate – almost overnight.** Elections (political) have been stopped. Commerce (economic) is shut down. Churches (religion) are closed. Should we be concerned? Yes! **When government gains power, it rarely gives it back.**

## WHAT CAN OR SHOULD WE DO?

You might feel like you can't do anything, like your influence is miniscule. That is not true. You can do something. You have influence in your particular sphere.

What can we do? **(1) Pray.** I mean, seriously pray. This is not the time for platitudinal praying. This is time for an outcry of repentance before God. Our nation is in deep trouble. **(2) Keep reading.** Stay highly informed. Check and re-check sources. One does not need to accept "the party line." Nor does one have to assume that every circulating internet video is accurate. Read, think, process, ponder, and ask the Spirit of God to show you truth. That is what is at stake. Truth makes all the difference. Pray for Truth to arise. **(3) Become Constitutionally alert.** Read. Study. **(4) Learn to speak out.** Articulate the key issues in simple straightforward ways. **(5) In communication, be kind, loving, gentle...but don't back down.** Know when to push back. Know when to speak. Know when to remain silent. But don't back down. Don't run away from social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.). Be courteous, but firm. Don't attack people. Stay with facts. **(6) We should always – always – be emergency prepared.** Always! Stay highly prepared for numerous eventualities. Think through various options. Process them in advance, with family. And for seven...**(7) WELL VERSED SUMMIT**

If you can, **come to our special WELL VERSED SUMMIT** where we will lay out the principles of biblical governance. **The dates: September 29-30-October 1.** We will begin at 3pm on Tuesday, September 29 in D.C., travel in buses together to New York City to the United Nations on Wednesday, September 30, and will conclude in New York City on Thursday, October 1 at 4pm.

If you are interested in joining us, please email Tiffany at [Tiffany@WellVersedWorld.org](mailto:Tiffany@WellVersedWorld.org).

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### *WRITE BACK TO US*

The Well Versed team and I pray you and your loved ones are safe during this time. **Do you have a personal story you would like to share with us how COVID-19 has impacted you? Your state? If so, please respond to this newsletter with your thoughts.** Contact us at [info@WellVersedWorld.org](mailto:info@WellVersedWorld.org).

Thank you for your support of **Well Versed as we continue to bring BIBLICAL principles of governance to governmental leaders in this unprecedented time and year of a Presidential election.** We cannot survive without your prayers and economic support to keep this ministry going.

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Blessings!  
Dr. Jim Garlow  
CEO & Founder



Dr. Jim Garlow & Rosemary Schindler Garlow



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