

The purpose of this publication is to spread the truth, to sow God's good seed, the Word of God, and to confront religious error for the good of men's souls. Editor: Allen Dvorak

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as they see danger under every rock and behind every tree. They live in constant fear and anxiety. Remember the one-talent man who was paralyzed by his fear (Matthew 25:25).

That's not how Christians should live. Fear is certainly a legitimate motivation (Hebrews 4:1). The Hebrews author wrote, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (10:31), but to live in fear of what might happen to us in this world is to live with a misinformed emphasis. Jesus counseled, "I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him!" (Luke 12:4-5; ESV). The person who is prepared for the final judgment has no reason to fear. John wrote, "By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love" (1 John 4:18; ESV). Even though the Christian may go through

troubling times, he understands that this life is not all there is and looks beyond the present to his future reward (Matthew 5:10-12; Hebrews 12:1-2).

The life of a Christian should be characterized by an inner peace (Romans 5:1), so that he "can confidently say, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?'" (Hebrews 13:6). Paul wrote Timothy, "For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control" (2 Timothy 1:7).

A second undesirable effect of fear mongering is that of carelessness. Exaggerated dangers that do not materialize may tend to cause some to dismiss actual danger that exists and even to become careless. To be consumed with fear and anxiety is not good, but to live without reasonable caution is to invite calamity.

[For Sale: one used copy of "Killer Moves" – make offer]

Bible Challenge Question - Answer

The English Standard Version uses the word "senate" in Acts 5:21, while the New King James Version translates "elders." Vine defines the Greek word (*gerousia*) as meaning "council of elders" and opines that it is epexegetical in its use, i.e., further describing the previous word *council*, a reference to the Sanhedrin. The NKJV treats the word as referring to an additional group of individuals beyond the Sanhedrin.



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An Age of Fear Mongering

By Allen Dvorak

We live in a chaotic world. It may be that we are just more aware of what is happening around the country and globe because of the ubiquitous nature of "electronic news" or perhaps we have indeed entered a chaotic period in the history of mankind. What is reported, however, is armed conflict in many parts of the world, natural disasters, protests, violent crime in our communities, terrorism, parental and spousal abuse of unbelievable cruelty...the list of negative news stories goes on and on.

I believe there are some individuals and companies who are taking advantage of the prevalence of "bad" news. They use a method of advertising that can only be described as fear mongering.

A "monger" is a dealer or trader in a specific commodity. The etymology of the word is related to selling or trading. The word is often used in conjunction with another to describe what it is that the "monger" trades/sells. A fishmonger, for example, is a

person who sells fish. However, the word "monger" is sometimes used with a bad connotation. One of the definitions given by Dictionary.com for a "monger" is "a person who is involved with something in a petty or contemptible way (usually used in combination): *a gossipmonger*." One online source, thefreedictionary.com, describes a *scaremonger* as "one who spreads frightening rumors; an alarmist" and "a person who delights in spreading rumors of disaster."

Fear mongers take some legitimate danger, risk or concern and blow it completely out of proportion. Their objective is to create anxiety or disproportionate fear in individuals so that they can manipulate those individuals' behavior – to sell them some product/service or just to prejudice their minds in some way.

The reaction of some to the recent election of Donald Trump to the presidency is a perfect illustration of the effect of fear mongering. The news media have so verbally

Where Shall I Go?

By Allen Dvorak



Text: _____

Divisions of the text:

Verses _____:

“I can’t _____.”

“I can’t _____.”

Passages: Job _____; Acts _____; Jeremiah _____

Some people practice _____ religion!

Verses _____:

Verses _____:

Examples of people who needed the lesson of the text:

1. _____ (_____)

2. _____ (_____)

3. _____ (_____)

4. _____ (_____)

The thoroughness of the final judgment: (passages)

Matthew _____; Ecclesiastes _____; Hebrews _____

I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless _____ they speak, for by your _____ you will be _____, and by your _____ you will be _____.”

-- Matthew _____; ESV

“The best thing about the future is that it comes only one day at a time.”

-- Abraham Lincoln

“Worry is the interest paid by those who borrow trouble.”

-- George Washington

carachaterized Donald Trump that some people are apparently terrified of the result of his election. We hear such statements as “He is going to reinstate slavery” and other such nonsense, illustrating how some people succumb to irrational fears.

I receive email advertising from several businesses/individuals who could be described as part of the “prepper” movement. A “prepper” is simply one who attempts to be prepared for possible difficulties in the future, natural or man-made. Preppers, of course, often see calamity in the future and, unfortunately, fear mongering seems to have become the favorite advertising strategy for some of these businesses. The “anecdotal story” is a frequent tool of these people; they cite some disaster or misfortune that happened to _____(insert real or imaginary name of person here) and then give the impression that the same disaster may be waiting just around the next corner for you, unless, of course, you buy their product or service!

Just to be clear – there IS danger in our world. Fear mongers usually begin with some legitimate danger, but then exaggerate it to create fear and anxiety in others. For instance, home invasions by violent criminals do happen, but they are relatively rare compared to the number of homes available. It really isn’t necessary to buy the “Home Invasion Protection Kit” with the accompanying maces, plans for homemade booby traps and “electronic surveillance devices used by real secret commandos” for \$89.99 (you can divide the cost into payments).

There is always some risk of calamity taking place in our lives – we live in a world cursed by sin. Sometimes bad things happen to good people. Being prepared for possible dangers is certainly wise, but living in constant fear of “what might happen” is a miserable and destructive lifestyle. Taking reasonable precautions to avoid being a victim of crime is a worthy endeavor, but it probably isn’t necessary to purchase the “Killer Moves” video with the free bonus booklet on “How To Camouflage Your House From The Black Helicopters,” nor to live in fear if you can’t afford to buy the video!

Fear mongering is not a new phenomenon, but it seems to be thriving in our current world environment. It has at least two undesirable results in those affected. Some people become nearly paranoid or paralyzed

Bible Challenge Question

Who were members of the “senate” of Israel (Acts 5:21)?

The answer to this question is on the back page.