



Christian Action Ministry Newsletter

Involving the Christian in Community Action

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Final Farewell

By
Lauston Stephens

When we announced the ending of this newsletter in the May-June issue, we invited readers to express their appreciation for it. We only received one response. Clearly, it is time to end the publication.

All the CAM members were invited to contribute a final article. For different reasons, some declined. Still, Craig Lyman, our vice president and treasurer, readily spoke about how his involvement in CAM has contributed to his development of a biblical worldview. As we leave you to work on yours without us, perhaps age has blessed us with some wisdom.

Recently, I had a friendly conversation with a Hasidic man. I asked him if he regarded Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox people as Jewish.

"They're Jewish. They're just wrong. I'm right. They're wrong."

"Oh, we have that in Christianity: I'm right, everyone else is wrong. It is a dangerous way to think. It is possible that everyone is wrong."

In the early '70s, I had a shortwave radio. As we would expect, Voice of America and Radio Moscow differed in their reporting on the war in Vietnam. The BBC World Service seemed to be more objective. For most of my life, I have made an effort to hear out both sides of issues and to keep in mind that we all have our biases. Do people have enough patience and humility to do

that today and tomorrow?

Not only are many Americans staying in their newsfeed echo chambers. Many American Christians may be fixating on particular scripture "silos" or "proof texts." Politically polarized American Christians on both sides today consider the other side to be deceived. Both may be right about that. Some may even be deceived about their protection from deception.



There are bible verses about deception and divine protection: e.g., Matt. 24:24; John 6:37, 10:28-29. Even if these verses are correctly understood to mean that God will protect his own, it is only speaking of the deception of false prophets and messiahs. It does mean that if you encounter a street magician, God will reveal to you how they are doing their tricks. It does not mean that God will tell you if a used car salesman packs sawdust in a U-joint to hide a repair expense if you neglect to check it out for yourself. It does not mean that God will protect you from political deception.

We have a responsibility here.

Don't be deceived. Neither the sex-

ually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor male prostitutes, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor slanderers, nor extortioners, will inherit the Kingdom of God. - 1 Cor. 6:9-10.

Don't be deceived! "Evil companionships corrupt good morals." - 1 Cor. 15:33.

Don't be deceived. God is not mocked, for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. - Gal. 6:7.

Get the idea? Don't get a social media degree in a theology of the mob.

Give diligence to present yourself approved by God, a workman who doesn't need to be ashamed, properly handling the Word of Truth. - 2 Timothy 2:15.

Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good works, not forsaking our own assembling together, as the custom of some is, but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as you see the Day approaching. - Heb. 10:24-25
WEB.

May God, the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ give our Brothers [and Sisters] peace, and love linked with faith. May God's blessing be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love. - Eph. 6:23-24 TCNT.

Lauston Stephens is President of the Christian Action Ministry and attends Roadside Chapel in Rutland, VT.

I was saddened to hear of the dissolution of CAM. I understand some of the things leading up to this from the newsletter and appreciate the position you all found yourselves in.

I have greatly appreciated the publication. As much online access as we have to content, I have still found it hard to stay informed about the goings on in Montpelier. CAM has done a great job of sifting through the multitude of bills and bringing to light the ones that are most important and pertinent to members of the faith community here in VT.

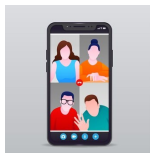
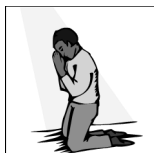
I have also enjoyed the articles that come from a historic interpretation and intent of the Constitution. Call me old fashioned, but for some publications, it is nice to have a hard copy to review without having to log on to an electronic device. You will be sorely missed!

I thank you and your staff for the many hours and years of service. It seems that most of the staff are longstanding contributors. Your service is appreciated and valued. Please pass these sentiments on to the rest of those at CAM. Thank you again and God bless. - A Longtime Reader

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What Can I Do?



*Faith without
works is dead
James 2:17*

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