

Calendar

Tuesday, Nov. 5
General Election

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Both Sides of the Tracks

Are you interested in becoming involved? CAM is looking for interested and active people to act as liaisons to their church, helping to keep the Christian community informed. Contact us at camnetVT@gmail.com.

Signs of the Times

By
Craig Lyman

Unless you've been living under a rock, you've noticed many unprecedented events & changes around you, locally, nationally, and globally. For many, this stirs up feelings of dread and doom. Jesus said, "See that you are not troubled; for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet." He was speaking of wars and rumors of wars and the signs of His return or the last days.

Jesus also speaks of these days being filled with deceit and to beware that we are not deceived, for many will come in His name saying "I am the Christ" and will deceive many. These times will produce famines, epidemics of disease, earthquakes in various places, and lawlessness will abound.

2 Timothy goes on to say... "In the last days, there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, un-

appeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power." And his advice was "Avoid such people."

Right now China is rumored to be preparing to invade Taiwan, Russia is in the third year of its war with Ukraine, and worst of all Israel is at war with bordering countries both North & South, as we, the United States reevaluate our relationship with Israel, this could indeed be troubling. As we know from reading our bible, Israel will be hated by the world in the end and it seems we're getting closer to that every day.

Our own border is almost nonexistent. Terrorists, violent criminals, and deadly drugs are coming across at alarming rates. 100's of thousands of Americans have died due to fentanyl poisoning according to NIDA (National Institute on Drug Abuse), mostly mil-

itary-aged men.

Pharmaceutical companies are creating new ailments (real or perceived) so they can profit by treating the symptoms. Nearly one-third of the population of the United States is on a mind-altering medication of one sort or another (HHS.gov Health & Human Services).

Human trafficking (or slavery) is more prevalent today than ever before in human history. Our media & political leaders lie to us with impunity. There's an onslaught by professional marketers to appeal to our sense of hedonism like Nike's "Just do it", or Burger King's "Have it your way". Covid was used by tyrants and governments as a tool to control the masses. Cow flatulence is being blamed for its contribution to global warming so we're being groomed to eat bugs and lab-grown meats. China is silently buying large swaths of US farmland and I don't believe it's for humanitarian purposes.

We're being manipulated on so many levels consciously and subconsciously, covertly and right before our eyes but Jesus said "Do not be deceived." In Matt 24, Jesus said "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Joshua 1:8-9 says "Keep

this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

The phrase "do not be afraid" appears 365 times in the Bible, which some say is a daily reminder from God to live fearlessly and trust in Him.

These are unsettling times but exciting times as well because they show us that the return of Jesus is closer than it's ever been. Now is the time to press in, read and share the

good news, never tire of doing good, avoid being apathetic, "love the Lord God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Craig Lyman is a Director of the Christian Action Ministry and attends Ignite Church in Williston, VT.

Cultural Judo

by
Lauston Stephens

"Suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? (Luke 14:31)

Based on state-wide voting we have seen on issues involving biblical morality, we seem to be the king with ten thousand up against a king with twenty thousand. In a democracy, a minority does not change things by force. God does not expect that of us and we shouldn't expect it either.

"Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house." (Matthew 5:15). In our last three issues, we have provided information about Pastor Tim Throckmorton, National Director for Community Impact with the Family Research Council.

We are to have an impact on the larger community but, in Vermont, shouldn't expect to legislate the exact changes we might like to see. How can we be involved without anger, despair, or frustration? We need to have the right goals and the right attitude. What does it profit a man if he gains the entire executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government and loses his own soul?

Consider involvement in civic affairs as what can be called, "cultural judo." The following is adopted from <https://masterfighting.com/what-is-judo/>

The word "Judo" means "gentle way." This reflects a focus on using an opponent's strength against them rather than relying solely on one's own physical power. A "Judoka" is an individual who practices and embraces the philosophy of judo. They focus on physical techniques, mental discipline, and personal growth.

A Judoka also develops mental discipline, respect, and sportsmanship through their training. Judo is a competitive sport. It is also a martial art that promotes personal development and self-improvement.

At its core, Judo is built upon two main principles. The first principle is called “seiryoku zenyo.” This translates to “maximum efficiency with minimum effort”.

A Judoka ... should strive to use their body in the most efficient way possible when executing throws or holds. The second principle is called “jita kyoei”, which translates to “mutual welfare and benefit”.

This principle emphasizes the importance of respect for one’s opponent and working together for mutual improvement. Many Judoka view their sparring partners as *teammates rather than adversaries*. (Emphasis added.)

“Gentle Way” sounds agreeable with our faith. So does “Not relying on one’s own power.”

“Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.” (Daniel 1:8). Did Daniel “demand his rights?” He didn’t have any. He recognized the authority the chief official had and appealed accordingly. This is a gentle way.

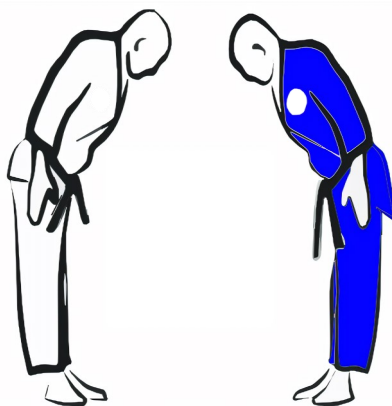
“Mental discipline and personal growth” sounds agreeable with our faith.

“Maximum efficiency with minimum effort” sounds like good stewardship. This is agreeable with our faith.

“Mutual welfare and benefit” sounds agreeable with Christianity and loving your neighbors.

“Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.” (Jeremiah 29:7).

“Many Judoka view their sparring partners as teammates rather than adversaries.” That sounds like an ideal we have for American politics. Both sides of the political aisle desire what is best overall. They just have different ideas about what is best. Both Democrat and Republican former Vermont legislators that I know have recalled days when partisanship was set aside and they all socialized together as Vermonters. There have even been tri-partisan get to-



gethers.

Some Vermonters take pride in leading the nation in what they regard as ideal. Let our prayer and practice be that we lead in civility and mutual respect. Therein lies a personal victory regardless of political outcomes.

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

"I tell you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who mistreat you and persecute you, that you may be children of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the just and the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Don't even the tax collectors do the same? If you only greet your friends, what more do you do than others? Don't even the tax collectors do the same? Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect. — Matthew 5:43-48

“...when people fail to speak, the price of speaking rises. As the price to speak rises, still fewer speak out, which further causes the price to rise ... until a whole culture or nation is silenced. This was what happened in Germany.

“If you do not speak, you are not being neutral, but are contributing to the success of the thing you refuse to name and condemn.

“The only difference between us and the German Church of that time is that we have been able to see what happens when the Church does not do what God calls it to do. We have the example of the German Church in [Bonhoeffer’s] day as a warning.

“Therefore, if we do not rise to the occasion now and do what God asks of us, shall we wonder whose sin is the greater?”

- Eric Metaxas, *Letter to the American Church* (Washington, D.C.: Salem Books, 2022), 52, 73

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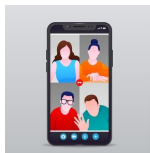
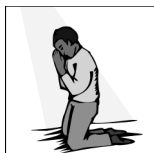
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What Can I Do?



*Faith without
works is dead*
James 2:17

Email: camnetvt@gmail.com
or use our website
<https://christianactionministry.org/>



CAM Network, Inc.
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Next Meeting

Sept. 10, 7:00 pm
Zoom

Oct. 8, 7:00 P.M.
Parkinson home
Hinesburg, Vt.

camnetvt@gmail.com
Email to confirm date and
location

**Make A Difference
In Vermont!**