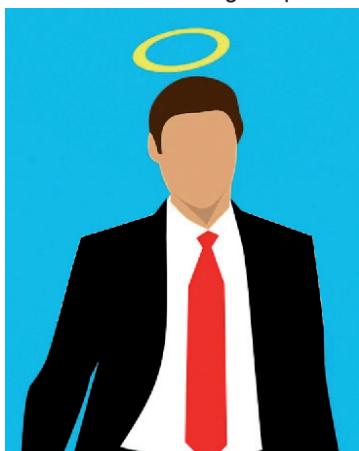


ARE YOU A GOOD PERSON?

In these astounding days when Evil has bared its teeth so blatantly, and when the forces of hatred, deception, anger, and murder are so clearly at work, it's relatively easy to look at ourselves with the assurance that we ourselves are not one of those people that do that stuff. We are on the side of normal Americans who are good people, who care about their neighbors, who fight wars to protect the values of our republic and also to protect less fortunate people from tyrants. We are the Good Guys.

We raise our kids to be decent, law-abiding, responsible citizens. We do the hard jobs that keep our economy afloat and our way of life intact. Many of us go to church regularly. We aren't particularly rich (although by most of the world's standards, ALL Americans are rich!) but we give to charities and run to help when there are emergencies or disasters. We really are Good People.

We oppose most abortion, except when the health of the mother is at stake or if incest is involved. We try to be tolerant of different lifestyles, but personally believe in marriage between a man and a woman as a sacred institution. And we know that there are two, and only two, genders. We are uncomfortable with the way our collective morality as a nation has gone downhill, but mostly we watch it happen and don't get involved so that we aren't guilty of imposing our own personal morality on others who don't believe the same way we do.



at our foundations and at the walls, weakening our God-given strength. We have become so tolerant as to stand for nothing.

I know lots of Good People. I bet you do, too. And I bet you and I both consider ourselves Good People. However, being a good person isn't the issue. Our once righteous nation isn't the issue, either. So what is the issue?

persons, both in our founding documents and in the buildings all around the capital. Our nation was founded on the principle that each individual has value before God, and thereby must be given the opportunity to develop his talents and skills, lending the fruits of his labor to the betterment of our nation and its people.

Oh, how high-minded that sounds! Oh, how high-minded that truly has been! We the People of 2020 live in the lap of luxury, reaping the benefits of those principles and the hard work of our forebears. As Good People, we know that we owe it to them to continue their legacy and to maintain all their hard work so that our children benefit in the same way, and will continue on in that way themselves.

We revere the military for all that our guys have done and all the sacrifices they have made to protect the legacy and us, and to spread the light of God's Spirit throughout the world.

The bottom line is that the USA is rich, prosperous, and powerful beyond imagination. And as Good People, we enjoy the comfortable life afforded to us.

But now we see the ripe luscious fruit of our American way starting to spoil and rot. We see

that we have become complacent and have failed to monitor what is being taught our kids while we were busy with our own activities and pleasures. We have allowed termites of evil to eat away

Our personal relationship with God our Creator is the issue. No matter how much good we do in our lives, it all counts for nothing unless we have surrendered our lives to Him in the name of Jesus the Christ. No matter how much good the USA has done in the world, we Good People have allowed it to drift away from God into madness, into spitting in God's face, into serving the Enemy.

The more spiritually sensitive among us see a reckoning coming. God won't sit still for the kind of indifference, self-indulgence, self-satisfaction, and sheer rebellion in which we are engaged. We are approaching our individual reckoning and a painful national reckoning, of which we see just the beginnings right now.

2000 years ago, a letter was written from Jesus to a church in Laodicea in what is now Turkey. It could have been written to many of us:

I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. . . . Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. . . . (Rev. 3 excerpts)

We may be Good People, but if we are lukewarm to Him, uncommitted, living our own lives and assuming His approval just because we're Good People, we are nowhere. And sometime soon, we may be shocked to find ourselves left behind when we thought we were such Good People.

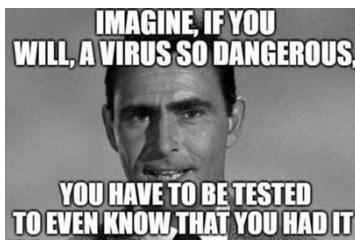
But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days

before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two men will be [working on a construction job]; one will be taken and one left. Two women will be [working in the office]; one will be taken and one left. Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming . . . Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

(Matt 24:36-44)

It's great that we are Good People. But are we ready for His return, or to be taken to be with Him? Or not?

Linda Gummel



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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

LVEDA Meeting

(Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association)

WED. OCT. 7, 5 PM.

at the Moose Lodge on Foothill Road, just west of Tradepost Road. Outside patio with misters & food service available.

• Our County Supervisor Dawn Rowe will attend!

• S.B. County Fire Chief Dan Munsey will update us on regional and local operations, fires, the **FP5 fire tax on the November ballot**, and their budget issues.

• Updates on the status of actions dealing with the illegal marijuana grows discussed at last meeting.

• The Sept. Planning Commission actions on the Countywide and our community plan.

• Possible short presentation from a Census rep.

• Discussion on November ballot measures (fire tax/County Supervisors/etc.).

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