



Quote of the Day



If faith be right, we may take that as the touchstone of our sincerity. “He that believeth on the Son of God hath eternal life abiding in him”—and the keel of our ship shall never be penetrated by a rock seen or unseen.

Spurgeon, from my book, *Ocean Devotions: from the Hold of C. H. Spurgeon, Master of Mariner Metaphors* (AuthorHouse, 2008), pg. 180, Jan. 16 of 366 daily devotions – see www.PreciousHeart.net/Ocean



2016 – A Year to Remember

by Michael G. Maness

Racism: The church faced unprecedented challenges as our racial divide grew over the last eight years. Who would *ever* think that someone would be called “racist” who said, “All Lives Matter”? But was the not the worse. Just this last month, someone heard *screaming* in a Chicago third-floor apartment, but did *nothing* and went onto work, later to find out to their deepest regret that their own neighbors, four young blacks, two male and two female, had been live-streaming for hours their torture of a young white disabled man. No protests over that, but the predators were finally charged with a hate crime in the same city that had more murders in 2016 than in both Los Angeles and New York combined, and more shootings and death in 2016 than during the entire reign of Al Capon in the ‘20s.

Craziest Election in USA History! Trump wins in the most heated battle of our history.

Marijuana: Eight states voted to legalize marijuana in 2016 putting the total to now 28 states that have some form of legalized pot. And Willie Nelson has started his own brand of pot in Colorado called “Willie’s Reserve.” I don’t know if he has a song out yet, but perhaps he could change the title of “Blue eyes crying in the rain” to “Red eyes looking for Donuts & Chips.” Or perhaps “Seven Spanish Angels” could be retooled to “Seven Colorado Buzzers.” Lots of room for creativity there.

HIV: 2016 did see HIV vaccines whose trials are giving hope that HIV is no longer a death sentence and perhaps even prevented totally.

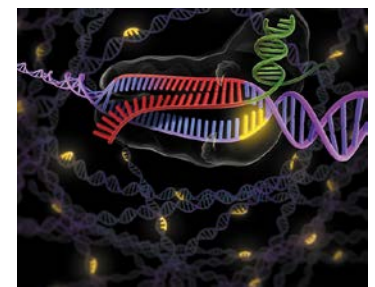
Superbugs: Sadly, on September 21, 2016, 193 members of the U.N. met in NY to address the “fundamental threat” of antibiotic-resistant superbugs, signing a proclamation, noting that 700,000 people are killed each year from drug-resistant infections. It was only the fourth time they had held high-level meetings on superbugs. The World Bank President testified that the economic hit could drive many more into poverty. This is a worldwide problem.¹

DNA Hacking: On a good note, CRISPR is becoming a widely hyped technology that is allowing scientists to “edit” DNA in nearly any species. China has claimed to treat cancer, and the U.S. launched human trials. The technology is, in so many words, allowing scientists to “hack” and reconfigure DNA. “And editing DNA is just one trick that it can be used for. Scientists are hacking the tools so that they can send proteins to precise DNA targets to toggle genes on or off, and even engineer entire biological circuits — with the long-term goal of understanding cellular systems and disease.”² “CRISPR” stands for “Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats” and the variants like CRISPR/Cas and CRISPR/Cas-9 are refining the ways to “edit” the genetic elements to aid the immune systems and hopefully cure cancer and more.

All that while other elements of the world’s culture (not just U.S. culture) have gone berserk. For instance, as with the tragic FB video above, as sadistic and Satanic as it was, yet



A microbiologist works with tubes of bacteria samples in a US antimicrobial resistance and characterization lab. Photograph: David Goldman/AP



CRISPR Logo

¹ See www.theguardian.com/society/2016/sep/20/un-declaration-antibiotic-drug-resistance.

² See www.nature.com/news/crispr-gene-editing-is-just-the-beginning-1.19510.

without the live feed they police may never have found and charged the predators with evidence the entire world has now been able to be repulsed.

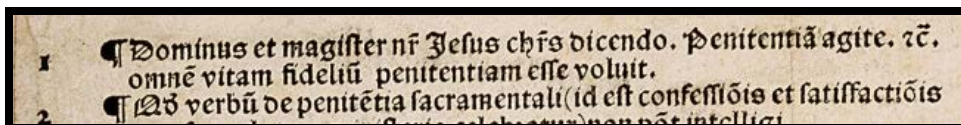
Gangnam Style Idiocy: Yet, other things have just befuddled our wildest imaginations. Like the Gangnam Style music video that not only went viral in 2012, but caused YouTube to have “edit” its own counter as the “views” surpassed 1 billion, and now in January 2017 it has surpassed 2.7 billion “views”! Recording artist Psy recorded it in Seoul. With some scantily clad young women and bass beat, Psy does his horse dance in over two dozen venues. If you watch it, other than the Korean and English lyrics, I am sure you will wonder as I did, **“What in the world is the MEANING of whatever they are doing?”** It is not even a bad commercial, but it hit the nerve of billions and for a while spin-offs were going viral too.³ The world is *impacted* significantly by tiny Korea via the internet, while its northern neighbor remains in hibernation with a nuclear bomb and a loose-cannon psycho-dictator. The world culture is changing fast.

Oct. 31, 2017—Mark Your Calendar—for the 500th Anniversary of Martin Luther 95 Theses

by Michael G. Maness

As all in our beloved United States know, October 31st is Halloween, from the less famous but still used in Catholicism, All Hallows’ Eve. The evening before Nov. 1 is All Saints’ Day, which celebrates all the Saints. Also in 2016, Mother Teresa was made a saint. The Catholic Church and Baptists believe there is a spiritual bond between all those in heaven, the “Church Triumphant,” and the living, the “Church Militant” (with differences). “Halloween” from “All Hallows’ Eve” or “All Saints’ Eve” starts the three-day Allhallowtide that remembers and memorializes 1) Saints, 2) Martyrs, and 3) All Christians gone before us.

Yet, tradition says it was October 31, 1517, that Reformer Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the original door of the All Saints’ Church in Wittenberg, Germany. Nearly all agree those 95 theses were pivotal and Luther the straw that broke the camel’s back of believers fostering “protesters” to rebel. Luther’s nailing of his 95 theses in 1517 marked the beginning of the **Protestant Reformation**. Here is the 1st of 95, which became the most famous:



Translated from Latin, “When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, ‘Repent,’ he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.”

Martin Luther, professor of moral theology, University of Wittenberg, and the town preacher would go onto defend himself to the peril of his life, standing firmly on “Sola Scriptura”—Scripture Only, being protected by a king here and there. A real **bowl of nuts** (or a simple genius of Satan) is the fact that one of the most pivotal times in church history after the New Testament, next to Constantine the Great’s Edict of Milan in A.D. 313 that legalized Christianity, here, in our beloved U.S., on the anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, we celebrate Halloween, or Mock-the-Devil Day.

Pray for your country.

³ See www.youtube.com/watch?v=9bZkp7q19f0.



Gangnam Style – Horse Dance



Martin Luther Portrait by Lucas Cranach, c. 1528



Copy 1517 Ninety-five Theses in the Berlin State Library



Luther's theses engraved into the door of All Saints' Church, Wittenberg, Germany