WE MUST BUILD AN ARK!

by Anne Byrd

"By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith" (Hebrews 11:7).

As a result of never having been taught that we all have individual callings and destinies that will work together to demonstrate the Kingdom of God to the world (Ephesians 3:10), most Christians seem to be hopelessly trapped in a job and resultant lifestyle with which they are miserable, having no sense of accomplishing anything at all that is eternal Brothers and sisters, this ought not to be! We can begin in our generation to reverse this trend toward total slavery, and in the process give our children something much more satisfying As a matter of fact, I submit that we, like Noah, must hear and heed the call in our generation to build an ark that will not only save our own 'houses,' (i.e. families), but will also condemn this wicked Babylonish system under which we live that so grieves those of us who want to do what is right and Biblical with our lives. The word, *condemn* in Hebrews 11:7 means, "to pronounce sentence against. To furnish matter or occasion for condemnation."

How many Christians today are aware that we have a responsibility -- nay a destiny! -- to manifest the Kingdom of God to the world in all aspects of life and living, and in so doing to pronounce a sentence of condemnation against 'Babylon'? How many of us recognize that our individual callings (i.e. careers) are to be applied to this end? Do we understand that we are to live so very differently from the world that the unconverted will recognize and desire this same quality of life for themselves (Micah 4:1-4)? How many of us live such a lifestyle? I submit that many more Christians are building 'Babylon' (confusion) with their lifestyles than are building an ark.

In the early days of our faith, it was not the words or preaching of the believers that converted the world and destroyed Roman tyranny and debauchery. It was their faith manifest through Biblical lifestyle that gave power to their preaching (I Cor. 4:20). It was their willingness, often at great personal risk, to implement Biblical principles in a 'parallel culture' beside which the degradation of paganism was exposed and routed. It was their proclamation with their lives, not just their mouths, that Jesus Christ is Lord of Lords and King of Kings! It was the demonstration by their example that this King has a Constitution (the Bible) by which to live that will bring justice, prosperity and peace to both the individual and the culture, as was also evidenced in early America.

One of the examples of the way that Christians in Rome, living under the most despicable tyranny and persecution, manifested the superiority of the Kingdom of God over the kingdoms of men was in an area that is dear to our hearts. It was commonplace for the Romans to abort their children for the same frivolous reasons that are used as rationale today, but their techniques weren't so dependable. Consequently, when an unwanted child was born alive, the family would often take the helpless baby and lay it outside the city, knowing that the jackels would soon end its life. Christians, knowing that life is sacred to God, would rescue these precious children from this horrendous fate, and would adopt them and raise them as their own, and as citizens of the Kingdom of God. They didn't just verbally bemoan the wickedness of this barbaric practice, but like a few (and I

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do mean *very* few) modern day Christians, they provided the solution to this holocaust. They built a pro-life ark, if you will.

In the most important arena of justice and judgment pertaining to controversy between believers, the early Christians refused to go to the corrupt courts in Rome, but instead applied the Biblical standard of judging controversies within the church. When the surrounding unbelievers saw the speed and fairness with which justice was administered, as opposed to the injustice and inefficiency of the Roman bureaucracy, they began to bring their own disputes to the Christians to judge. Through this process, an 'ark' of justice was built that passed sentence on Roman injustice.

The medical system, though it has drifted far from its roots, was also the result of Christian compassion and respect for life. The educational system of our nation, including the universities and seminaries, were established by Christians for the propagation of the Gospel. A Biblical system of economics is so inherently superior to a pagan usury based one that it spawns creativity, thrift and prosperity, as opposed to the slavish, self indulgent, squandering, debt fraught mentality of Babylon.

Biblical principles of agriculture create maximum productivity for man, beast and land, while preserving the land in a healthy condition for succeeding generations. Biblical counselling as opposed to the false religion of psychology equips people to deal with the reality of sin and the need to confess, repent and make restitution for it rather than spending their lives making excuses for themselves and becoming emotionally crippled and incompetent to become mature, forgiven Christians. We could go on and on contrasting a Biblical approach to any area of life, and the results would consistently be that the Biblical way of doing things is so far ways of man that it becomes a declaration of war on an ungodly civil government for Christians to try to live by Biblical standards. Do you begin to understand why there is so much emphasis by our government on the need to regulate and control the true Church with a view to eliminating her altogether when public opinion will allow?

For lack of space, it is not possible to go into all of the ways in which our ability to live a Christian lifestyle has already been destroyed by civil government in this nation; nor can I inform you here of the multitudes of ways that a very vicious and effective assault is being launched against the body of Christ. Let it suffice us to say that whether we know it or not, however, in this nation Biblical Christians are at war for their very survival! I will make a very bold statement at this point, but one that I believe has been emblazoned in my heart by the Spirit of God: Those who are not actively involved in preparing an ark to carry their families through the coming storm of judgment on ungodliness, or who are not closely related to those who are, will not survive what is coming! They will not survive either the judgment or the incredible Harvest that this judgment will bring. Radical? Yes. Unpopular? Yes. Truthful? Yes.

What form is this ark to take? How are we as individual Christians be involved in the building of such an ark for our generation, so that it will be 'seaworthy' when the flood hits? Friends, it is the same ark that the early Christians built to condemn Rome. It is the one that the Pilgrims and Puritans built to survive the brutal conditions of a hostile new world. It is the same ark that countless chapters of history have proven again and again to be the ultimate 'safety net' for God's people, as well as the ultimate testimony to a dying world of the power of the Gospel. This ark is called Christian Covenant Community.

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