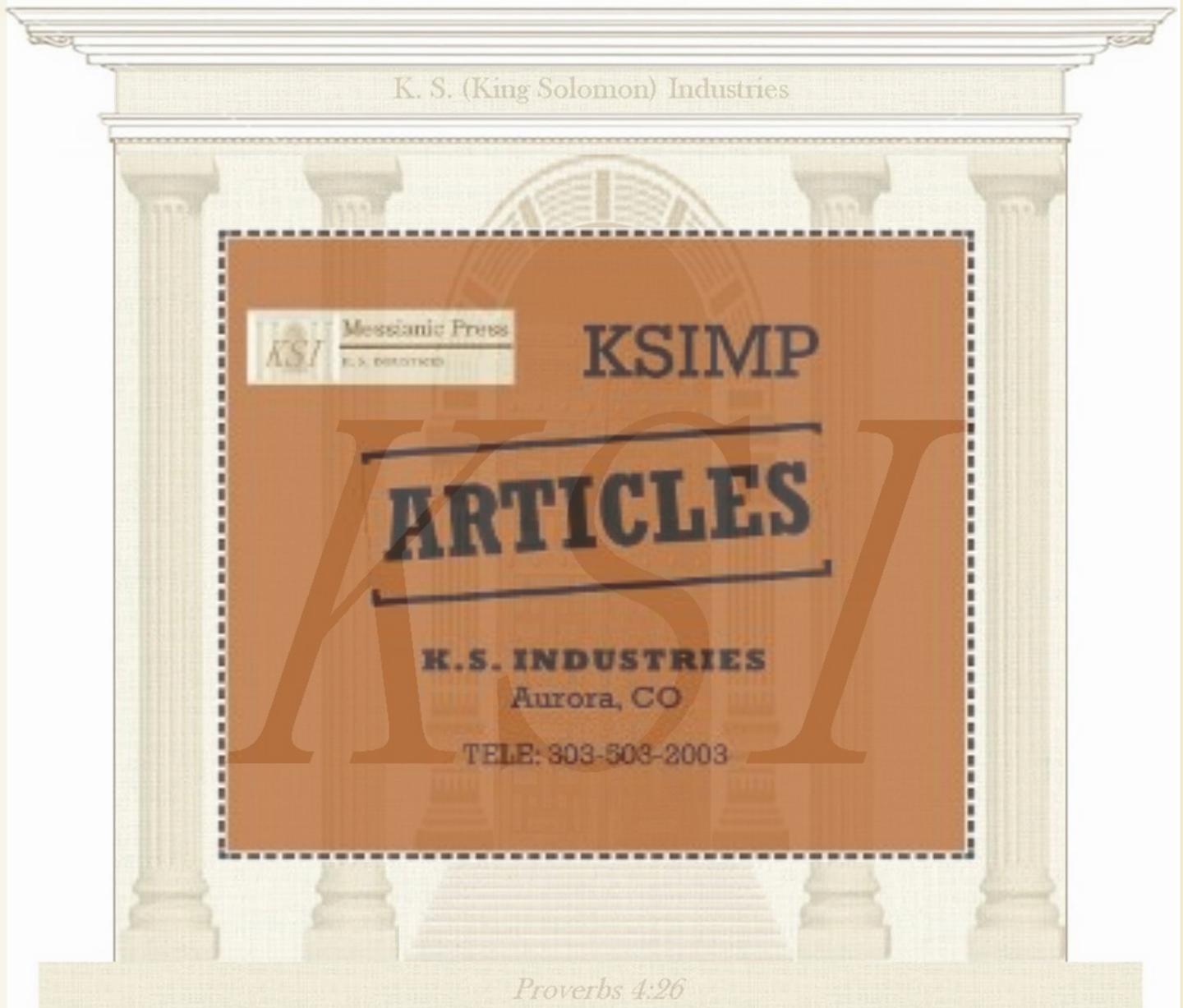


Afraid to Speak Out

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Afraid To Speak Out!

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Propaganda is defined as the systematic propagation of a given doctrine and/or allegations that reflect the views and interests of the propagators. With ever increasing fury, there is a new dish of propaganda being fed to the American public. It can be considered one of the most ironic meals we have ever accepted from the hands of our government. The irony lies in the fact; that by openly attacking the claims of an alleged conspiracy and denouncing those who hold such beliefs as "Anti-government, Christian-right extremists"; they have effectively stifled the desire of sincere and honest Christian and non-Christian Americans to learn, or become involved with issues or opinions that oppose the actions of the federal government. They have become afraid to speak out.

Paranoia of the Faith-based

Believers who are concerned about the actions of the United States government are not paranoid of the government. It's the ungodly segment of the government who is afraid of God's faithful showing concern about government actions. It is very typical of wrong-doers to blame the *wrong-doing* on someone else.

An article entitled "The Rise of the Militias" appeared on the Internet several years ago. The piece was written by Daniel Junas, a Seattle-based political researcher and author of "*The Religious Right in Washington State*" published by the ACLU of Washington. In the article, Junas makes several references to the expertise of Chip Berlet "An analyst at Political Research Associates in Cambridge, Massachusetts, who has been tracking **the** far right for over two decades." The article was a reflection of the type of propaganda that the opening paragraph warned about.

Junas' article covered, in brief, topics such as "Militia Mania"; "Patriots"; incidents at Ruby Ridge and Waco; Bo Gritz and the Origins of the Militias; Trochmann's Militia of Montana (MOM); the County Rule Movement in New Mexico; the Posse Comitatus; and numerous references to the John Birch Society. The propaganda is not in the mentioning of these organizations; it is in the generalizing of their common beliefs, and associating such beliefs as a threat to the American way of life. In reality, the core of these beliefs is what will sustain and preserve the American way of life as we've come to know it through the 20th Century. The generalizations were expressed in the following terms:

"...this movement [referring to the Far Right/Patriot movement] consist of loosely linked organizations and individuals who perceive a global conspiracy in which key political and economic events are manipulated by a small group of elite insiders."

"Members of the Christian right who subscribe to the conspiratorial world view presented in Pat Robertson's 1991 book, The New World Order, also fall within the movement's parameters."

"Berlet estimates that as many as five million Americans consider themselves Patriots."

"And a recurring theme for all of them [the Patriot movement] is a sense of deep frustration and resentment against the federal government."

"As ominously, the militias represent a smoldering right-wing populism with real and imagined grievances stoked by a politics of resentment and scapegoating--just a demagogue away from kindling an American [sic] fascist movement."

In addition to the emphasis on particular organizations who, by their names, indicate an alleged adherence to "Christian" beliefs; other pointed comments included:

- *Paranoid vision*
- *International communist conspiracy*
- *Plot-minded Americans*
- *Conspiracy theorists*
- *Un/new world order conspiracy theory*
- *Apocalyptic, paranoid worldview*
- *Paranoid conspiracy theories*

Balancing the Scales

Usually, there are only two sides to every story, one of which turns out to be the truth and the other the lie. The truth can be told in only one way, whereas the versions of the other side come in abundance. We cannot claim to know the entire truth about the topic under discussion; but we can offer truths that we do know.

Let's begin with the premise that true Christians do not advocate the over-throw of the American government. *"Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resist the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil."* (Romans 13:1-3)

Christians who are faithful to Christ do not resort to violent means, such as: bombing of public facilities that kill people (whether they are guilty or not) in order to express their dissatisfactions." Christians do not respond with retributive violence. *"Having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation."* (1 Peter 2:12)

Christians who are faithful to Christ do not blow up abortion clinics or kill abortion doctors under the false pretense that God told them to do so. *"If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rest upon you...but let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody [meddler] in other people's matters."* (1 Peter 4:14-15)

Christians who are faithful to Christ will do everything in their power to expose the evil that surrounds them. *"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose*

them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light." (Ephesians 5:11-13)

Faithful Christians are servants of the Lord Jesus Christ, and strive to act within His holy character. *"And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will."* (2 Timothy 2:24-26)

Christians who are faithful to Christ will not cease to preach the Gospel of Christ. *"Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come with they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful of all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry."* (2 Timothy 4:2-5)

Christians who are faithful to Christ will fight to hold up Jesus as Lord and Savior of the entire world--not just the United States of America. *"For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God."* (1 Corinthians 2:2-5)

Finally, Christians who are faithful to Christ should never be afraid to speak out against evil. *"But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled. But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil."* (1 Peter 3:14-17)

In Our Defense

Quoting Berlet, Junas stated, *"By January, movement watchers had identified militia activity in at least 40 states, with a conservatively estimated hard-core membership of at least 10,000--and growing."* He later adds that, *"The militias have close ties to the older and more broadly based "Patriot" movement, from which they emerged, and which supplies their world view."* According to Junas, *"Berlet estimates that as many as five million Americans consider themselves Patriots."* The insinuation is that 5 million Americans are potential threats. That's a ludicrous and fear-based intimation.

Junas goes on to say that, *"Members of the Christian right who subscribe to the conspiratorial world view presented in Pat Robertson's 1991 book, The New World Order, **also fall within the***

movement's [far-right milieu] **parameters.**" [Emphasis/explanation added]

This blanket form of "guilt by association (of viewpoint)" propaganda, represents an unwarranted attack on a person's First Amendment rights. The possible government retaliation or targeting of their personal lives—due simply to a point of view (which by the way, can be supported by a simple investigation of the facts provided), stifles freedom of speech, freedom of press, and most importantly, the freedom of the right to petition the Government for a redress of grievances. It is tyranny in a most subtle form—FEAR.

The obvious point is that our country was founded upon opposition to tyranny. Faithful Christians speak the truth in love, and do not resort to militia tactics. Speaking out in disagreement with our leaders in accordance with our religious beliefs is not an extremity nor a dangerous threat to democracy. It is American, and it is our duty! It is our duty to our country, and our duty to our God. We must never be afraid to speak out on behalf of Christ.

Note: To read the article yourself, go to: <http://mediafilter.org/caq/CAQ.militia.html>; retrieved on 2001, and November 1, 2015.