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## October 2024 “Polonium and Leaven”

Dear Friend,

I'm going to open this month's letter with a bit of a science lesson. The following information was obtained from three websites:

<https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/58088#effects>,

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polonium>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poisoning\\_of\\_Alexander\\_Litvinenko](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poisoning_of_Alexander_Litvinenko)

Polonium is a rare and highly radioactive chemical element. Due to the short half-life of all its isotopes, its natural occurrence is limited to tiny traces of the fleeting polonium-210 (with a half-life of 138 days) in uranium ores. Today, polonium is usually produced in milligram quantities by the neutron irradiation of bismuth. Polonium was discovered on July 18, 1898 by Marie Skłodowska-Curie and Pierre Curie, when it was extracted from the uranium ore pitchblende and identified solely by its strong radioactivity. It is extremely dangerous to humans.

By mass,  $^{210}\text{Po}$  is around 250,000 times more toxic than hydrogen cyanide. The main hazard is its intense radioactivity (as an alpha emitter), which makes it difficult to handle safely. Even in microgram amounts, handling  $^{210}\text{Po}$  is extremely dangerous, requiring specialized equipment. Alpha particles emitted by polonium will damage organic tissue easily if polonium is ingested, inhaled, or absorbed, although they do not penetrate the epidermis and hence are not hazardous as long as the alpha particles remain outside the body and do not come near the eyes, which are living tissue. Because of intense alpha radiation, a one-gram sample of  $^{210}\text{Po}$  will spontaneously heat up to above  $500^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $932^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) generating about 140 watts of power.

When inhaled, it causes lung cancer. When swallowed, it becomes concentrated in red blood cells, before spreading to the liver, kidneys, bone marrow, gastrointestinal tract, and other organs, including the cardiovascular and central nervous system (CNS). As polonium spreads around the body, it leaves a trail of reactive radicals because it takes electrons from any molecule in its path. If the CNS is affected, this is irreversible and leads to death. At high doses, this can lead to confusion, convulsion, and coma within minutes of the poisoning.



Alexander Litvinenko was an officer of the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) and its predecessor, the KGB. Leaving Russia for political reasons, he fled to the UK, where he criticized the Russian President Vladimir Putin and the Russian government. He died on November 23, 2006, 22 days after being poisoned with  $^{210}\text{Po}$ . Toxicologists estimate that one gram of  $^{210}\text{Po}$  could be enough to kill 50 million people and make another 50 million people ill. (This picture compares approximately one gram to the size of a U.S. quarter.) It would have taken less than one millionth of that amount to kill Litvinenko.

To me, this is a graphic illustration of the warning Paul gave in 1 Corinthians 5:6 and in Galatians 5:9 concerning the danger of wrong doctrine: *a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump*.

The following are two recent, word-for-word posts as they appeared on Facebook. These posts were part of two, separate discussions about the upcoming presidential election and abortion. Both were written by people who adamantly profess Jesus as Savior.

#### Post #1

I'd just like to offer another perspective for you guys to consider, respectfully. I am a Christian and I am a Republican, and I think abortion is terrible. BUT, I don't think that it's the government's place to make that decision for every individual. My morality isn't justification for nationwide legislation. I know women who have gotten abortions, and it's not a decision they take lightly or make willy-nilly. It's a decision made with heartbreak and tears, and every woman has her own reasons. But the ideas being pushed CURRENTLY by Trump and those close to him would make abortion drugs illegal to produce... Meaning no abortions, ever. And while it's easy as a Christian to say "that's great," that's not taking into account the woman whose life might be in danger from pregnancy, nor the 12-year-old girl who was raped and impregnated by her father, or her brother. And that same Republican party only cares about that baby UNTIL it's born -- you'd better not want any financial help for that child, because Republicans don't want to give you any. It may be morally gross, but politically, it's about control. The Republican party has made Christianity a weapon for political power, control, and judgement, but forget about that whole "Love your neighbor" and "Feed the hungry" bit.

I promise, not all Democrats are godless heathens. They just don't think it's the government's place to make that decision for everyone else, and honestly, even as a Christian and a Republican (more or less, anyway,) I kind of see their point.

As I've become less quick to judge and more willing to hear their point of view, I've found that really, most of them aren't that different. They've just had different experiences, or have people close to them in different situations.

#### Post #2

...yes I am pro choice. I was raped and got pregnant. I had a choice and I chose to have the baby. It's not easy to go through a pregnancy that happened through rape. You relive that every day. I want every woman to have the choice. It's not our right to make that choice for them!

The above two posts are typical of the opinions of numerous professing Christians. Now, I ask you, as much as you may think that one or both posts have merit or are valid points for consideration, how did these Christians arrive at their conclusions? What have been their sources of information? More importantly, how do their viewpoints align with the Word of God? If you were to ask them if they love Jesus and believe the Bible, I have no doubt they would emphatically answer yes to both. But let's take a look at what God has said.

The phrase "innocent blood" appears 21 times in the Bible. God has made it explicitly clear He forbids the shedding of innocent blood, a reference to killing. This is not just killing an adult who is innocent of a crime, but of killing the innocent no matter what their ages. One of the most powerful examples of this took place during the reign of Manasseh as recorded in 2 Kings. Not only was he guilty of leading the Israelites into all forms of lasciviousness, debauchery, perversions, and idol worship, he also implemented the murder of babies at a scale previously unknown:

***Moreover Manasseh shed innocent blood very much, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another; beside his sin wherewith he made Judah to sin, in doing that which was evil in the sight of the Lord. (2 Kings 21:16)***

Manasseh is considered by many to be the most evil king in Israel's history. Even after King Josiah years later led Israel in what is arguably the greatest revival in that nation's history, Manasseh's vile actions and leadership brought down God's judgment. Consider what the Lord said about them both,

***23And like unto him [Josiah] was there no king before him, that turned to the Lord with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him. 26Notwithstanding the Lord turned not from the fierceness of his great wrath, wherewith his anger was kindled against Judah, because of all the provocations that Manasseh had provoked him withal. 27And the Lord said, I will remove Judah also out of my sight, as I have removed Israel, and will cast off this city Jerusalem which I have chosen, and the house of which I said, My name shall be there. (2 Kings 23:25-27)***

Why would anyone – especially a Christian – want to participate in any of the sins of which Manasseh was guilty? Do you honestly think that God has softened his stance concerning the murder of innocent babies, born or unborn? Why wouldn't Christians want to follow the example of King Josiah and turn to the Lord with all their heart, soul and might? Furthermore, who do you think children belong to?

***Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. (Psalm 127:3)***

Children are brought into the world to be a blessing to God. They are to be raised in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4). God's desire is for them to accept Jesus as Savior and be born again into the family of God (Romans 8:15-16; Ephesians 2:19). When children are aborted, God's heritage and reward are being murdered. How will a Christian explain doing this when standing before God on the day of final judgment?

Furthermore, abortion is an act of open rebellion unto God. Consider what God declared to humanity in the very first chapter of Genesis,

***26And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. 28And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. (Genesis 1:26-28)***

The very first blessing – and instruction – God gave to humanity was the ability to be fruitful and multiply. Each subsequent generation was to be in the image and likeness of God. I realize God is not telling husbands and wives to produce an unlimited number of children; but aborting the fruit of the womb is an act of destroying someone God has said would exist in His image. One of the biggest arguments in favor of abortion is that it should be legal when the health or life of the mother is at stake. That argument can sound extremely convincing, especially when examples (though extremely rare) of the potential death of the mother are presented. But is it possible that

such an argument loses much of its value when compared to what God has said in scripture? Consider the following,

***13For Adam was first formed, then Eve. 14And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. 15Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety. (1 Timothy 2:13-15)***

The argument in favor of abortion if the life of the mother is at stake is an open declaration of departure from God's Word and the blessing of protection He has made to mothers.

Then we have the argument that abortion should be available in the event of rape or incest. I am not in any way approving of either of those despicable acts, but where in the Bible has God said that it is permissible to murder an unborn child if a woman experiences such a horrific event?

Also stated and implied in the posts above – and in numerous other posts, media articles, speeches, etc – is the idea that the government wants to tell a woman what she can do with her body. Once again, this is an argument that can sound good on the surface, but it is actually one made out of total ignorance of absolute truth. It isn't the woman's body that is being butchered; it is the body of an unborn human who is being prepared for birth into this world. To the Christians who hold to this opinion I would ask: Do you not know what God has said in His Word?

***19What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)***

How in the world is a woman glorifying God in her body by mutilating and murdering God's heritage? You claim to be a Christian, yet arrogantly defy the Christ who saved you. *Yes, but Pastor Jim, a woman has a right to choose what she does with her body!* I've heard that argument as well, and God makes it abundantly clear what to choose.

***I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live (Deuteronomy 30:19)***

What does all this have to do with polonium and leaven? The two posts I shared earlier represent the beliefs of many Christians who have spiritually ingested doctrinal polonium which has leavened their spirit, soul and mind, becoming filthiness of spirit and is producing death in their souls. Whether or not they would admit to it, they have become enemies of the cross and if they continue on this path, they will end up separated from God for eternity.

***Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. (2 Corinthians 7:1)***

***17Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. 18(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19Whose end is***

***destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.) (Philippians 3:17-19)***

Just as a one-gram sample of <sup>210</sup>Po will spontaneously heat up to above 500°C (932°F), a little leaven of doctrinal polonium will begin searing the conscience of a Believer to the point that more and more truth is rejected. Eventually, this can lead to eternal separation from God.

In Matthew 4:4, Jesus said, ***Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*** I don't care what some Christians would say, it is impossible to live by every word of God and support abortion. God's original Genesis chapter one plan for humanity was that there would be no death. Supporting abortion is aligning oneself with the doctrine of Satan who desires to steal, kill and destroy.

I live and was raised in Dayton, Ohio. As I write this, Ohio is experiencing what can be described as a drought. In all my life, I don't ever recall experiencing what is happening. Not long ago, the Lord spoke to my wife and told her it is because voters here approved of abortion as a legally protected right. A few days prior, I was asking God why we have had so little rain. He replied, "Because there is not enough repentance."

***If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. (2 Chronicles 7:14)***

It's one thing to join with a congregation to repent for the sins of a nation and the lukewarm hearts of Christians. It's quite another to genuinely call sin what it is and grieve with the heart of God over what is happening. Have you been feasting on the polonium of leavenous doctrine? Are you more focused on personalities than policies? Does it really matter to you if the standard for governance in the nation starts with the Word of God? Where is your heart?

In His Grace,

*Jim*

Last month's letter included scripture-based confessions concerning elections. If you did not receive that letter, please let me know and a copy will be sent. Be sure to pray over the upcoming elections as we believe for God-fearing, Bible-believing people to be elected at all levels.

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\_\_\_\_ Please send me a CD of the companion sermon to this month's letter, *Choose You This Day*.

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