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AMERICA: WEIGHED IN THE BALANCE
“All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weighs the spirits.... A just weight and balance are the LORD’s: all the weights of the bag are his work” (Proverbs 16:2, 10). The Wiseman was talking about weighing the spirit of man in verse 2, and in verse 10 he gave a better idea of what he meant by being weighed in the balances. The weights are in a bag; the bag belongs to the Lord, and the weights belong to the Lord: “A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight” (Pro.11:1).

Here we are introduced to the fact that there are just and right weights, as well as false ones, which are an abomination to God.

Proverbs 20:10, 23: “Divers weights, and divers measures, both of them are an abomination to the LORD.... Divers weights are an abomination unto the LORD; and a false balance is not good.”

God weighs the heart of man on His balance which is a scale—not like a modern digital scale, but think when you go to some grocery stores to buy produce; you put your loose oranges on a freestanding hanging scale to weigh them. The arrow on the scale goes around and stops at the correct weight of the oranges down to the ounce. If the cost of oranges is $2.00 per pound, and it weighs 1 ½ pounds, you will pay $3.00 for the oranges. You can take some out or add more. When you get to the cashier, there will be a scale built into the cash register that can calculate to the ounce the weight of your purchase. It is calibrated to the correct amount to charge you the fair advertised price.

**A Pound Is A Pound Is A Pound**

The two scales must be in sync—an ounce must weigh the same on both scales. A pound must be 16 ounces on every scale in America, because that is our American standard of measure. Anywhere you go in the US, a pound is 16 ounces. It is always so, and all scales are calibrated to this standard; therefore, you will pay accordingly.

It’s always a good idea to look at the scale before you put your produce in it to ensure the arrow is at zero. If
it is already at 5 ounces, it’s not calibrated right, and you will be cheated. You will get 5 ounces less produce in your pound.

The Bible is saying that we must have a *just* or correctly calibrated scale. We should understand what their scales were like in Bible times. When I was a little girl, my mother had a set of balances on her dining room table. It had a horizontal bar across the top with chains hanging down on both ends that held small plates. She had fake wax fruit on them. It was not a working scale but a replica intended for decor, but it was a good representation of what a genuine scale would have looked like in Bible days. They would put their merchandise on one plate, making it go down, and the empty side would go up. They carried a bag with little pieces of metal that were different weight sizes. For instance, one would weigh an ounce, one a half-pound, one a pound, etc. (They didn’t use pounds and ounces; I’m using these for us to understand.)

The seller would put weights on the empty plate until there were enough weights to balance the two sides of the scale. The scale was perfectly balanced when they were even. The amount of the weights that he put on the scale told him how much the merchandise weighed. The weight determined the value. You cannot know the value of something unless you know how much it weighs. This is what it means to be weighed in the balances. That is how business was done in Bible times.

**The Double Standard**

Just as 16 ounces to a pound is the American standard that’s unchangeable and unalterable, they also had measurements that were the standard in Israel. The seller would reach into his bag and pull out the various weights which were marked, so he knew how much each weighed. However, some dishonest sellers and buyers had two sets of weights in their bag: One set of genuine weights, and the other with heavier or lighter weights than the actual standard. We read—*divers weights are an abomination*. The word *divers* means more than one. They had more than one set of weights they carried around, and as we read, one was a *false weight*. No wonder it was an abomination to God! They were ripping the people off! If they pulled out a one-ounce weight, but it really weighed three ounces, then the balances more quickly became even, and the buyer would receive less product and pay more because of the false weight. The sixth commandment is “Thou shall not steal,” and the ninth is “Thou shall not lie,” and both were committed by this unscrupulous practice.

Out of this biblical concept came the well-known figure of speech *double standard* still used today. The standard weights were supposed to be used every time, but they had a false set—a *double set* they used for their greedy advantage. This provoked
God’s anger.

**The Temple Standard**

Another interesting fact about the weights and balances in Israel (pertaining to consumerism): Whether in the marketplace or the home, all scales, balances and weights had to be calibrated to *the temple standard* a.k.a. *the sanctuary standard*. In God’s House, the Temple, was a set of scales and weights that were calibrated perfectly to their just and right amounts. Archaeologists have found the old sanctuary standard of Israel in the house of Caiaphas the high priest. All weights and all balances in the consumer world or in people’s private homes *had to conform to the temple set of weights and balances*.

*Anybody getting a message out of this?* Let’s bring it up to date—to *the Church*. Everyone has to conform to the standard in the temple. If I wanted to open *Sharon’s Produce Shop*, I would have to make sure my scale and weights conformed to the one in the temple. It was God’s standard in the temple that the people followed in the business world and in their own homes.

All the weights in the bag are God’s, and He is not a cheater; He is not a liar, nor a respecter of persons, and He doesn’t have two sets of weights. *God doesn’t have a double standard*. He doesn’t have one standard we use in church and another out in the world. He doesn’t have one standard we live by in the church house and another when we are on the job, in the neighborhood, around our family, in our business practices, or our political decisions. There is no double standard to accommodate the world. There is one sanctuary standard that God said is His.

When a standard is changed, there is no way to assign a thing’s correct value. “*You shall do no unrighteousness in judgment, in meteyard, in weight, or in measure. Just balances, just weights, a just ephah, and a just hin, shall you have: I am the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt. Therefore shall you observe all my statutes, and all my judgments, and do them: I am the LORD*” (Lev.19:35-37).

I find it curious that this Hebrew word for *judgment* is a judicial word meaning *to judge something as in a court litigation deciding a case*. It refers to going before judges where a decision must be made, or a sentence passed, or an execution carried out. God said that when these cases occur, *you are to do it right!* There is one standard for everybody—not a double standard where you let the guilty off and condemn the innocent for reward or kickback.

Then He speaks about *practical things*: A *meteyard* was a measurement of size, a portion, stature, or weight. It’s a designated portion that must be consistent, unalterable, and unchangeable. It’s always the same once the standard is set. Next He spoke of the *balances (scales) and weights*. The *ephah* was an Egyptian
The point: Be righteous in how you decide legal matters, and be honest in how you conduct business. There should be no double standard. If there is, the blessings will be cut off of the land: “You shalt not have in your bag divers weights, a great and a small. You shalt not have in your house divers measures, a great and a small. But you shall have a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just measure shall you have: that your days may be lengthened in the land which the Lord your God gives you. For all that do such things, and all that do unrighteous, are an abomination unto the Lord” (Deut.25:13-16).

Fast-forward to the time of the minor prophets: Israel and Judah, were both totally corrupt. They had gone back on all God’s commandments. We can hear the voice of the prophet Amos, “Saying, When will the new moon be gone, that we may sell corn? And the sabbath that we may set forth wheat, making the ephah small, and the shekel great, and falsifying the balances by deceit?” (Amos 8:5). God said in Hosea 12:7, “The balances of deceit are in his hand: he loves to oppress.” In Micah 6:11, “Shall I count them pure with the wicked balances, and with the bag of deceitful weights?” God condemned them for saying they were pure when they had wicked balances and deceitful weights.

Let’s take it to the spiritual level: You face a decision of morality. If you have two sets of standards, you may be tempted to use the wrong one out of partiality. For example, you have a child or grandchild who is not married and living with their lover. You love your child; you have fellowship with your child; they come over for dinner, and you go out with them. But then they want to come and stay at your house with their lover. What standard are you going to use? Are you going to have a different standard than the Bible’s because it’s your child? And you don’t want to alienate them? You don’t want them to be mad at you because they probably won’t come to church, or they won’t do this or that.

Your child knows better. Even if you didn’t raise them by biblical teachings, now that you are a Christian and living a godly life before them, you must explain to them from Scripture why you can’t do that. You say, “You are my kid, and I love you, and I’m not throwing you under the bus, but I can’t consent to what you’re doing by letting you stay in my home. I can’t have a double standard.” People can easily say things when it is not their child, but when it’s their child, it’s a different story. The point is not to have unjust weights in your house, because you will be tempted to use them, because they are an abomination to God.

What is the Bag?

The bag is God’s, and the weights in the bag are His, so what is the bag?
The Bible is the bag, and the commandments and teachings of Jesus and epistles of the apostles are the weights. But today people have one standard in the church and another standard outside of the church. This has devalued the authenticity of the Word of God.

Let’s get this straight—it doesn’t change the Word of God; it doesn’t alter the Word, but in their sight and in the sight of those around them, it devalues it. When one seeks to conform the Word of God to the world’s standards, they reject the Word, but they can’t change it. This is what is happening in America. We have rejected the 10 Commandments. They have been stripped from the public square. Some that stood for decades have been physically removed, literally the granite they’re etched in hauled away, because they are removed from the conscience of an anti-god society. The standards of prayer and Bible reading have been stripped from American schools and military. How can one be a chaplain in the military but can’t read the Bible and pray for people?

In many workplaces, if you wear a cross to work, you will be told to take it off. Let’s be real—for some people it is nothing more than a piece of jewelry. They are no more thinking about Jesus dying on the cross for their sins than the man in the moon. But let a true Christian come in wearing a cross, and suddenly HR is calling them in to tell them they have to take that cross off. All the while, we are importing the foreign gods of all those coming to America and giving them leeway to wear their religious gear. If they bring their gods with them, then it is our job as Christians to bring them to Christ, to show them what a living God does for His people like Paul did in Athens where he saw the people serving idol gods. (Ref. Acts 17).

Instead, Christianity is being suppressed, persecuted, and even prosecuted, and we are no longer able to share our faith openly and publicly. Now we have the double whammy of importing idol gods into America while American Christians have political tape put over our mouths, so we can’t share the Gospel with them. We’ve changed our religious standards to accommodate our political preferences.

The standard of biblical truth is mocked, because now truth is relative. Whatever you decide is truth for you is okay, and whatever he or she decides is truth for them is okay, and so on. It’s okay even if it doesn’t fit with the societal norm. It’s okay even if your truth doesn’t fit with what 98% of society believes about marriage and gender. Your truth can be truth to you even if it doesn’t fit with common sense, much less if it fits with the biblical standards that God has set. We can each create our own standard of truth, no matter how ridiculous, unethical, or abusive.

Suppose we each changed how many ounces are in a pound—what would we have in this country? Cha-
You wouldn’t know how much to pay for what. People would be arguing and fighting and shooting, because someone overcharged them, because their pound weighed more or less than theirs. It’s the same when everybody creates their own standard of truth. You have chaos and cultural confusion as we have seen in the sexual identity debacle. It has opened the floodgates to ludicrous claims and tragic mistakes.

A Standard Must Be Fixed

Hypothetically, Baltimore City decides to change a ruler to only 9 inches, and all must conform. It’s taught in schools, and all stores, Home Depot, Lowe’s, etc., must adopt the new standard. You live in Baltimore County where a ruler is 12 inches. You need to buy 100 sq. ft. of flooring for your house, and you want to buy it from a store you like in Baltimore City. Were you to buy it in Baltimore County, it is 144 inches to the sq. ft., but in Baltimore City it is only 81 inches to a sq. ft. If you’re paying by the square foot, even if both charge the same amount per square foot, you will pay more in the City, because for every square foot, there is a 3 x 3 inch difference. At one dollar per sq. ft. in the County, you will pay $100 for 100 sq. ft. In the City to get the same amount of flooring, you will pay $163.

Let’s bring this into the spiritual realm: If we change the biblical standards of truth, and let it vary from person to person, or group to group, what kind of problems will arise? Rampant confusion and corruption. Changing the standards corrupts everything. I say to you that a society and a nation that change their values of truth are of no spiritual value, because they have become corrupted.

The Handwriting on the Wall

In the book of Daniel we will see what God said about a kingdom that had become corrupted: “Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords and drank wine before the thousand. Belshazzar, while he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem; that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein. Then they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the house of God which was at Jerusalem; and drank in them. They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone” (Dan.5:1-4).

Belshazzar was technically the grandson of Nebuchadnezzar who had invaded Jerusalem, ruined the city, desecrated the temple, taking the holy instruments back to Babylon. Now his grandson is king and hosts a drunken party. In the midst of the partying, he sent for the gold and silver cups his granddad had stolen from the temple in Jerusalem. They not only drank from them, but laughed and mocked, worshiping the
gods of silver and gold. God wasn’t going to sit up on His throne and let them get away with it.

“In the same hour came forth fingers of a man’s hand and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaster of the wall of the king’s palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote. Then the king’s countenance was changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another. The king cried aloud to bring in the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers. And the king spake, and said to the wise men of Babylon, whosoever shall read this writing, and show me the interpretation thereof, shall be clothed with scarlet, and have a chain of gold about his neck, and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.

Then came in all the king’s wise men: but they could not read the writing, nor make known to the king the interpretation. Then was the king greatly troubled, and his countenance was changed in him, and his lords were astonished” (vv.5-9).

How quickly his perverse revelry ended. He got sober in a heartbeat. He was so terrified, his hip joints came loose, and his knees were knocking. He brought in his wisest men to tell him what the handwriting said and what it meant. But not one could even read it much less interpret it. The king was even more troubled now, and all present were astonished.

“Now the queen by reason of the words of the king and his lords came into the banquet house: and the queen spoke and said, O king, live forever: let not your thoughts trouble you, nor let your countenance be changed: There is a man in your kingdom, in whom is the spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of your father, light and understanding and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods, was found in him; whom the king Nebuchadnezzar your father, made master of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and soothsayers;

“Forasmuch as an excellent spirit, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and showing of hard sentences, and dissolving of doubts, were found in the same Daniel…. now let Daniel be called, and he will show the interpretation” (vv.10-12).

They brought in Daniel, and the king repeated his promise of lavish gifts and promotion if he could reveal the meaning. Daniel said, “I don’t want your gifts, but I will tell you what it says and the interpretation.” First Daniel reminded Belshazzar how his grandfather had come under the judgment of God.

The King Who Was An Ass

“But when his heart was lifted up, and his mind hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him: And he was driven from the sons of men and his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling was with the wild asses: they fed him with
Belshazzar knew his grandfather was insane, acting like a beast, to the point he was driven out of the palace, from human civilization, and into the fields to live with donkeys. He was on all fours eating grass like an ox while his body hair grew like eagles’ feathers and his nails like claws. For seven years he remained in this condition, because he was stubborn and withstood God. After God delivered him and he returned to his throne, boy, did he sing another song then! He praised the God of heaven and exalted Daniel to Prime Minister and governor over all his wise men. How could Belshazzar have forgotten this so soon? He didn’t even remember who Daniel was until his wife reminded him.

Daniel indicted: “But you have lifted up yourself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before you, and you, and your lords, your wives, and your concubines, have drunk wine in them; and you have praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand your breath is, and whose are all your ways, have you not glorified” (v.23).

The Interpretation

Daniel’s rebuke was followed by the divine rebuke: “Then was the part of the hand sent from him; and this writing was written. And this is the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. This is the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God has numbered your kingdom and finished it. TEKEL; You are weighed in the balances and are found wanting. PERES (refers to upharsin); Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians” (vv.24-28).

Imagine seeing an armless hand appear and start writing on the plaster wall! You managed not to faint from seeing the hand, and then it wrote in an unknown language. What did it mean? It wasn’t good news. God said that his kingdom was numbered and finished. God had put him on the scales of truth, and he was weighed in the balances and found wanting.

God has one scale and one weight for everybody. It doesn’t matter if you’re a king or a fool. No matter what nation you are from, or what background, God has one scale and one bag of weights. He put Belshazzar on one side of the scale and His just and holy weights on the other. He was found lacking in righteousness, in the fear of God, and in truth.

“In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain” (v.30). That very night Daniel gave him the interpretation, he was slain, and Darius the Mede took his kingdom. He
was king of Media; his nephew Cyrus was king of Persia, and they split the kingdom between the two of them. Thus it came to pass just like the handwriting on the wall said: **PERES**—*your kingdom is divided.*

Belshazzar had made the decision to reject God’s truth and despise His mercies. He had forgotten his grandfather’s fate and who Daniel was. Tell me, *how can you forget a man who was thrown into the lions’ den and wasn’t eaten? How could he have forgotten that his grandfather had become as a beast because he boasted against the God of Daniel?* He was weighed in the balances of God’s judgment, and came up short.

**America On the Scales**

I believe the same scenario is being repeated today in America. We have seen the biblical standards this nation was founded on rapidly changing. We are reeling from its fallout, as we are barely over one thing when another pillar of righteousness is torn down. We have truly come to the incredible fulfillment of Isaiah 5:20-23:

> "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes and prudent in their own sight! Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink: Which justify the wicked for reward and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him!"

This is how people change the standards of God’s Word. They start by calling good evil and evil good. When I was growing up, I thought this verse far-fetched. I didn’t think anybody would really be that stupid. Okay, so you didn’t want to serve God, but you didn’t go around calling good evil and evil good. You still understood righteousness and unrighteousness. You may not have been ready to surrender to God to serve Him, but you still understood what His Word required, and you knew you were in disobedience.

The prophet Micah was a contemporary of Isaiah. He said: *“Who hate the good and love the evil”* (3:2). This shows a progression of rebellion. From the time of Cain, there have always been people who do evil, *but now people love evil.* There have always been people who do evil, *but now they hate good.* Now they hate those who do good. They justify the wicked for money and favor and take away right judgment for the innocent. Radicals in America are changing righteous standards, moral values, and biblical concepts this nation was built upon. Anti-bible factions try to deny America’s Judeo-Christian foundation, even revising history books in schools, but it is what it is. You don’t have to dig much to see that America was founded by godly men using biblical concepts.
Changing the Laws

Once the standards and moral values are changed, the next step is to change the laws. When you change standards and values, laws must change to conform to the changed values and standards. In the 1960s, the government threw out prayer and Bible reading in schools. In 1973, they legalized abortion. Free love and sex outside of marriage exploded, because there was no Scripture to prick the conscience, and women could use abortion as a means of birth control. Growing up, I heard such things as “She’s in a family way” or “She’s with child.” Today you will never hear abortionists or abortion rights proclaimers say that someone is with child. Nor will they say, “She’s having a baby.” They call it a fetus, because that’s vague and impersonal. Fetus is a Greek word that means nothing to them and takes away the personalization of a baby.

Nor will they call themselves pro-abortion—but pro-choice. This sounds positive and appeals to women’s rights. In 2017, true Christians had a great victory at the Supreme Court. They ruled that pregnancy clinics, usually set up by churches and religious organizations, who want to help women who don’t know what to do, are scared, and have no support system, to avoid abortion and choose adoption. Before this ruling, they were forced to tell women that abortion was an option, and if that they couldn’t afford it, there was aid available for them to get it for free or very cheap. Can you imagine churches having to tell women this?

I don’t believe this ruling would have happened if we didn’t have a new conservative judge on the bench who is pro-life. It made the difference. Let me tell you, presidents come, and presidents go, but Supreme Court justices are appointed for life. They are not elected by the people, and they are not there to legislate from the bench, but to interpret the Constitution. They ruled that it infringed on their religious rights to force them to tell women about abortion.

When we change the values, we must change the laws to enforce them. In America we have outlawed God’s laws. Whoever thought in 2015, same-sex marriage would be legalized? We accept people have a right to do what they want to do. You can’t make people be heterosexual if they want to be homosexual. We understand they have civil rights like everyone else, to be treated the same way on the job, etc. But legalizing same-sex marriage was a radical changing of the biblical standard that has stood since creation.

The aftermath has been nothing but an all-out campaign against religious freedom for those who believe in the biblical model of marriage. We saw a county clerk in Kentucky go to jail because she refused to give out marriage licenses to same-sex couples. It not only was an affront to her religious beliefs, but the licenses were preprinted with her signature
on them, because she is the elected county clerk. By granting licenses with her signature, she was put in the position of condoning same-sex marriage. Instead, she went to jail.

We have seen cases of bakers being sued for refusing to bake wedding cakes for same-sex marriages. They were willing to make birthday cakes and other occasions for same-sex couples, but not a wedding cake. Furthermore, they were not the only bakers in town. Yet they were sued, and in one case, the owners had to pay a $135,000 fine to the same-sex couple. They had to close their business, losing their income. One baker appealed to the Supreme Court and won, but the ruling was because the state of Colorado had acted too aggressively in going after him. It did not settle the question whether he had to bake a wedding cake for same-sex couples. Incredibly, not long after, the state of Colorado sued him again for refusing to bake a cake for a transgender change.

Similar cases against florists and wedding venue providers have forced some to go out of business. While same-sex couples have the legal right to marry in all fifty states, Christians do not have to forfeit their religious right to refuse to personally create and design something with their own hands that violates their conscience. The Supreme Court agreed that the baker puts his own design into the cake; it’s a part of him creatively, and he has a right to refuse to create something that goes against his religious beliefs.

When creationism was thrown out of public schools and evolution came in, it had a powerful impact on crime. If there is no creator, then there is no designer, and we are just biological accidents with no purpose. It devalues human life from the womb to the tomb. They are ripping little babies out of their mother’s womb in abortions. Recently, there is a big push for euthanizing the elderly and infirm in some states in America, because human life has no value.

The murder rate in cities like Chicago and my city of Baltimore is increasing alarmingly. Human life is cheap on the streets. Murders from drug wars and gang wars are piling up, and the perpetrators are younger and younger. There was a time when people who committed murder often later had remorse, but not anymore. Many are calloused by their teen years. They rob Granny’s and elderly people, beating them and killing them, when they pose no threat. Human life is cheap. This is the result when god-fearing morals and standards are devalued, and laws are changed to accommodate them.

Redefining Vocabulary

This creates the need to redefine words to match the revised morals, values, standards, and laws. For instance, sin is not what it used to be. Sin is not sin—it is a disease. It is an alternative lifestyle. Why must we now refer to marriage and like things as traditional values? Because they
are no longer *the standard* and have been replaced by licentious liberals who sneer: “*Oh, you go along with those traditional values,*”—like we used to have when people believed that marriage was between a man and a woman.

*Fornication* is not sin anymore. *It is living together with your significant other.* When they first start off saying “*significant other,*” it sounded weird to me, but initially, we at least understood it meant to live with your lover without being married. They couldn’t call him *husband* or her *wife,* because they were not married, so they invented *my significant other.* But it has evolved: Now when we hear *significant other,* we don’t know if it is *two wives* or *two husbands,* or if it is a *double transgender couple* (The husband is a biological woman, and the wife is a biological man, so they still have sex the old-fashioned way as God designed.)

*Adultery* is not sin, but *an extramarital affair.* Sorta sounds elegant—*extra marital affair*—like something people in high society do. But God calls it adultery. Whether it is a man and a woman, a man and a man, or a woman and a woman, if it’s outside of marriage, it is *adultery.* Jesus surely hit the nail on the head when He said this would be *an adulterous and sinful generation* (Mk.8:38).

While the word *homosexuality* is not in the Bible, *sodomy* and *sodomites* are. When they began coming out of their homosexual closets some decades ago, they called themselves *gay*—sounds positive, happy, and fun. They changed the vocabulary in order to present it as a desirable lifestyle. God calls it *an abomination.* False balances devalue life, marriage, sex, and righteous judgment, replacing them with deception and lies. Marriage is no longer sacred or exclusive, so sex is cheap.

**Preference Is Not A Law**

To be a Christian in America is to be mocked and scorned. We were told by a former president that America is not a Christian nation. That statement set us up to change our laws, and they did. When laws are changed that exclude God, you can become a law unto yourself. You cannot measure yourself by yourself; nor can I measure myself by myself. We must measure ourselves by something *greater* than ourselves, and that is *the temple standard—the sanctuary standard—God’s standard.*

If someone says, “*Well, it may not be right for you, but it is for me,*” what does it mean? It means *it’s their preference.* Everyone has a right to his/her preference. It’s okay to *have it your way* when you go to Burger King and order a cheeseburger. It’s okay if you like pickles on your cheeseburger—*that’s your preference.* That’s fine when it comes to consumerism. But when it comes to the heart and soul and morality of this nation and the authority of God’s Word, *it’s not about your or my preferences—it’s about God’s standard.*

God said that all the weights in
the bag are His, and when you change His standards, you make yourself God. We saw what happened to Babylon's king. We are all accountable to our Creator. Some may change the standards; some may change the laws, but they can't change the reality.

Go ahead—change the bag—take out the just measures and put false ones in, but it won't change the reality that a pound is still 16 ounces. Change the bag to get rid of the Bible, but can you change the reality of God's Word? Throw out the 10 Commandments and the teachings of Jesus to get rid of those weights, because you think they are too heavy. Will they lose their authority? Change the definition of words in order to change the definition of laws, but none of these can change the truth: "For we can do nothing against the truth, but only for the truth" (2Cor.13:8).

These attacks and revisions do not change God's truth. No one can fight against the truth to destroy it. One may decide I don't like the law of gravity. I'm outlawing the law of gravity. But try jumping off the roof of this building—you will still plunge to your death. Just because you outlaw it, doesn't change the law of gravity. The Word of God is greater than the law of gravity—It is what keeps the law of gravity operating. Hebrews 1:3 says God's Son is "upholding all things by the word of His power," because He is the Creator who "framed the worlds by His word" (Heb.11:3).

Every person and every nation will stand before God on judgment day (2Cor.5:10, Matt.25:31-32). He will get out His bag and His weights, Jesus said, "He that rejects me and receives not my words has one that judges him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." (Jn.12:48). When God places His righteous weights on one side of the balance and America's obedience to His Word on the other, may we not be found wanting. "The wicked shall be turned into hell and all nations that forget God" (Ps.9:17).