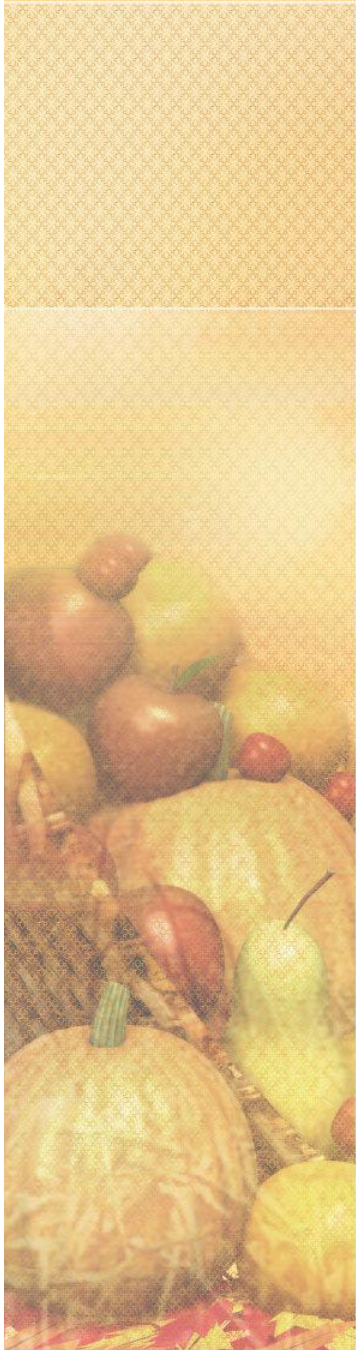
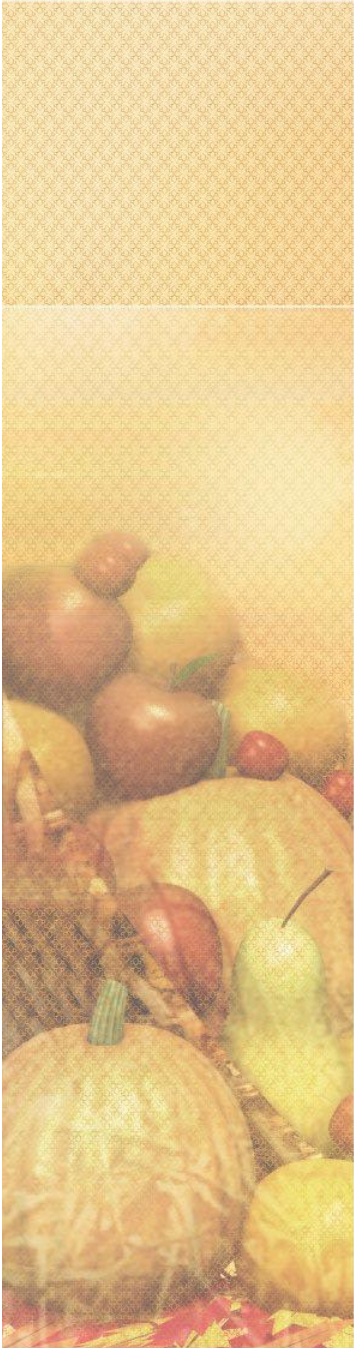


An American Day of Prayer and Isaiah

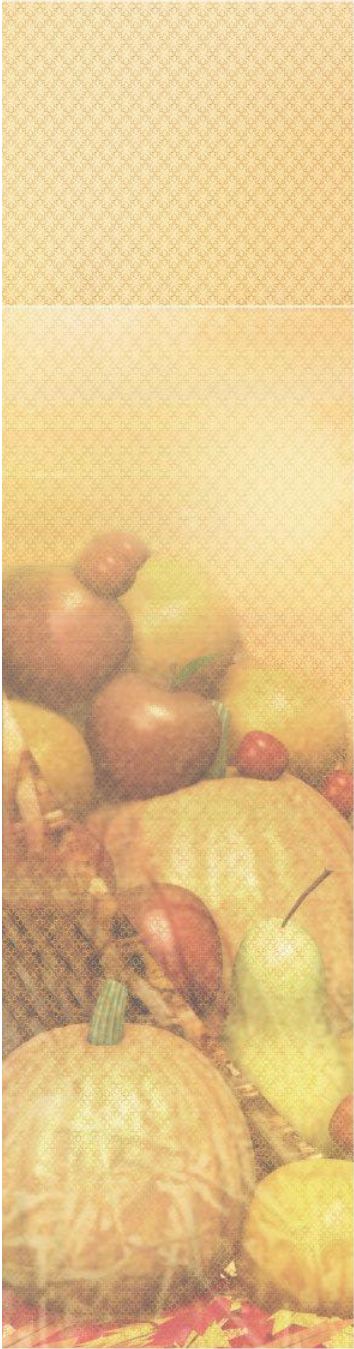




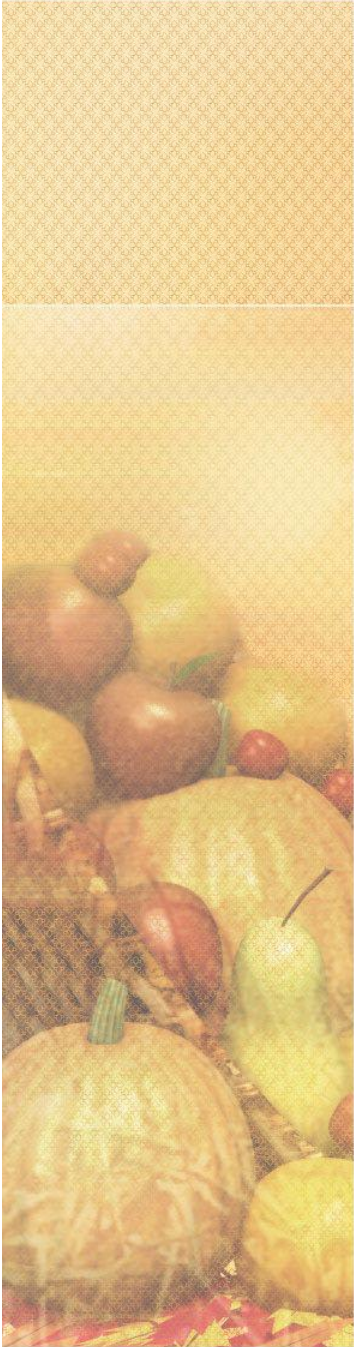
Leadership Then and Now



Patriotism Then and Now



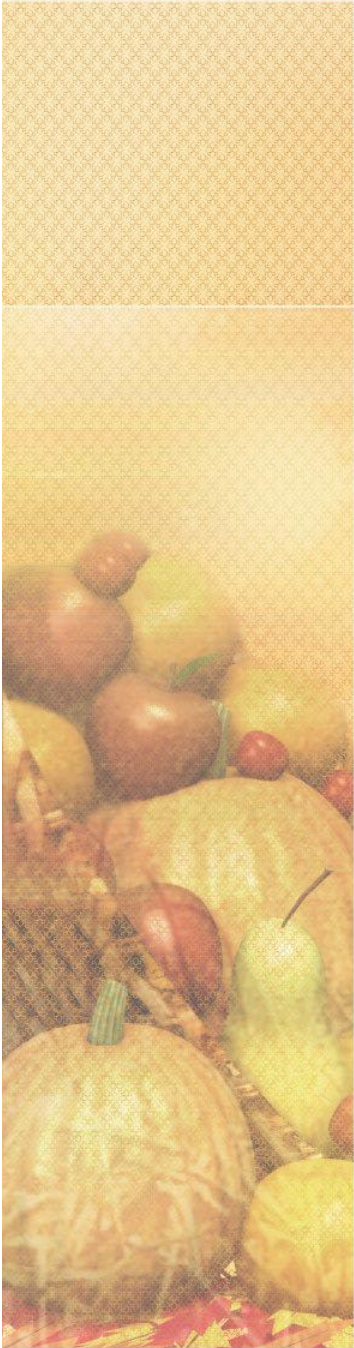
Cynicism and Optimism



How about Neither?

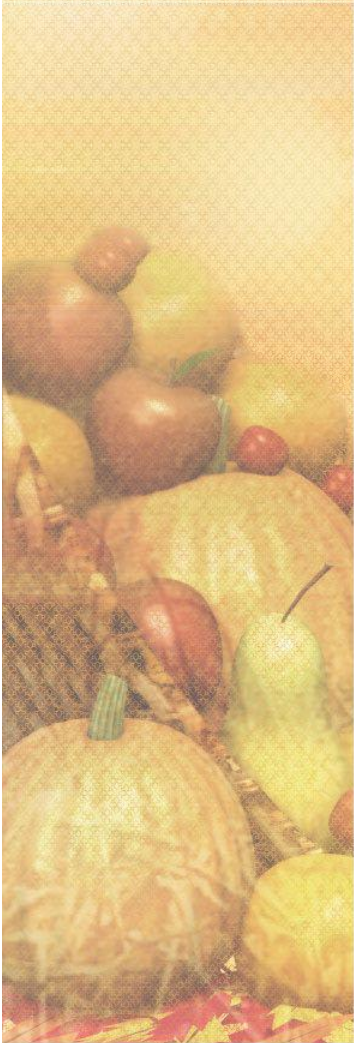
Problems of Cynicism

- There is no solution to the problem of wickedness in man.
- Therefore evil is basically unbounded
- Therefore there is no hope, no happiness, and no point in looking to the future.
- This approach is obviously Godless and is ignorant of His revelation concerning man's destiny.



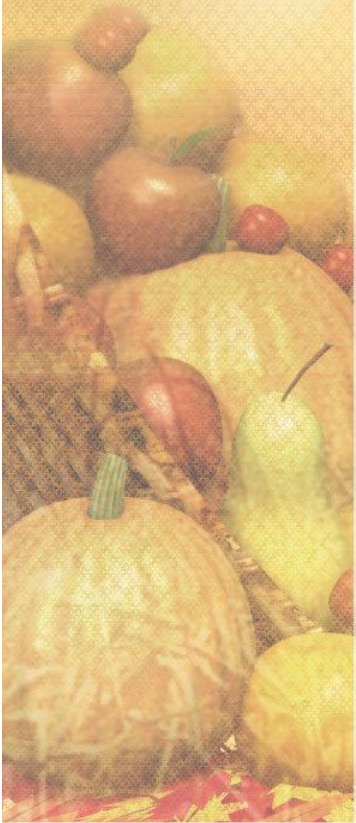
Problems of Humanist Optimism

- Man is sinful and self-destructive
- Sin has destroyed the good design of planet earth
- There is no way to account for murder, war, rape, etc in humanism. Most often secular humanists blame “religion” (meaning belief in God).
- Becomes an excuse for laziness and reduced vigilance.
- Always results in weakness that will be exploited by wicked men
- This approach is obviously Godless and is ignorant of man’s past and present fallenness.



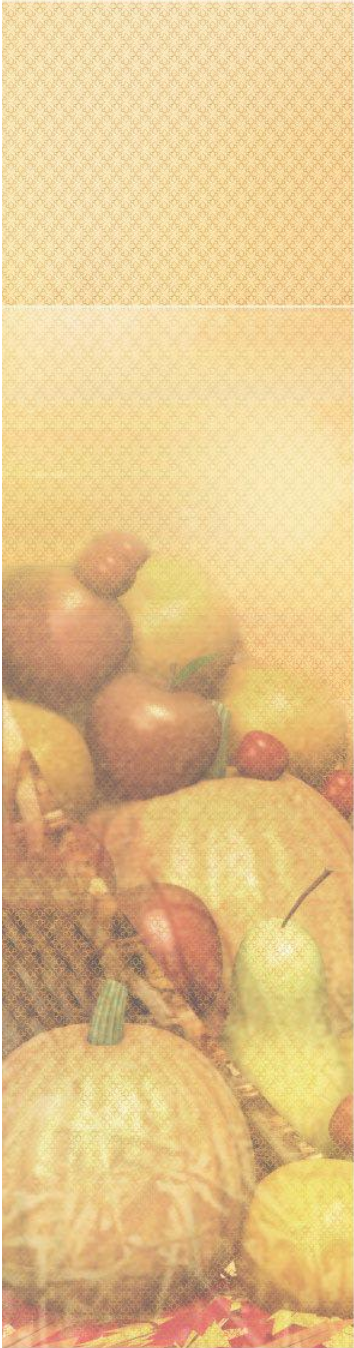
Examples of Humanist Optimism

- Hitler's rise to power in the 1930's.
- The Enlightenment thinkers
- Marx & Engels
- Jews are evil, Europe is evil, but Hitler and Germany are good
- The oppression of religious dogma is evil, but man's reason and observation is good
- The bourgeoisie is evil, but the proletariat is **good—and so will be the government under the communists**



The Biblical View

- Man was designed to rule planet earth in righteousness under the authority of God.
- All men since the Fall are spiritually dead: sinful and self-destructive, craving power and self-advancement to the exclusion of the freedom of others.
- The governance of man was delegated BY GOD to men after the first destruction of the human race. Genesis 9 and the Noahic Covenant
- The purpose of that human government is limited to this: Protection of man from man by man in submission to God.



How Government Fails

- It assumes prerogatives that God did not authorize and that it cannot handle.
- Like:
 - Something besides *protection*
 - Protection from something besides *man*
 - Weather
 - Economic misfortune (besides stealing)*
 - Rehabilitation of criminals who have destroyed the image of God.
- Try to think of a truly essential function of government that is not protection from man.



Why Government Fails

- A failure to recognize the chain-of-command
- All authority proceeds from God, and when people are Godless they cannot understand their purpose, much less fulfill it.
- Isaiah 9:8-10:4 tells the story.

