

RELIGION

The Battle For America: Socialism and Christianity

William G. Lord

CrossBooks

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Three Stars (out of Five)

Through his faith in God and years in the United States Marine Corps, William G. Lord was fortunate enough “to leave behind the pain of isolation caused by poverty.” That others seek to rise from poverty without a strong faith in Christianity, however, is viewed by Lord as an attack on that “last stronghold of Christianity,” namely the United States.

In *The Battle for America*, Lord curiously equates the struggle of the less fortunate, the downtrodden, and the disenfranchised with a godless agenda to destroy America. Those who support unions, gay marriage, progressive taxation, and immigration reform, along with anyone who opposes American wars abroad are all herded together by Lord into an army marching beneath the banner of “socialism.” The standard-bearers of this supposedly anti-Christian group are identified by Lord as Barack Obama and other key members of the Democratic Party.

Lord attacks liberals, leftists, democrats, Senator Bernie Sanders (an independent from Vermont), marchers in gay pride parades, scientists who warn of global warming, and clergymen of “social progressive churches” for whom “the issue of ‘religious tolerance’” has become a “battle cry.” Attacking such people as enemies of the Judeo-Christian tradition is rather confusing, especially as Lord cites biblical passages from Isaiah and Luke about showing compassion to the outcast and Christ’s mission “to set at liberty those who are oppressed.”

Lord sees himself and those who share his beliefs to be “Watchmen” who guard against the “unbelievers.” The America Lord wants is in danger, he writes, believing that, “The only hope of revival is in the rediscovery of the Bible and obedience to all the Words of God that are in it.”

For readers who share Lord’s point of view, his book offers a comfortably one-sided version of the history of socialism. While he does point out the failures and abuses of numerous dictators who used socialist ideas for their own ends, he often denigrates and even demonizes those who worked to better the situation of others.

There is also selectively researched history. Lord, for example, reduces what the post-

World War II European democracies did to help raise millions from poverty and despair into a plot by an “atheist elite” to force their countries to “mutate into totalitarian states.”

With an advanced degree in divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Lord, who is retired from an international career as an aviation maintenance representative, has taken up a crusade of sorts to defend his beliefs from perceived enemies and threats. Anyone who seeks to join his crusade will find his book helpful, while those who think otherwise might consider reading it to better defend themselves from the onslaught of the writer’s band of watchmen.

Mark G. McLaughlin