

WHAT ARE WE PRODUCING?

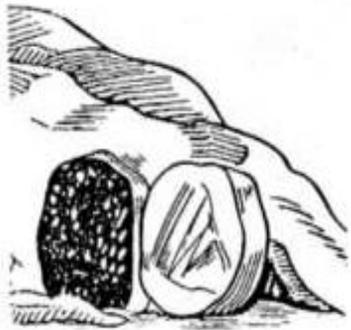
March 2017

Written forty years ago or more under the title "Christianity Is No Longer Producing Saintliness" A. W. Tozer wrote the following: "It is possible for a whole generation of Christians to be victims of poor teaching, low moral standards and unscriptural or extra-scriptural doctrines, resulting in stunted growth and retarded development. It is little less than stark tragedy that an individual Christian may pass from youth to old age in a state of suspended growth and all his life be unaware of it... In today's Christianity, we have measured ourselves by ourselves until the incentive to seek higher plateaus in the things of the Spirit is all but gone. The fact is, we are no longer producing saints. We are making converts to an effete type of Christianity that bears little resemblance to that of the New Testament. The average so-called Bible Christian in our times is but a wretched parody on true sainthood... Clearly, we must begin to produce better Christians! We must insist on New Testament sainthood for our converts, nothing less; we must lead them into a state of heart purity, fiery love, separation from the world, and poured-out devotion to Christ."

Would the following be tolerated in the early Church? Believers who frequented such worldly and ungodly amusements as modern-day movies (or the same sick fare on TV); pants (men's attire) on women or low cut or tight fitting clothing, mini-skirts, dresses with slits up to or above the knee; men and women coming to Church dressed for the golf course or yard work; Deacons and Elders (even Pastors) who are not the head of their homes; Church programs and music that are utterly worldly, etc. A great deal of the blame must rest upon the preachers because many will not take any sort of unpopular stand; most are more interested in entertaining their people than they are in edifying them. I know it is not popular, but I have often contended that the average Fundamental Church looks a lot like Laodicea. It is increased with goods and has need of nothing - in its own eyes ("thou sayest"). The prevailing worldliness, lack of spiritual discernment, the anemic prayer meetings, the disinterest in soul winning, all testify that we are living on a very low spiritual level! Few Fundamental Churches could get more than a corporal's guard out for the mid-week prayer service if they didn't have a supper, Choir rehearsal, Jr. Choir, Awana, etc. all going on while a few people meet for prayer - mostly ladies (God bless them, but they can't replace men). There's a lot of talk about revival, but I believe the truth is, practically nobody wants it; it would be too costly. There is a great deal of effort to keep God's people smiling and even laughing, but I think if we had the mind of God, we'd be crying over the sad state of affairs. Where are the Spirit filled Christians who attend all the Church services, have serious prayer and Bible study every day, consistently seek to win others to Christ and who are more concerned about holiness than their own personal happiness? God says Laodicean Christians are **"...wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked."** Then, there is this warning: **"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore and repent."** Will we REPENT? If we will, we'll have a greater impact for Christ among the lost; if not - removal!

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* * * * *

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WHERE IS HAPPINESS? Happiness is not in---
UNBELIEF – Voltaire was an infidel with few his equal. He wrote: “I wish I had never been born.”

PLEASURE – Lord Byron lived a life of pleasure, if anyone ever did. He wrote: “The worm, the canker, and the grief are mine alone.

MONEY – Jay Gould, an American millionaire many years ago, who when he was dying said, “I suppose I am the most miserable man on earth.”

FAME – Lord Beaconsfield enjoyed more than his share. He wrote: Youth is a mistake, manhood is a struggle, and old age a regret.”

POWER & GLORY – Alexander conquered the known world when about thirty years of age. He was found weeping in his tent because, he said, “There are no more worlds to conquer.”

WHERE IS HAPPINESS? In knowing God and His Word!

“Blessed (Happy) is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord and in His law doth he meditate day and night.” ~**Psalm 1:1,2.**

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT.

A little thing is a little thing, but faithfulness in little things is a very great thing.

A true friend is someone who knows all about you and still loves you.

The longer I live, the more convincing proofs of this truth I see – God governs in the affairs of men. -Ben Franklin

We can give without loving, but we cannot love without giving.

Honesty is not only the best policy, it is the only policy God recognizes.

Some people have all the answers, but they do not understand the questions..

WHAT DO YOU SEE? Two men stood on the shore watching the sun come up. One was a London merchant, the other, the poet William Blake. As the bright yellow sun rose into view gilding the water and painting the sky with a thousand colors, the poet turned to the merchant and said, “What do you see?” “Ah, I see gold. The sun looks like a great gold piece. What do you see?” Blake answered, I see the glory of God and I hear a multitude of heavenly hosts crying, “Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty! The whole earth is full of His glory”

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NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION ROLLS BACK FEDERAL TRANSGENDER BATHROOM RULE

U.S. President Donald Trump has rescinded the guidelines instigated by Barack Obama to give transgender students the right to use whichever public restrooms they are most comfortable with (“Trump administration orders U.S. schools to ignore Obama transgender bathroom efforts,” UPI, Feb. 23, 2017). The Trump administration said, “This is an issue best solved at the state and local level.” As it turns out, Obama reached a little too far, too fast with his bathroom policy, but we would not be surprised if the “right” of transsexuals to use the bathroom of their choice will be discovered in the Constitution by the nation’s judges. However that turns out, the bathroom issue is actually a red herring. The more fundamental issue is that homosexuality and its related entities (lesbian, bisexual, transsexual) have become morally acceptable to a large and rapidly growing percentage of the nation’s citizens, and they are already legally protected from “discrimination” under some federal, state, and local laws. Betsy Devos, U.S. Education Secretary under Trump, immediately came out with a statement that her department’s Office for Civil Rights “remains committed to investigating all claims of discrimination, bullying, and harassment” against LGBT students. It is this reality that is bringing increasing persecution against Bible-believing Christians, as we have documented in “What Rights Others Lose When Homosexuals Gain their Rights,” and absolutely nothing has happened in the recent political upheaval to change this reality. -FBIS

DENMARK ENFORCING MUSLIM SHARIA LAW

- In an act right out of the Muslim Sharia law playbook, a 42-year-old man in Denmark has been charged with “blasphemy” for burning the Quran. The defendant’s lawyer “said his client burned the Quran in self-defense, asserting that the Islamic holy book ‘contains passages on how Mohammed’s followers must kill the infidel, i.e. the Danes’” (“Danish man who set fire to Quran,” Breitbart, Feb. 24, 2017). At the same time, it is legal to burn a Bible in Denmark, where the state church is “Lutheran.” A man who burned a Bible on state television in 1997 was not charged. Islam has been a judgment on apostate Christianity since its inception. FBIS (3/3/17)

MAINSTREAM TELEVISION REPORTER SAYS CONTROLLING WHAT PEOPLE THINK “IS OUR JOB”

On the February 22 edition of MSNBC’s “Morning Joe,” co-host Mika Brzezinski warned that President Donald Trump is “trying to undermine the media” and is “undermining the messaging” so

effectively that “he can actually control exactly what people think.” Brzezinski said, “[T]hat is our job,” referring to the news media. This is a telling remark. She actually thinks that her job is to control people’s thinking, whereas the proper job of the news media is to report news without bias filtering. But in this lying world, the only place you are going to find the truth entirely unfiltered is the Word of God. By its unvarnished truth, the child of God has the ability to prove all things so that he is protected from the devil’s lies. “(For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:4-5).

Ed. This controlling the news is not new but it has never been so blatant or wide spread. The average person doesn’t know what is going on, There is some talk now about “fake news.” The sad thing is few know the difference. I thought the news media was supposed to tell us what actually happened, not what they want you to know about what happened, even if it is a lie.

DIVINITY SCHOOLS URGE PROFESSORS TO USE GENDER-NEUTRAL LANGUAGE FOR GOD

The following is excerpted from “Vanderbilt, Duke Divinity Schools,” TruthRevolt.org, Jan. 17, 2017: “Two of the nation’s top divinity schools are urging professors to strip away the male pronouns when referring to God and aim for more of an ‘exploration of fresh language for God.’ HeatStreet discovered that in the 2016-2017 Vanderbilt catalog, the divinity school has decided to ‘continuously and explicitly’ use ‘inclusive language, especially in relation to the Divine’ as a means ‘to mitigate sexism.’ This isn’t necessarily a new concept as these guidelines surfaced in 1999, according to divinity school Dean Melissa Snarr. The older document stressed that every name for God wasn’t always gendered and stated ‘masculine titles, pronouns, and imagery for God have served as a cornerstone for the patriarchy.’ It’s reported that Vanderbilt isn’t making this change a requirement and Snarr says, ‘It is up to the individual professor’s interpretation for their classes and is suggestive rather than mandatory.’ Duke’s divinity school guidelines are similar, calling for ‘developing a more inclusive language about God’ and avoiding masculine pronouns. ‘God’ or ‘Godself’ will suffice. Instead of saying ‘God the father,’ a professor at Duke is encouraged to say, ‘God the parent.’ Another example: ‘God is the father who welcomes his son, but she is also the woman searching for the lost coin.’”

JESUS IS COMING AGAIN

Both the Old and New Testaments are filled with promises of the second coming of Christ. There are 1,845 references to it in the Old Testament, and a total of seventeen Old Testament Books give it prominence. Of the 260 chapters in the New Testament, there are 318 references to the Second Coming, or one out of every thirty verses. Twenty-three out of the twenty-seven New Testament Books refer to this great event. The four missing Books include three which are single-chapter letters written to individual persons on a particular subject and the fourth is Galatians which does imply that Christ is coming again. For every prophecy on the first coming of Christ, there are eight on Christ's Second Coming. – Copied.

Of course, Jesus said many times Himself that He would come back again. He said, **“In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself: that where I am, there ye may be also.”** ~*John 14:2,3*. The question is will you be ready? Christian, will you be ready? Yes, you are ready to go to Heaven through faith in Christ, but are you living for Him? Or, are you a carnal, worldly Christian who'll be ashamed at His coming? My unsaved, Friend, you are not ready! Jesus also said, **“...Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”** ~*John 3:3*. You can be ready by receiving Him as your Savior. Don't wait until it is too late!

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BE YE THANKFUL

Ingratitude is one of the great flaws (and sins) in the nature of man. I dare say most individuals are given to it. One of the most pitiful scenes in the Bible is where Jesus healed ten lepers and only one man came back to give Him thanks for his great deliverance. Many years ago, I am quite sure it was in the great depression, a certain radio personality had a program which he called “The Job Center of the Air.” The program helped over 2,500 people find employment in very difficult times. He later reported that of that great number, only ten individuals ever took the time to give him thanks. Similarly, a man remembered a school teacher who had been very helpful to him in his school years, now long past. He sent her a letter expressing his gratitude for her helpfulness. She was now in her eighties and living all alone. Upon receiving his encouraging letter, she sat down and penned a reply. She said, “I can't tell you how much your letter meant to me. You will be interested to know that I spent 50 years teaching school, and yours is the first note of appreciation that I have received. It came on a blue, cold morning and it filled me with tears.” If our ingratitude to man is bad, what about ingratitude to God. That not only involves the unsaved, but what about all of the Christians who are ungrateful to God for His goodness. For many Christians, football will hold sway for hours but no time to attend a Thanksgiving Service. How sad! The Bible says, **“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.”** ~*Psalms 103:2*. The Christian ought to overflow with thanksgiving – not just one day a year, but every day! **“Be ye thankful.”** ~*Col. 3:15*.