

Ministers:
the congregation

Kenny Chumbley
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Sunday:
8:00 AM: WGCY
9:00 AM: Worship

Wednesday:
7:00 PM: Bible Study

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This Past Week:
Worship—32
Wednesday—12
Contribution—\$

For meditation:
Proverbs 31.21–22
Clothes should be functional but must they be drab and dull to be godly? Is dressing plain inherently more righteous than being stylish and fashionable in dress? Cf. 1 Peter 3.3–4.

Radio program:
WGCY FM, 106.3
Sundays at 8 AM

Eugenics, 6

The love of money is the root of all evil (1 Tim. 6.10), and I would venture that the love of money is the root of which eugenics—whether abortion, euthanasia, etc.—is a fruit. Eugenacists propose to eliminate poverty/preserve wealth by eliminating people. They argue that eliminating people is the solution to all sorts of societal ills: the drain on wealth, the drain on one's time, freeing caregivers from the mundane drudgery of caring for another, etc.

If man were but a higher form of animal, the laws of husbandry might apply. But while man may share some biology with animals, we are God's special creature, which means that theology is to come before biology. Whenever man turns to man from God, he invariably is choosing death over life. The denial of God doesn't lead to a richer humanity but to subhuman and inhuman acts, like the killing dependent young and the dependent old. God as man's creator has the final say—not you, or your doctor, or any other “expert”—on who lives and who dies (Job 1.21). God has given man the right to kill certain criminals (Gen. 9.6, Rom. 13.4), but I've yet to find where He gave anyone the right to kill a baby because it was inconvenient or an elderly person because they were mentally impaired.

Two concluding thoughts:

First, “Never send to know for whom the bell tolls,” said John Donne, “it tolls for thee.” If you have the right to decide that another needs to die, don't be surprised if the day comes when another decides you need to die.

Second, if you've had an abortion or facilitated one, or if you've agreed to the medical killing of a mentally impaired elderly person, confess it to God for He is “faithful and just to forgive” (1 Jn. 1.9).

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Gibson City church of Christ

Highway 47 South, Gibson City, IL

Jesus Derangement Syndrome

“Derangement syndrome” is a political term coined about twenty years ago that describes a blind prejudice that closes its eyes to the evidence and leaves a man incapable of judging fairly or rationally. Worse, it is a cold-blooded hatred that resorts to any means—up to and including murder (1 Jn. 3.15)—to destroy an opponent.

No man was more victimized by this syndrome than Jesus Christ.

- For being congenial and enjoying the company of others, He was slandered Him as a glutton, a boozier, and a friend of misfits (Matt. 11.19).
- For casting demons out of poor, tortured creatures, the Jewish swamp said He was only able to do so because he was in collusion with the devil (Matt. 12.24).
- He gave sight to a man blind from birth and the nicest thing the Jews could was that He was a sinner because He performed the cure on the Sabbath (Jn. 9.16).
- He wept with those who wept over the death of Lazarus, and His tears were twisted into a taunt that implied He was partially to blame for Lazarus's death (Jn. 11.37.)
- When slander didn't stop Him, they tried to arrest Him. Then they tried to kill Him and they kept at it until they succeeded.

Derangement syndrome—there's nothing new under the sun.

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Sermon: Philippians 3.17–21

Enemies & Citizens

12 October 2024

Atheism Always Ends in Annihilation

I spent this past week with some old friends, and one thing we did was to discuss C. S. Lewis's book, *The Abolition of Man*. In this book, Lewis argues that to deny God/objective truth and make every belief, value, or moral subjective inevitably leads to the abolition/destruction of man. Anyone familiar with the 20th and 21st centuries, or with Judges 17–21, or Francis Schaeffer's *Escape from Reason*, or Paul Johnson's *Modern Times*, or J. W. Montgomery's *The Shaping of America* understands that the opposite of truth is not just lies, but moral and societal chaos.

And why does the denial of God lead to man's destruction? It's because without faith in God, there's no moral or spiritual glue to hold society together. Unbelief can only survive as a parasite on belief. It's only because good men hold society together that the evil and criminal have a society in which to operate. Man without God lacks the tools needed to build and sustain a truly civilized, social environment.

Not far from where I live, just across the Wabash, is the community of New Harmony, Indiana. Founded by the Scotsman Robert Owen, it was established to show that man, on his own, without divine help, can create a self-sustaining utopia of educational reform, scientific research, and artistic expression.

The experiment only lasted two years before it went to pieces on the rocks of selfishness and opposition to socialistic principles. "The universe," wrote Stanley Jones, "is not built for the success of evil—evil sooner or later destroys itself." "The way of the ungodly shall perish" (Ps. 1.6).

If Christianity is false, if there is no God, the consequences for the human predicament are disastrous. If there is no God, we live in a world of complete moral relativism where no act—no matter how hideous or heinous—can be condemned. To deny an absolute Being and absolute truth is to reduce everything to an absurdity and a society in which might makes right.

Sadly, many are attempting to open this door. If they succeed, history will repeat itself and human life will be worthless.

Whoso has felt the Spirit of the Highest

Cannot confound nor doubt Him nor deny

Yes, with one voice, O world, though though deniest

Stand thou on that side, for on this side am I.

Frederick Myers

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The King James Bible, 3

"Advocates of the modern versions," wrote Terence Brown, one-time secretary of the Trinitarian Bible Society of London, "often assume that they are the product of scholarship far superior to that of the translators of the King James Version of 1611, but this assumption is not supported by the facts" ("The Learned Men," *Which Bible?*, David Otis Fuller, 13).

There's no argument that the KJV could have been improved in various ways (e.g., "love" rather than "charity" should have been used in 1 Cor. 13). But the translators of the KJV were scrupulously committed to adhering to the exact words of Scripture; when they felt it necessary to supply a word not found in the Greek manuscripts, they put the word in italics.

Of the fifty-four men chosen, they all had a profound knowledge of the languages in which the Bible, and notable versions, had been written. Some of the original fifty-four died or withdrew from the project before it was finished, leaving forty-seven who saw it through to the end. These were divided into six groups—two Westminster committees, an Oxford OT committee, an Oxford NT committee, and two Cambridge committees. Each group was responsible for translating a certain portion of the Biblical text. Everyone in each group first translated the entire portion independently. Then the group met to compare their translations with each other and decide upon a final form. Then they sent a draft of their final translation to the other groups for comment and consent. A select committee then went through the entire translation to do a final check.

No one believes that the translators were infallible or that their work was perfect, but no one can deny they were men of outstanding scholarship who were well qualified for their work. They were indeed "learned men" who had a deep conviction of the Divine origin of the records they were translating. Their learning and faith combined to produce a translation that has enriched millions of Bible readers for over 400 years.

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News about us

- Kellee's struggle to regain health continues. There may have been some improvement this past week. Pray for her, Mike, and the family
- Especially keep Jerry and Carolyn in your prayers.