

Tuesday, March 30, 2010

THE EVIL OF "HEAR NO EVIL, SEE NO EVIL"

It is another dismal, dreary and very damp day here. The morning news featured the horrific story of the bullying that led to the suicide of a 15 year old girl in the toney town of South Hadley, home of Mount Holyoke. Nine teenagers have been charged with (in so many words) tormenting her to death with incessant verbal and physical bullying over a 4 month period. It remains to be seen what this will amount to, but at least the DA is making a statement and the Legislature is drafting an appropriate Law (word is that it will have no teeth to it, After all, "kids will be kids.") My outrage here is over the fact that this was common knowledge in the school (to students and Staff) and no one did anything about it. The adults have not been charged with any criminal behavior. But allowing this to go on, in my book, is very "criminal", if not legally, morally.

[da_charges_9_teens_faults_school_officials_in_s_hadley_bullying_case/](#)

Through the years, during Lent, I have driven by churches with 3 crosses on their front lawn and the words of Lamentations 1:12 posted before them.

"Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look around and see if there is any suffering like mine..."Of course, the church is calling attention to the crosses of Calvary and the brutal murder of Jesus there and the apathy or indifference to that by most people driving by. These words can also be directed to those who passed by Phoebe Snow as she suffered- "Is this nothing to you?" Shame on them!But as I thought about this, I realized that here are all kinds of horrible, terrible things happening to people around the world today to which we are indifferent. Good Friday is coming and we remember the innocent suffering of Jesus on his cross, singing somber songs and offering prayers, rightly saying "mea culpa".We should also pause to think of the millions elsewhere who are innocent victims of brutal oppression nailed on crosses of their own. We may not be personally responsible for hanging them there, but to walk by and do nothing should also lead us to say "mea culpa", which means, "my fault", i.e.- I am guilty of sin by doing this-. It is morally wrong to pass by. That should motivate us to take action on their behalf and not be like the "good" students and Staff of S.Hadley High

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:49

Sunday, March 28, 2010

ENDING BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP FOR CHILDREN OF ILLEGALS

"Congress has heard testimony estimating that more than two-thirds of all births in Los Angeles public hospitals, and more than half of all births in that city, and nearly 10 percent of all births in the nation in recent years, have been to mothers who are here illegally. [There seems to be] no constitutional impediment to Congress ending the granting of birthright citizenship to those whose presence here is 'not only without the government's consent but in violation of its law.' To end the practice of 'birthright citizenship,' all that is required is to correct the misinterpretation of the 14th Amendment's first sentence: 'All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside.' From these words has flowed the practice of conferring citizenship on children born here to illegal immigrants."
from George Will [HERE](#)

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 16:14

Friday, March 26. 2010

EASTER AND ABORTION

With the debate over Obamacare, the subject of Abortion has come to the fore once again. It is related to Healthcare, the Problem of Poverty and Easter. Here is how-

"Ever since C. Everett Koop and Francis Schaeffer pricked our consciences, abortion has been on the front burner for socially minded evangelicals. Thirty-five years since Roe v. Wade, it's time to ask whether it should remain the sine qua non of Christian social engagement. Claiming to represent the new center, an increasingly self-confident wing of sincere evangelicals thinks not. "The evangelical social agenda is now much broader and deeper," asserts Jim Wallis in his new book, *The Great Awakening*, "engaging issues such as poverty and economic justice, global warming, HIV/aids, sex trafficking, genocide in Darfur, and the ethics of the war in Iraq." [Many Evangelicals] seem to be saying that fighting legalized abortion—the deliberate, state-sanctioned taking of 50 million unborn human lives from their mothers' wombs since 1973 (and the accompanying national guilt)—should simply be one item among many on an ever-expanding evangelical to-do list."

- from an article by Stan Guthrie in CT, 5/20/2008 [HERE](#)

Should abortion be the top moral priority of our time? It should not. Being pro-life should be. The first God-given universal Human Right is the Right to live. Life is the highest priority.

If we accept the definition that human life begins at the moment of conception, then eliminating voluntary abortion (the intentional taking of that human life) should remain a top priority among moral issues in our Society. Conception is the fertilization of an egg by a sperm. This is the beginning of an embryo, a human being. Some birth control methods prevent sperm from reaching the egg and thus fertilization. The fertilized egg, called a zygote, undergoes rapid cell division and growth. This cell mass, now called the blastocyst, is implanted into the inner wall of the mother's uterus, where it will remain for the duration of prenatal development. The embryo is called a fetus after eight weeks. Some birth control methods prevent the blastocyst from being implanted in the uterus. Since there is normally a continuum from conception to birth, it can be said that the zygote, blastocyst, fetus and the embryo are a human being at different developmental stages. Every human child and adult began his or her life at conception. The adult is a zygote fully developed. To destroy a zygote (or a blastocyst, fetus and the embryo) is to destroy a specific human being. Every human being becomes a Person. A Person is a composite of all those attributes or faculties that Human Beings possess because they are created and conceived to be the Image of God. That is the essential argument against Abortion on demand. To me, the most compelling argument for insisting that an embryo is a human being is that being a "person" involves having a body. This is what makes the resurrection of the physical body so essential and important. Persons can not exist as disembodied spirits. A Person is not a dualism: body and soul; but rather a person is a unity: one. Body is integral to being a Person. Inasmuch as the body begins with conception, therefore, so does personhood. Soul or *Nepesh* [naw fahsh] is used 700 times in the Bible. It never means "soul" as that word is commonly understood today. The root meaning of *Nepesh* is "breath". It is used in that basic sense. (Genesis 1:30, 2:7, 7:21) *Nepesh* comes to mean anything with breath. This includes all beings, animals- "living creatures" (Genesis 1:20,21,24 also 2:19, 7:21, 9:9-16) *Nepesh* comes to mean a human being, i.e.- Man is a soul. (Genesis 12:5,13;14:21; 17:14) Finally, *Nepesh* also can mean the emotional center of human beings (cf English "heart") Note: Hebrew for "heart" is *LEB* and that normally means the intellectual and volitional center---these are not technical, precise terms] Psalm 6:3 My soul is in anguish. Psalm 107:9 God satisfies the thirsty soul and fills the hungry soul with good things. Psalm 119:20 My soul is consumed with longing... Psalm 35:9 my soul will rejoice in the LORD. Deuteronomy 6:5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart [LAY VAHV= MIND] and with all your soul. Thus, conception could be said to be the beginning of a "soul" and abortion the death of a soul. And that happens about 1 million times each year in America! All of these issues are wrapped up in the one subject of Abortion and are reasons why it must be top priority, and not just one of many social concerns. The meaning and value of being "human", a "person", is extremely important and is under serious assault in many quarters today and the practice of abortion is a part of that. Many other subjects are related to Abortion, including Sexuality, Gender Roles (a "woman's rights") and Marriage and Family. All these follow immediately after Abortion on that list, but being Pro-Life is at the top of the list for good reason. It must not be dismissed as a Fundamentalist obsession. The solution to such problems such as World Poverty and Aids actually requires that we address first the issues involved with Abortion. The latter is not an add-on or only one of many priorities. When the world is truly Pro-Life, Pro-Human first, followed by Pro-Marriage and Family, then it will have the platform from which to address seriously all the other Social and Economic and Political Issues.

Posted by Cal at 19:54

PAYING THE PIPER or "FEEDING THE BEAST"

OK, we now have a form of "Universal Health Care". How will it be paid for? The VATman cometh!
"Liberals have long complained that Reagan's strategy was to starve the (governmental) beast in order to shrink it: First, cut taxes -- then ultimately you have to reduce government spending. Obama's strategy is exactly the opposite: Expand the beast and then feed it. Spend first -- which then forces taxation. Now that, with the institution of universal health care, we are becoming the full entitlement state, the beast will have to be fed. And the VAT is the only trough in creation large enough." Read more from this very chilling column-
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/25/AR2010032502406.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:30

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

CONSERVATIVE OR BIBLICAL?

The columnists I quote in the posts below reflect the secular Conservative perspective. There should be no question that they also reflect a Biblical perspective. Somehow, tragically, incredibly, Evangelicals who claim that the Bible is their ultimate authority for the doctrines of their Faith and for the Principles by which they want to live, fail to see that Idolatry is the major evil condemned by that Bible and that worship of the State is Idolatry and utter foolishness. When is the State an Idol? When it takes the place of God in the life of a Nation and its citizens. When is the State worshiped? When people trust it, yea, demand it, take care of them and provide for all their needs from cradle to grave. This idolatrous worship is increasingly evident in America, even as it was in ancient Israel, culminating in its downfall. Evangelicals forget the Bible's warnings about Totalitarianism. That is a major theme of the Book of Revelation. They also seem to forget their World History which gives ample reason to beware Tyrants and golden tongued demagogues who seduce the masses with rhetoric and promises. Evangelicals also seem to want material, physical and social security more than anything else as demonstrated by their support of politicians and government programs and policies that promise to provide these things. There is not much evidence that there is a real place in their value system for a life of the spirit, faith, cross-bearing, self-denying and discipleship. They do not seem to be committed to living in obedience to the demands of Jesus or the Commands of God. Lord have Mercy! Evangelicals share a lot of values and principles with secular conservatives. We differ greatly over the values that are most dear to Conservatives: social and economic Freedom and political Liberty. We were set free from our sin by Christ in order to live in bondage to Him. We agree to having a king, but we want no king but Jesus. Our entire lives are to be lived in His service and by his Law, not by our laws nor our desires and certainly not for the pursuit of our personal happiness.

Posted by Cal in Christian Living at 11:46

FROM GEORGE WILL- "PROMOTING DEPENDANCY"

"As America's teetering tower of unkeepable promises grows, so does the weight of government, in taxes and mandates that limit investments and discourage job creation. America's dynamism, and hence upward social mobility, will slow, as the economy becomes what the party of government wants it to be -- increasingly dependent on government-created demand. Promoting dependency is the Democratic Party's vocation. The party knows that almost all entitlements are forever, and those that are not -- e.g., the lifetime eligibility for welfare, repealed in 1996 -- are not for the middle class. Democrats believe, plausibly, that middle-class entitlements are instantly addictive and, because there is no known detoxification, that class, when facing future choices between trimming entitlements or increasing taxes, will choose the latter. The taxes will disproportionately burden high earners, thereby tightening the noose of society's dependency on government for investments and job creation." <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/22/AR2010032201528.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:41

FROM DAVID BROOKS- "WHAT'S NEXT?"

"The essence of America is energy — the vibrancy of the market, the mobility of the people and the disruptive creativity of the entrepreneurs. Today, America's vigor is challenged on two fronts. First, the country is becoming geriatric. Other nations spend 10 percent or so of their G.D.P. on health care. We spend 17 percent and are predicted to soon spend 20 percent and then 25 percent. This legislation was supposed to end that asphyxiating growth, which will crowd out investments in innovation, education and everything else. It will not. The second biggest threat to America's vibrancy is the exploding federal debt. Again, Democrats can utter the words of fiscal restraint, but they don't feel the passion. This bill is full of gimmicks designed to get a good score from the Congressional Budget Office but not to really balance the budget. Democrats did enough to solve their political problem (not looking fiscally reckless) but not enough to solve the genuine problem. Nobody knows how this bill will work out. It is an undertaking exponentially more complex than the Iraq war, for example. But to me, it feels like the end of something, not the beginning of something. It feels like the noble completion of the great liberal project to build a comprehensive welfare system. The task ahead is to save this country from stagnation and fiscal ruin" <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/23/opinion/23brooks1.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:31

FROM CAL THOMAS- "BALONEY"

"Pork is the preferred metaphor in Washington for misspending. But last weekend, pork took a backseat to baloney, which was present in abundance as President Obama and House Democrats tried to convince the public — and themselves — that their takeover of one-sixth of the economy is going to improve health insurance and the availability of medical treatment.<http://www.calthomas.com/index.php?news=2868>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:19

Tuesday, March 23. 2010

NEW CHANGES ON WEBSITE

I have added new articles to my website and my webmaster, Norm, and I have made major changes to the format of the website. We hope it will be more user friendly. Please let us know. Thanks- Cal
<http://www.reformedliving.org/>

Posted by Cal at 12:07

Monday, March 22, 2010

ECONOMIC JUSTICE THE BIBLE WAY

Biblical Values that Make Economic Justice Possible

Loyalty to God, His Name and His Day (Sabbath) Society based on Marriage and Children and extended Family Personal Morality Hard Work and education that enables people to do that work Private Property and good stewardship of it, maintaining freedom from debt Profit making from work and development of private property Profits for meeting the needs of family and others, as well as for reinvestment in private property for more profit The Civil Government is not to be involved in any of the above at all. Its sole purpose is keeping Law and Order (Justice), maintaining honest courts and ensuring due process; passing and enforcing laws preserving these Biblical values and maintaining a militia to protect citizens from corruption, exploitation or violence. To these ends it may collect taxes and Christians are to pay them. As to the Poor. The Bible defines the Poor as people who are utterly destitute due to no fault of their own, but due to tragedy, war, sickness and death or due to the oppression of others who steal their land or prevent them from working it (often taking them into exile and captivity). The Poor of the Bible are not, for the most part, what today's Society considers to be the Poor, especially unwed mothers and illegitimate children in "single parent families". The first recourse of the Poor in the Bible is to God and to hard work to get back on their feet. Those unable to do so, especially widows and orphans, are to be cared for by their extended family or their church. The local community is also to help those truly Poor through various charitable programs (such as Gleaning) and Tithing, a third of which was to be collected for distribution to the otherwise destitute. A key to all such charitable work was that it was personal, given by people who have com-compassion. The Civil Government had nothing to do with the care of the Poor. See more on my website [HERE](#)

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 16:50

A BIBLICAL HEALTH CARE PLAN

On my website is an Essay Developing a Biblical Basis for Health Care

It includes these topics-

Fundamental Biblical Principles to guide Health Care Policy The Constitution and Government Health

Insurance Christians and Health Health Care and Moral Issues Specific Cost Cutting Possibilities: Major Biblical Principle-

Good Stewardship

Posted by Cal in Bible Topics at 14:46

FAILING TO COUNT THE COSTS

Many Americans are gullible fools, believing in panaceas, slogans, quick fixes and short term gains with no regard to long care costs and consequences. This describes the people who voted for Obamacare and those citizens who approve of it and think it's a great thing for "America".

They are like Esau who gave up his future inheritance for a bowl of vegetable stew, because he was hungry and having that stew was "better than making no choice at all". (see Genesis 25:29-34)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:32

Sunday, March 21, 2010

BLARNEY, BALDERDASH and UNMITIGATED GALL (to put it nicely)

Obama said. "Don't do it for me. Don't do it for the Democratic Party," he added. "Do it for the American people."- Boston Globe headline this morning
Which American people? - not me! the majority of Americans are protesting loudly that they do not want Mr Obama's version of "Health Care Reform".

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:13

Saturday, March 20, 2010

DECHURCHED CHRISTIANS

We received a letter today from our Pastor inviting everyone on the mailing list to Services for Holy Week and Easter Day. His list of reasons why folks should attend are exactly the reasons why many Christians do not attend. The Pastor uses Jesus promise: "where two or three are gathered together, there I am in the midst". He mentions the reasons for attending include Christian fellowship and support- worshiping together in the presence of Christ who will be with us. There is no substitute, he says, for the blessings and encouragement that comes when Christians gather together. Yes, we agree, say the dechurched, Believers who have dropped out of church. And we find, they say, exactly all of that in our small groups or house fellowship- but without all the nonsense and stress that goes with having a building and maintaining a Church organization. Read more [HERE](#)

What can be said to the dechurched? What does the institutional church offer? The Church offers approved, trained Clergy who in turn, ideally, offer solid Biblical sermons and Teaching. They celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion, as well as provide Pastoral ministry throughout a life time of special events, such as weddings, births, tragedies, hardships and funerals. The Church provides special Observances of the Church year, such as Christmas and Easter. The Church offers structured Christian Education for all ages. It teaches and passes on the Heritage and History of the Church to succeeding generations. With its buildings and activities, the Church offers a visible, public presence for God in the local community for generations. It is a stable and permanent Lighthouse for Truth in that place. And it is a place open to all 24/7 to receive counsel and guidance for personal Salvation and Christian Living. It is a recruiting and training center for world-wide missionary work.

A small group or home fellowship, while of value to those few who attend, can not replace a Church. Let's pray the dechurched will realize the church they have walked away from is a Treasure to value and commit to, regardless of how imperfect it may be at times. Christ Himself instituted the institutional Church. It is His, He loves it and it shall prevail long after small groups pass away.

Posted by Cal in Church at 13:27

CELTIC CHRISTIANITY

Every year I say, in the name of historical accuracy, "Saint Patrick" was neither Roman Catholic nor Irish. Here is a very good list of resources about Patrick, but especially about Celtic Christianity <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ch/1998/issue60>

Posted by Cal in Theological Issues at 13:23

JIM WALLIS AND GLENN BECK, ET AL

Lot of discussion about Social Justice in the current CT magazine. In this article, Glenn Beck is over the top in his criticism of Jim Wallis, but evangelicals like Al Mohler, are not hearing what Mr Wallis is saying. For him Social Justice includes taking on systemic evil. Addressing such evil, he believes, requires remedial Government involvement and action and thus he functions as a liberal Democrat and tends to support a welfare state. Mr Beck has got a point when he criticizes Wallis for this, but Evangelicals generally simply do not "get" this issue of systemic social, political and economic evil and have nothing much to say about such matters (and they should, the Bible does) They may profess a concern about promoting Social Justice, but their understanding of what that involves is very different than Mr Wallis and what I advocate on my website.

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2010/marchweb-only/21-51.0.html>

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 13:10

LORD HAVE MERCY

I have not been posting much lately because I find the daily news on just about every subject to be a source of daily

depression. I can not remember another time when I was as discouraged and disgusted with our Country's Leadership and Policies and Society's mores and morals as I am now. I find absolutely nothing good about our current President and Congressional leaders. This is not suprising. We are getting exactly what the majority wanted when they elected Mr Obama. He is a big time, progressive, Roosevelt and Wilson type ideological Liberal Pragmatist. I am glad to see that many other Americans share my dismay and opposition. But I am dismayed that so many Evangelicals do not and are bowing down to worship the State and looking to it to save our Country from its decay and dissolution.

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:49

IT IS OBAMACARE, NOT HEALTH CARE!!

Many people are in favor of a slogan: "Health Care Reform" We all believe such reform is necessary. The President and Democrats are say they are offering it. But they are not! They are offering a version of Reform and many of us absolutely do not want that version. There are others. It is far more accurate to call what is being offered Obamacare. His version is wrong on so many levels. Here are just a few resources to check-
<http://www.aei.org/article/101796>
<http://blog.heritage.org/2010/03/17/the-senate-health-bill->
<http://www.nationalreview.com/>
<http://www.heritage.org/>

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 10:06

EDUCATION REFORM?

From an excellent column by George Will about proposed Education Reform-

"Plainly put, the best predictor of a school's performance is family performance -- qualities of the families from which the students come. Subsequent research suggests that about 90 percent of the differences among the proficiency of schools can be explained by five factors: days absent from school, hours spent watching television, pages read for homework, the quantity and quality of reading matter in the home -- and the presence of two parents in the home."
"Government can do next to nothing about family structure, which is why it is pointless for Duncan to suggest that "access" is why "the door to college still does not swing open evenly for everyone." It will not so swing as long as 71.6 percent of African American children and 51.3 percent of Latino children are born to unmarried women. The political class flinches from talking about those numbers, preferring to take refuge behind talk about "rights." But those numbers go far to explain numbers that Duncan does cite: White high school graduates are twice as likely as black or Latino graduates to have taken AP calculus classes. The political system cannot candidly discuss, let alone cope with, the reasons why, for example, there are few if any high-performing inner-city school systems."
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/>

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 09:43

TOP BASKETBALL TEAM LOSERS

NOT ONLY did the University of Connecticut women's basketball team carry a 72-game winning streak into the Division 1 tournament, it also is bringing along a 100 percent graduation rate. In fact, all four top-seeded teams in the National Collegiate Athletic Association's Division 1 women's tournament, which also includes Stanford, Tennessee, and Nebraska, have a 100 percent graduation rate. The top eight seeds have a graduation rate of 94 percent and the top 16 are at 87 percent. But then there are the Men's teams-
http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:35

Friday, March 19, 2010

"ALICE IN WONDERLAND" IS NOT A CHILDREN'S MOVIE

I read many movie reviews. As a result, I do not go to many movies. (the few I see I get from Netflix) A woman I know told me Sunday that her young 12ish daughter loved the current Alice in Wonderland movie. I mentioned that it is nothing like the original story and not a good film for children. Another friend standing near by asked if I had seen it. I said no, but told her of the reviews. The ones who liked it enjoyed the cinematography

Here are a few to check out. See for yourself.

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/movies/reviews>

http://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/10009599-alice_in_wonderland/

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:49

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

THE RELIGION OF GLOBAL WARMING

Global+warming+religion+First+World+urban+elites/1835847/story.html
content/article/2010/02/19/AR2010021903046.html
oped/articles/2010/03/03/gore_still_hot_on_his_doomsday_rhetoric/

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 22:14

Monday, March 1, 2010

LOOKING FOR THE GOOD STUFF

The portion of Scripture read at Church yesterday that really "spoke" to me was Psalm 27:17. The Psalmist ponders "What if I had not believed that I should see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living?!" It struck me how jaded, cynical and pessimistic I am often prone to be. I realized that I often do not expect to see the goodness of God in the world around me. That is terrible. I do not want to be stuck in that gear while I drive around today. The Lord used this verse to encourage me to lift my eyes higher and look for Him at work. When I leave the house I will be on the watch for the goodness of the Lord.

Posted by Cal in Christian Living at 08:27

CAPTURE AND CHERISH THE MOMENT

My brother is a professional Artist. The slogan on his website <http://wafoxpaw.com/> is "capture and cherish the moment". One way to do that is by having a portrait of a loved one painted. However, we chose to do it, this is good advice for all of us in this fast paced world

Posted by Cal in Christian Living at 08:18

CAPTURING VISION and GIVING KUDOS

One of our sons, Kevin, has begun a publishing company- Kudos Press. It's first book comes off the press this month. The company motto is "Giving and facilitating kudos where kudos are due." /kudospress
Another business he maintains is <http://www.fox4editing.com/> Its motto is "Capture your Vision"
1 WANT TO PUT THESE MOTTOES HIGH ON MY 2DO LIST

Posted by Cal in Christian Living at 07:58