

Sunday, September 26, 2010

## **BLESSED ARE THE POOR**

The Preacher we heard this morning titled his sermon, "God is biased" He explained that he, the preacher, was a liberal Democrat, but he was speaking today as a Bible Scholar. He went on to explain his sermon title: God is biased toward the Poor. He began with Luke 6:20 And he [Jesus] lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: "Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. 21 "Blessed are you that hunger now, for you shall be satisfied. 24 "But woe to you that are rich, for you have received your consolation 25 "Woe to you that are full now, for you shall hunger. The Preacher then gave statistics about Poverty in the US [as defined by our Government] and the great gap there is between rich and poor in this country. Yes, there is such a gap, but is any of this what Jesus meant by this Beatitude? Who are the "Poor" to whom Jesus is referring in the Beatitude of Luke 6:20?

Please read my entire and extensive study of the Beatitudes which follows.

### **BEATITUDES OF MATTHEW 5**

Basis of Interpretation:

1. Old Testament and Luke given priority over Paul. Original audience was the Disciples, not unbelievers.

Historical-literal meaning given priority over a spiritual-theological meaning

Primary Old Testament Cross Reference

Isaiah 61:1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted [the poor]; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; 2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; 3 to grant to those who mourn in Zion — to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.

Primary New Testament Cross References

Luke 4:17 and there -was given to him the book of the prophet Isaiah. He opened the book and found the place where it was written, 18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed. 19 to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." 20 And he closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 And he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Luke 6:20 And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: "Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. 21 "Blessed are you that hunger now, for you shall be satisfied. "Blessed are you that weep now, for you shall laugh. 22 "Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, on account of the Son of man! 23 Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets. 24 "But woe to you that are rich, for you have received your consolation 25 "Woe to you that are full now, for you shall hunger. "Woe to you that laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. 26 "Woe to you, when all men speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.

5:3 the poor in spirit

These are those who feel helpless and destitute through difficult circumstances and who hope in God for deliverance—the opposite of the arrogant and self-sufficient. This describes the righteous poor of the Psalms; they are keenly conscious of a desperate need and are certain that God, and God alone, can meet that need, e.g.- Psalm 10

1 Why dost thou stand afar off, O LORD? Why dost thou hide thyself in times of trouble? 2 In arrogance the wicked hotly pursue the poor; let them be caught in the schemes which they have devised. 8 He sits in ambush in the villages; in hiding places he murders the innocent. His eyes stealthily watch for the hapless, 9 he lurks in secret like a lion in his covert; he lurks that he may seize the poor, he seizes the poor when he draws him into his net. 10 The hapless is crushed, sinks down, and falls by his might. 11 He thinks in his heart, "God has forgotten, he has hidden his face, he will never see it." 12 Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up thy hand; forget not the afflicted. 14 Thou dost see; yea, thou dost note trouble and vexation, that thou mayest take it into thy hands; the hapless commits himself to thee; thou hast been the helper of the fatherless. 17 O LORD, thou wilt hear the desire of the meek; thou wilt strengthen their heart, thou wilt incline thy ear 18 to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed, so that man who is of the earth may strike terror no more. 5:4 those who mourn

These are those who grieve because they are oppressed. They look to God for their comfort and deliverance. Again, see the righteous poor in the Psalms and ancient Israel, e.g.-

Psalm 34:1 I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. 2 let the afflicted hear and be glad. 4 I sought the LORD, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears. 6 This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. 7 The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. 8 O taste and see that the LORD is good! Happy is the man who takes refuge in him!. 15 The eyes of

the LORD are toward the righteous, and his ears toward their cry.. 17 When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. 18 The LORD is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit. 19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

Remember that the Disciples, and the Church that heard the Beatitudes first, were persecuted people

Luke 6:22 "Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, on account of the Son of man! Luke 6:21 "Blessed are you that weep now, for you shall laugh.

Matthew 5:4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted Matthew 5:11 "Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so men persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Revelation 7:9 I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no man could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb!" 13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and whence have they come?" 14 I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night within his temple; and he who sits upon the throne will shelter them with his presence. 16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. 17 For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

2 Corinthians 1:3 blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort. 4 who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 5 For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. 6 If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. 7 Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort. 8 For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of the affliction we experienced in Asia; for we were so utterly, unbearably crushed that we despaired of life itself. 9 Why, we felt that we had received the sentence of death; but that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead; 10 he delivered us from so deadly a peril, and he will deliver us; on him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. 5:5 the meek [almost synonymous with "the poor"]

These are those who remain disciplined and under control in the midst of trying circumstances, patiently enduring while they wait for God's help

Psalms 37:1 Fret not yourself because of the wicked, be not envious of wrongdoers! 2 For they will soon fade like the grass, and wither like the green herb. 3 Trust in the LORD, and do good; so you will dwell in the land, and enjoy security. 5 Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act. 6 He will bring forth your vindication as the light, and your right as the noonday. 7 Be still before the LORD, and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over him who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices! 8 Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil. 9 For the wicked shall be cut off; but those who wait for the LORD shall possess the land. 10 Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look well at his place, he will not be there. 11 But the meek shall possess the land, and delight themselves in abundant prosperity.

5:6 those who hunger and thirst for righteousness

1. These are those who hunger for God to act on behalf of the faithful poor, mourning and meek- delivering and vindicating them: This would be righteousness- God doing what is right for His people: justice. This is the primary meaning of "Righteousness".

Psalms 37:12 The wicked plots against the righteous, and gnashes his teeth at him; 13 but the LORD laughs at the wicked, for he sees that his day is coming. 14 The wicked draw the sword and bend their bows, to bring down the poor and needy, to slay those who walk uprightly; IS their sword shall enter their own heart, and their bows shall be broken. 16 Better is a little that the righteous has than the abundance of many wicked. 17 For the arms of the wicked shall be broken; but the LORD upholds the righteous. 28 For the LORD loves justice; he will not forsake his saints. The righteous shall be preserved for ever, but the children of the wicked shall be cut off. 29 The righteous shall possess the land, and dwell upon it for ever. 32 The wicked watches the righteous, and seeks to slay him. 33 The LORD will not abandon him to his power, or let him be condemned when he is brought to trial. 34 Wait for the LORD, and keep to his way, and he will exalt you to possess the land; you will look on the destruction of the wicked. 35 I have seen a wicked man overbearing, and towering like a cedar of Lebanon. 38 But transgressors shall be altogether destroyed; the posterity of the wicked shall be cut off. 39 The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; he is their refuge in the time of trouble. 40 The LORD helps them and delivers them; he delivers them from the wicked, and saves them, because they take refuge in him. 5:10 those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake [i.e.- for doing right]

This is the second meaning of "Righteousness" It is right conduct, conduct based on God's Law; people doing what is right in God's eyes

Matthew 21:32 For John came to [show you -NIVJ the way of righteousness

Luke 3:7 [John] said to the multitudes that came out to be baptized by him. "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 10 And the multitudes asked him, "What then shall we do? "11 And he answered them, "He

who has two coats, let him share with him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise." 12 Tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" 13 And he said to them, "Collect no more than is appointed you." 14 Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Rob no one by violence or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."

1 Peter 3:12 For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those that do evil. 13 Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is right? 14 But even if you do suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, 16 and keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are abused, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. 17 For it is better to suffer for doing right, if that should be God's will, than for doing wrong.

4:12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal which comes upon you to prove you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice in so far as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. 14 If you are reproached for the name of Christ, you are blessed, 15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or a thief, or a wrongdoer, or a mischief-maker; 16 yet if one suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but under that name let him glorify God. 19 Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will do right and entrust their souls to a faithful Creator.

5:7 the merciful

These are those who practice mercy, i.e.- deeds of compassion, especially to the undeserving; similar to canceling debts-

Matthew 18:23 "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. 24 When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; 25 and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. 26 So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' 27 And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. 28 But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' 29 So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' 30 He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt. 31 When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. 32 Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; 33 and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?'

Luke 10:29 he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" 30 Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. 31 Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. 32 So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion, 34 and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35 And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' 36 Which of these three, do you think, proved neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" 37 He said, "The one who showed mercy on him." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

5:8 the pure in heart

The word "pure" means unadulterated, unmixed; these are people in whom there is nothing devious, there is no deceit and no hypocrisy; they are utterly sincere and not double-minded

Matthew 6:1 "Beware of practicing your piety before men in order to be seen by them; for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. 2 "Thus, when you give alms, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 3 But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Matthew 23:13 "But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because you shut the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither enter yourselves, nor allow those who would enter to go in. 15 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you traverse sea and land to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves. 23 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law, justice and mercy and faith; these you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. 24 You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel! 25 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you cleanse the outside of the cup and of the plate, but inside they are full of extortion and rapacity. 26 You blind Pharisee! first cleanse the inside of the cup and of the plate, that the outside also may be clean. 27 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. 28 So you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but within you are full of hypocrisy and iniquity. 29 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! 33 You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell?"

5:9 the peacemakers  
What God did as Peacemaker was to remove the barrier that existed between humanity and Himself-

Ephesians 2:11 remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, 12... were at that time separated from Christ,

alienated from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near in the blood of Christ. 14 For he is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, IS by abolishing in his flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, 16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. 17 And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; 18 for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. 19 So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God

This gives us a model for peacemaking. Peace makers are those who remove any barriers) that may exist between themselves and others, thus making reconciliation between the two possible. The context is persecution. Disciples will always be oppressed. If the barrier is Christ, or right living, it can not be removed. But, other barriers under our control can be removed. Specifically,-

1. what enemies have done to us can be absorbed; what's owed us can be canceled- that is Forgiveness

Matthew 6:12 "And forgive us our debts, As we also have forgiven our debtors" 14 For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; 15 but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

2. our anger and/or revenge for them can be forsaken- that is Non-Retaliati

Matthew 5:38 "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' 39 But I say to you, Do not resist one who is evil. But if any one strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also; 40 and if any one would sue you and take your coat, let him have your cloak as well; 41 and if any one forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.

3. our hate for them can be replaced by doing good to them- that is Love Matthew 5:43 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? In these ways, barriers in us that separate us from others, our enemies, are removed. We thus have made peace with them, even if they do not make peace with us.

Conclusion Matthew 5:13 "You are the salt of the earth: but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trodden underfoot by men. 14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. 15 Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

The salt and the light of the world are not Christ or the Gospel, nor are they people who evangelize. The reference is to people who exhibit these characteristics. Their life, how they are with others, what they do- all of that together is the salt and light that the world needs.

The world's salt and light are people who

1. exhibit a deep, persevering trust in God, especially during great hardship

2. live a righteous life without compromise, even though persecuted for it

3. practice forgiveness, non-retaliation, and love towards their enemies

Such people are disciples of Christ and "sons" of God. Jesus admonishes them to be who they are and to do so out in the world. They are not to assimilate nor are they to separate!

Posted by Cal in Bible Topics at 18:18

## **WHO ARE "THE POOR" ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE?**

Who are "the Poor" according to the Bible? They are not who many Conservatives, as well as Liberals, think they are. They are not who the Government or many Christians say they are. I have written about this on my website. In the media and according to self-appointed advocates of the poor, Poverty is defined as living below an arbitrary level of income set by the Government. In the Bible, Poverty is defined as destitution. The Book tells us there are more than 20 possible causes of Poverty. The Book of Proverbs says that personal, irresponsible behavior (mostly laziness or immorality) is one cause of poverty. This is the cause that conservative Evangelical Christians emphasize, almost exclusively (if you are poor you must be lazy). But, according to the Bible, people in America today are correctly called "poor" if they had property and means, but have lost their livelihood to no fault of their own or are no longer able to work and maintain their property. Biblically, "the Poor" are those who due to no fault of their own, can't pay their bills because of plant closings, fire, accident, death in the family, debilitating illness, enormous medical bills, etc. and, of course, natural disasters like tornadoes. And Evangelicals typically overlook what the Bible teaches is the number one reason for destitution: oppression, rooted in idolatry; yes, oppression rooted in idolatry. Oppression is primarily at the hands of invading enemy armies or at the hands of rich and powerful people. The latter exploit those who can no longer work their land- (widows, fatherless children) and the sick or disabled or farmers who have had bad crops due to

disasters of some kind and must borrow to keep going. Loans lead to indentured servanthood and forfeiture of the family farm. In some cases, land is simply stolen by the powerful. All of this is injustice. It violates the law of God and the rights of these poor land owners. This type of oppression is the major cause of most poverty mentioned in the Bible. Not all Poor are oppressed, but the oppressed are poor. Read the rest of my Essay- [biblical-basics-about-poverty-and-the-poor&catid=64:justice&Itemid=57](#)

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 16:05

Friday, September 24. 2010

## **TEEN PREGNANCIES, POVERTY AND UNDER-PERFORMING SCHOOLS**

Repeatedly, here and in many other columns, blogs and articles, you have read that one of the greatest problems in America is illegitimate births. Here in Springfield our school system has recently been named as the second most segregated in the Country. Our School Department adamantly denies that our schools do not provide quality education for minority children. The problem, they point out, is not racism but poverty. We have neighborhood schooling, but 75% of all children in the public schools here are Latino or African-Americans. The greater issue is poverty. 80% of all our pupils live below the poverty line and a large percentage of them live in single parent homes where they do not get the parental support required to do well in school. The majority of our students do not graduate! Our system receives millions in Federal and State aide; but this major issue is not being effectively addressed. (It is a PC thing) As Mona Charon wrote in her column today. "There is ... no question that unwed childbearing contributes far more to poverty in America than the recession has. [This contributes to making schools ineffective] And ineffective schools affect our economic productivity and competitiveness. We must reverse some of [this] trend if we hope to have sustained prosperity and political and social vitality ...." Italicized words added by me  
*/democrats\_chose\_wrong\_moment\_for\_big\_government*

Ms Charon says "we must reverse this trend". Absolutely, but who and how? Changes in welfare policies would help. Social attitudes and values are essential. Becoming pregnant and an unwed, single parent must no longer be acceptable. Being an absentee father must no longer be acceptable. The even greater issue is that sex outside marriage is acceptable, even popular. That must become totally unacceptable. Sound impossible, I know. There are well-meaning organizations trying to address these issues. but they are missing the biggest need. We are talking about personal morality, Marriage and Family. What teenagers are doing is a sub-topic of these larger concerns, This is where all churches must ramp up their influence. Local churches absolutely must do far more to teach their youth the Biblical basis of personal Morality, Marriage and Family. This is essential and something the secular agencies can not provide.

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 13:14

## **DOES MERIT PAY FOR TEACHERS WORK?**

On 9/21 articles announcing these research results appeared in many papers

[http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/39292210/ns/us\\_news-life/](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/39292210/ns/us_news-life/)

On 9/24 articles making this announcement appeared in many papers

[/mass\\_gets\\_27m\\_to\\_try\\_teacher\\_bonuses/](/mass_gets_27m_to_try_teacher_bonuses/)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 11:17

Thursday, September 23, 2010

### **WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE CHRISTIANS PERSECUTED MOST?**

Here are two very helpful resources about the persecution of Christians around the world. One is an interactive map- <http://www.persecution.com/public/restrictednations.aspx?clickfrom=bWFpbI9tZW51>  
The other gives a list of the top ten Nations that persecute Christians. Of those, 6 are Muslim, 3 are Communist and 1 is Buddhist.

<http://www.christianpost.com/article/20070207/muslim-countries-dominate-open-doors-top-10-persecutors-list/index.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:53

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

## **2 GOOD BOOKS ABOUT THE TEN COMMANDMENTS**

A helpful website is that of "The Gospel Coalition". They provide a frequent review of books, aptly named "TGC Reviews" to which I subscribe.

This week it contained reviews of 2 book about the 10 Commandments. Mark F. Rooker. The Ten Commandments: Ethics for the Twenty-First Century (B&H Academic, 2010), 234 pages. Philip Graham Ryken. Written in Stone: The Ten Commandments and Today's Moral Crisis (P&R Publishing, 2010), 240 pages. I was delighted to read these comments by the reviewer- We live in lawless times. We are not surprised that the unbelieving world has no time for God's holy Law. But it's extremely troubling when so many professing Christians have neither interest in nor love for God's law. Thankfully Mark Rooker and Phil Ryken have written books that communicate a deep love for God and his law, and a real passion to see God's law restored to its rightful place in society, as well as in the church and the Christian life. To which I say, AMEN, AMEN

Posted by Cal in Christian Living at 19:04

## **LOVING THE LAW OF GOD (as in Psalm 119)**

What does a Christian's life involve? Sanctification (This is what Justification leads to) What is the core of Sanctification? Commitment to live according to the Law of God. What does it meant to follow Jesus or to become like him? It means to obey God as he did, even unto death. What does obedience to God involve? Obedience to His Law. Yet very few Evangelicals see this. Many reject it outright, saying "we are not under the Law!" The way they live demonstrates that. One of the greatest needs of the Church today is to seek God's Norms for all of life and to live accordingly.

Posted by Cal in Christian Living at 19:01

Tuesday, September 21. 2010

## **DOOMSDAY SCENARIOS**

The current 30th Anniversary Edition of Discover Magazine includes an article by it's Editor-in-Chief, listing what he considers are possible Scenarios of Doomsday. The most likely, he says, is this one-GENETICALLY MODIFIED SUPERHUMANS The debate over human germ-line engineering—reworking genes in the sperm and egg to create inheritable new traits—sputtered out early in the last decade after gene therapy had a series of notable failures. The revival of that research (see page 31) suggests it is time to resume the conversation. Soon it could be possible to design babies whose DNA has been rewritten to give them greater mental and physical abilities. Such “trans-humans” might eventually be a true breed apart, able to mate only with others of their kind. In a Hollywood blockbuster, the transhumans would include a cackling villain who turns against his progenitors, but there is no need: If they are truly superior, they might outcompete us by benign means, marking the first synthetic transition from one homi-nid species to the next. Odds: high, since germ-line modification seems nearly inevitable in the long run.

30-ways-the-world-could-end/I am sticking with the Scriptural Scenario: Christ will come again and with Him, New Heavens and a New Earth! That will be Doomsday only for Unbelievers. For the rest of us that will be Glory!

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 16:21

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

### **ARE AGNOSTIC SCIENTISTS REALLY AGNOSTIC?**

Here is a blog that I find very interesting. It is from Inter Varsity and covers the wide field of Christians (Mostly Professors and Grad students) in Academia. The article I just found challenging in today's edition is about Scientists and their Faith.

<http://blog.emergingscholars.org/>

Posted by Cal in Theological Issues at 09:32

Tuesday, September 14. 2010

### **WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT MUSLIMS AND ISLAM?**

Here are two extensive articles published in Christianity Today 10 years ago that can be very helpful today, introducing us to Muslims and Islam in America. Please read both.

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2000/april3/1.40.html>

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2000/marchweb-only/21.0c.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 15:55

Saturday, September 11, 2010

## **IS ISLAMOPHOBIA JUSTIFIED?**

The news in print media and on TV are all featuring stories about 9/11. Some ask, "How do we tell children what happened and why? Good question. The commemorations rightfully focus on memories of the almost 3000 that were killed in the Towers and the hundreds of rescue workers who died in that holocaust. The other remembrance is of how united Americans were in the aftermath of the attack, both in their horror and consequent sense of outrage and patriotism. There is almost nothing said now about who did the dastardly deed or why. The killers were Muslims. The mastermind behind the plan is a Muslim (Sheik Khalid. He and his collaborators are in detention in the prison at Guantanamo Bay all these years later). The instigator behind them was Osama ben Laden, a Muslim and his Muslim organization, el Qaeda, both of which are still free and wrecking havoc around the world. The latter were (and still are) aided by another Muslim organization, the Taliban which is stronger than ever. As a result of all that, there have been still on-going wars in Afghanistan and Iraq against Muslims! You can read an extensive review of the 9/11 Event here- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/September\\_11\\_attacks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/September_11_attacks)

There is no wonder why Americans cast a wary eye on Muslims. They have at least 3000 reasons to do so. But it is deemed intolerant and wrong by many to be critical of Muslims or their Religion, even though the Terrorists openly claim their Religion as the basis, the rationale, for their evil actions. Many Americans fear or are at least suspicious of Muslims and Islam. This is not unwarranted or unreasonable. Add to the 9/11 attack the many cases of cruelty and murder in the name of Allah perpetuated around the world. In the news just this week are stories of women facing death by stoning in Iran, a Muslim country. My wife has just read the book, *Infidel*, the autobiography of Ayaan Hirsi Ali, a former Muslim who, among other issues, is an activist against the abuse of women in Muslim societies. She has horrible examples. Yes, Americans have cause for concern. But it is fashionable to denounce Islamophobia. We hear that fear comes from ignorance of Islam. I have just listed reasons why the fear of Islam or of Muslims is not necessarily from ignorance. But the best evidence why main street Americans have reason to fear Muslims has just been given this week by the rabid reactions to the proposed burning of Korans by a church in Florida. President Obama himself, Congressional, Military and Christian Leaders all emphatically urged the Florida Pastor not to carry out the planned burning. Why? What motivated this reaction? Fear! Fear of what Muslims would do. Nothing could have demonstrated more clearly that our fears of Muslims are not unfounded. The Imam of the Mosque in NYC even used the fear card. Most Americans oppose the building of the new Islamic Cultural center at ground zero and he has been asked by many to change the location. His reply was extortionary. If we changed the plans, he said, Muslims around the world would be outraged [never mind that millions of Americans are outraged if it is not moved] and who knows what terrible things Muslims might do. "The headlines in the Muslim world will be that Islam is under attack... (there's) the danger of the radicals in the Muslim world to our national security, to the national security of our troops," Rauf said. "If we do move, it will strengthen the argument of the radicals to recruit, their ability to recruit, and their increasing aggression and violence against our country."- Imam Rauf

[/imam-rauf-predicts-violence-in-muslim-world-if-he-does-not-get-his-way/](#) That is a threat. That is extortion. That reveals what we are dealing with and belies the PC position that Muslims and Islam are really good and no threat to anybody. Islamophobia is not ungrounded. This perspective about Muslims and Islam should be an important part of what we remember on this annual day of 9/11 commemorations. It should also renew our determination, as Christians, to spread the Gospel in the Islamic world and among Muslims here in America, too. I agree burning Korans would have been wrong-headed and counter-productive. We do want to destroy Islam and convert Muslims, but we must do that, not out of fear, but out of love of sinners who happen to be Muslims and with prayer and the Gospel, not violence of any kind. (2 Cor 10:4-5)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:49

Wednesday, September 8, 2010

## **YES, WE ARE NARROW MINDED**

Our concern is not primarily with Radical Muslims. It is about Islam. And it is about Hinduism and Buddhism and Judaism. It is about Civil Religion and Atheism. It is about all non-Christian Religions, Faith Systems, Ideologies and Worldviews. There is Salvation is no one but Christ. No one comes to the Father but by Him. 2 Cor 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. 5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

Posted by Cal in Theological Issues at 09:21

## **BURNING THE KORAN**

A lead article in this morning's Washington Post begins with this paragraph-"The plan by a tiny Florida church to burn Korans on Sept. 11 is drawing condemnation from top U.S. officials and religious leaders, including the White House, the State Department and Gen. David H. Petraeus, who warned Tuesday that it could endanger U.S. troops in the Muslim world." I agree that the Pastor in question should not burn the Koran. But my question is, why is the planned Muslim Center at Ground Zero not drawing condemnation from top U.S. officials and religious leaders, including the White House, the State Department and Gen. David H. Petraeus? Isn't the argument to support the building plan a defense of Freedom of Religion"? Doesn't that cut both ways? Or is this really about fear of the Radical Muslims (and no fear of the Preacher.)? At any rate, the plan to build is legal and all that; it is just insensitive and maybe even a calculated insult to America by the Muslims involved. I do not think "Freedom of Religion" has anything to do with it at all. It is all about location, location, location. PS If the argument for support of the Center in that particular location rests on what is "legal", how come that argument does not have weight with those who support illegal immigrants?

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:11

## **WHO IS BEING JUDGMENTAL AND UNFAIR?**

The local cause célèbre du jour is the resignation of a long time Teacher and very popular Dean of Students and Athletic Director at the local Roman Catholic High School because she publicly married her partner. The Diocese knew she was a lesbian, but that did not violate the Rules of Employment. Entering into a "Gay marriage" does. The woman, by all accounts is a very likable and gifted person, doing good work with the students. She also knew the consequences of her decision to "marry" and accepts full responsibility for loss of her job. She is not suing the Diocese and agrees they were within their legal rights. Admirable. But the public protests! wow! Such indignation against the "unchristian", "hypocritical", "bigoted" Church. Even the local newspaper jumped on this band wagon, soundly criticizing, in front page headlines, editorials and columns, the Church for its totally unfair, outdated "Values" (What happened to Freedom of Religion?) The usual liberal protesters demonstrated, but what bothers me most are all the teenagers who have joined in. It is possible that they are simply upset over the loss of a great Teacher and Friend. They do not place any responsibility on her for her resignation or her decisions that led up to it. They blame the terrible Church. These teens are reflecting an increasingly popular perspective among youth today about what it means to be a Christian and what Church is supposed to be about: Love, defined as being open, welcoming, affirming and supportive of all people no matter who they are or what they believe or how they live, Sin, on the other hand, is being the opposite- judgmental and thus unloving. That is it. Well, I pray the Church will not cave in on their Rules (values) and the protesters will learn to practice what they preach- toward the Church.

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 09:05

Tuesday, September 7, 2010

### **KUDOS TO YOU: GOOD CONVERSATIONS**

I am enjoying a Blog by a Christian writer who is seeking to engage people in conversations on very diverse topics. He puts his own considered thoughts on dozens of subjects of all kinds (good stuff) and invites you to respond with your thoughts- a conversation. Visit the site for yourself and see what it offers.

<http://kudospress.com/>

Posted by Cal in Christian Living at 11:55

### **STIMULATING READS**

Here are two excellent and intellectual Christian [those are not oxymoronic categories] resources that analyze and comment on the interface of Christianity and today's American Culture

<http://booksandculture.com/>

<http://wunderkammermag.com/about>

Posted by Cal in Christian Living at 10:31

### **GOOD ADVICE TO CHRISTIAN COLLEGE STUDENTS**

"First, love Jesus Christ more than anyone or anything else. Four years of college fly by faster than you might imagine. And there are so many things you could give yourself to — so many things that can fill up your time. That's why all your decisions need to be made in light of your relationship with Jesus. Is getting straight A's your greatest goal? Or are friendships your primary concern? What about extra-curricular sports or clubs? Or again, overwhelmed by all the choices, will you attempt to become a "Renaissance person," dabbling in a little bit of everything, a jack-of-all-trades while a master of none?"

Read more of this excellent article [/making-most-of-college](#)

Posted by Cal in Christian Living at 08:32

Saturday, September 4, 2010

### **LIBERTARIANISM IS NOT SCRIPTURAL**

The motto: "No one is above the Law" is a half-truth. The Law today may well be determined by Congress or Legislature or by the Supreme Court (if not the Law itself, the interpretation of it that is applied). That Law may be good or bad. The Biblical principle is that no one is above the Law of God. When individuals are sovereign, as in Libertarianism, all values are relative- they are individual values. The complete freedom of individuals (the philosophy of laissez-faire) is not a Scriptural or Christian value. When the State is sovereign there may be social stability, but that, too, is not a Scriptural or Christian value. In fact, true freedom and social stability are possible only when individuals and the State are both under the authority of God and the Law of God.

From my revised article on Biblical Principles of Government-  
introduction-to-civil-government-biblical-principles

Posted by Cal in Bible Topics at 11:59

### **BAMBI HAS BECOME GODZILLA**

Here is a really good column by George Will. It is about why the Environmental Movement ("Go Green") is floundering, but has important observations that are really on target about "change" in our Society.  
</content/article/2010/09/03/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:20

Friday, September 3, 2010

## **LEARNING TO LIVE GOD'S WAY**

"Learning to Live God's Way" is our goal, but what is God's way? My answer to that question changed a few years ago, as I rediscovered the Book of Genesis. I marveled again at God's Creation- both as noun and verb. I was also impressed with the importance of the "Cultural Mandate", given by God to all human beings. This Mandate has never been negated by God. Far from it- it remains the main purpose for our lives- for all of us. Every person is to be fully engaged in enjoying, developing and maintaining all that God has made. This includes more than simply being caretakers of the environment and earth- far more than Stewardship (Conservation). Developing and maintaining and enjoying the Creation involves, by extension, creatively developing Cities, Culture and Civilization. This is all part of being fully human. That means realizing our potential as "persons" made in the Image of God. And that is possible "in Christ", by the power of the Holy Spirit, as we live God's way.

"God's way" is revealed in Scripture- all Scripture, including the Law (Torah). The motto of my work is "Seeking God's Norms in All Things." Chose a subject, any subject: architecture (urban renewal), aesthetics (painting and music), government (public and social policy), education (schools), economics, technology, cosmology, psychology (therapy), etc. All are built on assumptions and world views. They all require some foundational faith or ideology. We need to probe and discover what all that may be. Concurrently, we search for material in the Bible relevant to these subjects. We must analyze assumptions, foundational faith, ideologies. World Views and all "isms" in light of the Word of God. We seek God's Norms in all things. Literally.

Seeking the Kingdom (the Realm) of God Comparing what we find, we seek to re/form [or redirect] the subject according to God's Norms and thus, learn to live God's way. This what it means to be a disciple of Christ. (a student and follower of His Word) What we are talking about here is far more radical and inclusive than simply getting involved with few select social causes now popular. Seeking the extension of the Kingdom (Realm) of God involves far more than than changing hearts. It involves changing the systems and structures that control how people live. The object of this work is to help people live all of life according to the will of God to His Glory. The Vision My purpose is to help extend the Kingdom (Realm) through scholarship and teaching. Ideally, scholars in "secular" specialties and scholars in Bible and Theology should work together. I am neither; I am simply an educated layman committed to trying to think Biblically about "secular" subjects, such as Economics and Government. I am well aware of my limitations and the problems involved, but I know where to look for help. I want to inspire others, particularly college students and other educated laypeople, to do more of this work as an offering to the Lord. I am convinced that Christians must do this kind of integrative, interdisciplinary study for the extension of the Kingdom (the Realm) of God in this (His) world.

The "Great Commandment" is the motive for doing this: Love for God and People.  
The "Great Commission" is about persuading people to adopt the Cultural Mandate  
The Gospel itself is what makes all of this possible. [Realm of God requires Reign]  
The Lordship of Christ requires it. [Every square inch of Creation belongs to Him]

Posted by Cal in Christian Living at 16:06

Thursday, September 2, 2010

## **IS DEBT EVIL?**

Is Debt Evil? Is Profit making Biblical? Deuteronomy 28:12 You will lend to many... but will borrow from none. Romans 13:8 Owe no one anything. Romans 13:6 NRSV ...pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, busy with this very thing. 7 Pay to all what is due them—taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due. 8 Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For a discussion about these verses and the topic of Debt see my full article posted on my website [article&id=126:is-debt-evil](#)

Posted by Cal in Bible Topics at 09:32

## **REBUILDING THE ECONOMY GOD'S WAY**

This helpful article explains one of the main problems in Washington: conflict and deadlock between policy wonks and academic experts and a President who can't make up his mind whom to follow if either. [articles/2010/09/02/strategists\\_vs\\_experts\\_\\_obama\\_loses/](#)My concern on this Blog and in my website articles is with neither politics or economics as such. It is with seeking and applying the the Norms that God has revealed for both. Yes, we must be realistic and learn from the world's theorists and from history; but first we must learn from the Word of God. That is fundamental. All else must be based on that. What has God said about the Economy, etc. I have posted several studies on my website to answer that question. What are the God-given Principles the policy wonks and academic experts and all the rest of us must follow to work out the problems of our Economy? Here are some from a series of posts on my website [economic-principles-part-1](#) Economics is about choices people make with regard to scarce resources- about exchanges people make of things [time, possessions, money, labor, knowledge, skills, etc] desired less, for things desired more. People chose to sacrifice some things in order to obtain other things because there is a scarcity of those things and nothing scarce is free (every scarce thing has a price). These choices are affected by values and incentives. They should also be determined by long-range (rather than immediate) consequences. It is in guiding such choices that the Bible is most relevant on economic matters. The Bible does not have a blueprint for any particular economic system. What it has in abundance are moral, principles and Norms (laws) that are relevant to economic topics, e.g.- work, private property, profit, money, employee and employer relationships, etc. The four fundamental economic principles from Creation [Genesis 1-2]- Stewardship, Sharing, Work and Growth. Stewardship is the dominant Biblical economic concept. God, as Creator, is ultimately owner of all created things. Any claim to ownership ("private property") by human beings collectively or individually, is conditional- never absolute. God, as Creator, has given responsibility for the management (stewardship) of His created world (the environment, our ecosystem, including all living creatures and natural resources), to human beings. They are to care, cultivate, preserve and use all of it for Him or as He directs. See Psalm 24:1 and 115:16 and 8:3-8. Sharing, by all for all, is essential. Life is paramount! All creation is intended by God for the sustenance of all living creatures. All natural resources are to be available to all by all. All end products of economic processes are to be available to all and shared by all. All people have the right and responsibility to work, to be engaged in the production and distribution of goods and services. This is the "fill and subdue" commandment. The fourth Biblical economic principle is growth. This is the "be fruitful and multiply" commandment. Growth in population (be fruitful) requires growth in economic production (multiply). This is to be desired and expected. Such growth of population and production will result in both scarcity and surplus of goods and services. This, in turn, leads to exchange and trade, governed by supply and demand. Stewardship, Sharing, Work and Growth are all good things, sanctioned and mandated by the Bible, by God himself. They are fundamental, universal principles that must guide all the particulars of our economic lives, still, in the 21st Century

Posted by Cal in Bible Topics at 08:55

## **FISCAL FOLLY and THE BIBLE**

Here is another helpful description of our Nation's economic situation with good analysis of why. Among other topics it

## Blog Export: DUTCH TREAT- Cal Fox's Blog, <http://www.calvinfox.com/blog/>

mentions deficit spending. The Bible says to avoid debt, i.e.- we must live within our means. Do not buy something if you do not have the means to pay for it. Very basic, very simple. This is a Bible Principle that every Christian should know and practice. Much of our Nation's (and our personal woes) can be attributed to the failure of Christians to do just that. Many of us are materialists, living way beyond our means. My point here is that our Government must operate according to this same God-given Principle. Short term gains do not justify long term troubles. And we must not be willing (let alone expect) our Government to pursue such folly!

[http://www.thestreet.com/story/10848614/1/obamanomics-failing-to-create-jobs.html#disqus\\_thread](http://www.thestreet.com/story/10848614/1/obamanomics-failing-to-create-jobs.html#disqus_thread)

Posted by Cal in Christian Living at 08:54

Wednesday, September 1, 2010

## **MAJOR FLAW WITH THE "CONTRACT FROM AMERICA"**

Recently some 450,000 Americans submitted more than 10,000 ideas to a website. These ideas from the public were sorted by popularity and reduced to the top ten. The list with these ideas is now called a "Contract from America". It is being used to qualify candidates for the upcoming Congressional elections. Candidates are being asked to literally sign the Contract and agree to work to actualize the 10 ideas it proposes. In general, the ideas listed offer ways to support individual liberty, limited government, and economic freedom. Sounds good to me. Those are the traditional points of conservative Republicans (although this Contract from America is supposed to be from the grass roots and has Tea Party roots. The most popular demand to be expected from our elected officials, the one garnering the most votes, is this- Protect the Constitution Require each bill to identify the specific provision of the Constitution that gives Congress the power to do what the bill does. (82.03% of the votes from 450,000 citizens) This is admirable and I agree with the words; but what does it mean? As with the Bible, there are several ways to interpret the Constitution, which I have explained several times on this Blog. Which Rules of Interpretation, which Philosophy of Law, shall we follow? And who decides that? Congress, the Supreme Court or a solitary Federal Court Judge as in the same sex marriage case (Prop in California? Unless there is agreement on this matter, the mandate is toothless. Do we want our elected officials to abide by the original intent of the authors of the Document, including all the Amendments? (Not only the authors of the Founding Documents, circa post- Revolutionary War, but the authors of the Post Civil War Documents into the 20th C) Is the Constitution to be interpreted as static, fixed with a single meaning for all time or is it a living document, to be understood according to the values and needs of contemporary America. Many of its Articles and phrases are vague and permit diverse interpretation or application. [Do you see the comparisons with how we interpret the Bible?] For example, much of the current debate over children born to illegal immigrants (are they citizens by being born on American soil?) is shaped by different interpretations of the Constitution. Proponents for each side of the issue do what the Contract from America requests: they "identify the specific provision of the Constitution that gives Congress the power to do what the bill does. In this case the 14th Amendment (post Civil War, not post Revolutionary War). They just do not agree with what that provision means because they use different Rules of Interpretation. Look at the never ending debates about "freedom of speech" or about "gun control" or the "right to privacy". Debaters on these topics all appeal to the 1st Amendment, but that doesn't help because they interpret the words differently. Consider how the Commerce Clause (Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3) has been used to support all Civil Rights Laws, Sherman Ant-Trust Act and Interstate Commerce, definitions of Crimes and the Treatment of Native Americans, to name only a few. Debaters all identify the specific provision of the Constitution that gives Congress the power to do what the bill does. They just interpret it by different Rules. What the Contract declares, "Protect the Constitution", sounds good; but it is so simplistic that it is meaningless. This can be said of most the of other nine Ideas in the Contract (in varying degree). I got a phone call today from the campaign office of a local conservative candidate for Congress. She mentioned several of these line items. She had no answer when I asked for details. She just repeated them like a mantra. That won't do!

2. Reject Cap & Trade
3. Demand a Balanced Budget
4. Enact Fundamental Tax Reform
5. Restore Fiscal Responsibility & Constitutionally Limited Government in Washington
6. End Runaway Government Spending
7. Defund, Repeal, & Replace Government-run Health Care
8. Pass an 'All-of-the-Above' Energy Policy
9. Stop the Pork
10. Stop the Tax Hikes

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:37

## **ONWARD CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS- OUR WAR IS NOT OVER**

I get very upset every day by listening to and reading the "News". The temptation is to ignore it and let it go, without thought or action. But I am a Christian and I (we) can not do that! This is my Father' world. Satan and sin and sinful people are messing it up (and have been since The Fall). BUT, it is still my (our) Father's world. He has not given up on it and we must not either. Christ came to redeem sinners and to redeem and reclaim control over this world and make it as God created it to be. (As the Lord taught us to pray: "Thy will be done on earth").

We are called by Him to fight the good fight. We are not given leave by our Heavenly Commander-in-Chief to be absent from this war!

After catching up on the "News" (usually more of the "same old") I go into my Quiet Time. Thank God for Scripture and the privilege of prayer. The War continues -but with peace in my heart, driven by the power of the Holy Spirit and under the guidance of His Word. The War goes on, but the victory is and shall be His!

Posted by Cal in Christian Living at 09:22

## **FEDERAL FISCAL IRRESPONSIBILITY**

Now President Obama appears to have "lost" New York Times liberal economic columnist Paul Krugman. Krugman, who enthusiastically supported the president's redistributionist and stimulus plans, has bowed to the reality that they are not working. Writing in U.S. News & World Report, publisher Mort Zuckerman takes the Krugman view a step further by calling the administration he once supported "The Most Fiscally Irresponsible Government in U.S. History." An economy burdened down with debt because of too much government spending, a health care law that will add new and unknown burdens, expiring tax cuts that will take more money from the private sector for government to waste and abuse, and a stock market unsure and thus unable to fuel the economic engine to propel us out of this recession, is not a "summer of recovery," but a winter of discontent.

Read Cal Thomas full article </cols/thomas083110.php3>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:13

## **FAILURE OF FEDERAL FOOLISHNESS**

Banner Headline in our local paper this morning: "Home foreclosure woes persist", echoing a similar headline in the Boston Globe. The local article continues with, "...despite the federal Making Home Affordable program designed to keep them in their homes." Mona Charen's column in the same paper is titled "Federal mortgage rescue ends up subsidizing failure." "President Obama has a weakness for thinking in categories. For someone who provokes swoons among liberals for his great intellect, he has repeatedly evidenced an unsophisticated, one might even say simple-minded, view of the world: Workers good; bosses exploitative. Borrowers good; lenders bad. Patients good; insurance companies bad. Again and again, the president and his spokesmen have justified their expansions of government power as efforts to help those who "through no fault of their own" find themselves in difficulties. Many politicians traffic in this kind rhetoric during campaigns, but Obama has institutionalized it in policy. One of those reifications -- the Home Affordable Modification Program -- now stands revealed as a failure." Charen's on target analysis can be read here

[/MonaCharen/2010/08/27/obamas\\_manichean\\_world](/MonaCharen/2010/08/27/obamas_manichean_world)

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 09:03