

Monday, May 28, 2012

### **ELIZABETH ELIOT- Original tape recording**

Do you remember Shadow of the Almighty and stories of Jim Elliot, missionary to the Aucas in Ecuador and martyr for Christ. His former wife has been one of the most influential Christian women of our time. Her books are well written and filled with wisdom about all aspects of marriage, family and life.

One of her many conference messages is now available in two parts at

<http://kudospress.com/serendipity/index.php?/archives/120-Elizabeth-Elliot->

The purpose of her talk was to challenge her listeners to be specific and deliberate in expressing themselves as Christians, as an outpouring of identifying with Christ and being an example of Christ to the world. recordings made in 1977. These digital recordings were created at Kudos Press from original tape cassette

Posted by Cal in Christian Living at 14:48

### **LATEST QT THOTS (my Devotional Writing)**

You can find my latest QT Thots on the subject of Prayer here:

<http://kudospress.com/serendipity/index.php?/pages/library.html>

I can be reached by email at [cfoxinstitute@thinkersloft.com](mailto:cfoxinstitute@thinkersloft.com)

Posted by Cal in Christian Living at 14:43

### **"FOR GOD AND COUNTRY"**

Today we officially remember those who have died in military action in the service of our Country. Many of them did that needlessly as it turned out because the battle was not really necessary or could have been a voided or happened because of incompetent Officers, bad judgment, poor communication or even lack of essential supplies. Many died because of the self-serving policies of our Government Leaders at the time. Nevertheless, the soldiers took an oath and voluntarily went into harms way and were killed out of duty, loyalty and, in their mind. "for God and Country", right or wrong.

We do not have to agree about the battles fought, we can agree that those who died in them were brave and honorable soldiers. They each did something for America that none of us reading this have done. All told, the freedoms we enjoy today would not have been secured or preserved without them. We are indebted to those who lost limbs and lives for us and we must never forget them. And we must work harder to prevent others from being called to do as they did.

Visit the Veterans Cemeteries near you and at least once in your life visit Arlington National Cemetery and the National War memorials in Washington DC

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 08:10

Saturday, May 26. 2012

## **REMEMBERING AND HONORING THOSE WHO HAVE SUFFERED AND DIED FOR US**

"Our veterans shouldn't be identified through pop culture as anything but who they truly are—[many of] America's best and brightest. Our society shouldn't allow anyone to depict our veterans [-especially those who have given their bodies, their very lives] as anything but our nation's heroes. Armed Forces Day came and went and Memorial Day is quickly approaching.

Every day needs to be Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, and Veterans Day. We are fighting the longest war in American history but observing everything taking place today, inside the United States, you wouldn't know it. As Memorial Day approaches, let's not forget our veterans. When May 28th ends, let's continue to remember them throughout the year. Without our veterans we, as a nation, have nothing."

<http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2012/05/24/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:45

## **TRYING TO BULLY CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS**

"[C]riticizing the Supreme Court is a consistent refrain from Obama, who began his presidency by scolding the justices. Publicly chastising the court — and now taunting [CJ] Roberts specifically — seems to have two purposes. One is to get under Roberts's skin in the hopes that he'll rule the "correct," if not necessarily "legally correct," way. Two is to lay the groundwork for declaring the court illegitimate if all or part of Obamacare is overturned. Either way, it's politics at its filthiest and is beneath the dignity of the court — and of the White House."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/democrats-put-john-roberts-on-trial/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:41

## **MR OBAMA'S PUBLIC EQUITY SCANDAL**

Despite a growing backlash from his fellow Democrats, President Obama has doubled down on his attacks on Mitt Romney's tenure at Bain Capital. But the strategy could backfire in ways Obama did not anticipate. After all, if Romney's record in private equity is fair game, then so is Obama's record in public equity — and that record is not pretty. Since taking office, Obama has invested billions of taxpayer dollars in private businesses, including as part of his stimulus spending bill. Many of those investments have turned out to be unmitigated disasters — leaving in their wake bankruptcies, layoffs, criminal investigations and taxpayers on the hook for billions. Consider just a few examples of Obama's public equity failures:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/forget-bain-obamas-public-equity-record-is-the-real-scandal/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:38

Friday, May 25. 2012

### **MEDIA BIAS AGAINST RELIGION?**

Evidence of big media's bias against religion that doesn't advance the secular and liberal agenda of the Democratic Party is beyond dispute. Any faith attached to a conservative agenda is to be ridiculed, stereotyped and misrepresented. Islam is a notable exception. The media appear to bend over backward not to offend Muslims.  
<http://jewishworldreview.com/cols/thomas052412.php3>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 14:25

### **WHY FACEBOOK REFUSED TO SHOW BABY PICTURES**

When Heather Walker posted pictures of her newborn anencephalic son, Grayson, on Facebook, the web site took the photos down and temporarily disabled her account. Grayson James Walker was born in February. Just weeks into the pregnancy, the Walkers had learned that their unborn son had anencephaly,... Anencephalic babies who survive birth usually don't live for more than a few hours.

Last week, three months after Grayson's birth and death, his mother, Heather, posted some of these photos on Facebook. On her blog she explains, "I was tired of trying to hide my son, the way he was, just to make others feel comfortable. I felt like people would be scared or offended because his head didn't look like other babies'. A sudden impulse, in my grieving process, told me to be proud and not worried about the thoughts of others." But Facebook removed the pictures. Heather posted them again. Again, Facebook deleted them. So Heather posted them again. And again. Then Facebook temporarily disabled her account from posting more pictures.

[http://blog.christianitytoday.com/women/2012/05/facebook\\_grayson\\_walker\\_](http://blog.christianitytoday.com/women/2012/05/facebook_grayson_walker_)

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 14:21

Friday, May 18. 2012

## **MOVIE REVIEWS**

Here are good reviews of current movies from Christianity Today  
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/movies/reviews>

Posted by Cal at 15:04

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

### **THE "NEW CONVERSION" - EVANGELICAL SEA CHANGE**

"It is not be an overstatement to say that evangelicals are experiencing a "sea change"—a paradigm shift—in their understanding of conversion and redemption, a shift that includes the way in which they think about the salvation of God, the nature and mission of the church, and the character of religious experience."

Read the full article in which I respond at length to the writer of this statement published in Christianity Today <http://www.reformedliving.org/>

Posted by Cal in Theological Issues at 14:31

Monday, May 14, 2012

## **NEW QT THOTS (my Devotional Writing) AVAILABLE**

A new devotional is now available at <http://kudospress.com/serendipity/index.php?>

This month's "QT Thots" focus on prayer, where we actively ask, implore, seek, thank, praise, talk with, and otherwise communicate with God our Father, Jesus our Savior, the Holy Spirit our Counselor.

Consider taking extra time to pray this month, to pour out your heart, as Hannah does in 1 Samuel 1:12-20, the reference text for Vol. 5, Issue 1.

You may email me at [cfoxinstitute@thinkersloft.com](mailto:cfoxinstitute@thinkersloft.com)

Posted by Cal in Christian Living at 09:46

## **ESSENTIAL CONCEPTS MISSING IN THE DISCUSSION OF GAY "MARRIAGE"**

I want to add more thought to my posts below about Gay "Marriage". A Concept that is rarely mentioned on the subject is the purpose for which God instituted Marriage in the first place. After creating the natural world, the Earth in particular, God created "Man" in His Image so "Man" might represent God and be equipped to work with Him in the Natural world's development and care. "Man" was created to live on the earth to function as God's "lieu-tenant" here But the collective noun, "Man", i.e.- all human beings considered collectively, is both male and female. The Image of God incorporates both genders. Together they are mutually responsible to carry out the Creation or Cultural Mandate. Marriage is the next and key step to that work. Marriage is not an end in itself, let alone simply the loving caring relationship of two people for their personal fulfillment.

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Going from the Universal to the particular, "Man" becomes male and female and male and female go on to become husband and wife. God instituted Marriage for heterosexual couples to do the work, in partnership of developing and caring for the Earth, et al. That is the next Concept missing in today's discussion of Gay "Marriage". There is something special, unique, one of a kind, about the union of a man and woman. Fulfillment of the Mandate requires that special union of the two genders. They each share a common humanity, each is a person, but a man and a woman each bring different gifts, abilities and functions to the partnership. They need each other. They fulfill each other. God's intention in Marriage was for a spiritual, mental, emotional, social, as well as physical, union of both sexes. The classic and fundamental text is

Gen 2:18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." 19 Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. 21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." 24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. We could go on as to other Concepts of the Master (Biblical) Plan for Marriage. One is that Marriage normally includes Family. The Biblical Marriage is a Covenant commitment for a life time ("till death do us part") and Family is inclusive of and extended across generations. The husband and wife are to be fruitful and multiply, both as an expression and preservation of who they are together and as part of their responsibility to care for each other and the Earth. [This is normative. In God's providence, not all couples are able to have children, just as God also calls and gives grace to certain individuals to live a single life. But that is God's choice, not theirs to make]. We celebrate, respect and value all wives, but in God's Master Plan for Marriage, men represent God in a unique way to their wives and children (and Community) and are responsible to teach and pass on the Faith to them. All of these Concepts, and more, must be included in the definition and discussion of Marriage.

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

Posted by Cal in Bible Topics at 09:41

Saturday, May 12. 2012

## **HOW WE READ THE BIBLE EFFECTS HOW WE VIEW GAY MARRIAGE**

I have family members and friends who are Homosexuals. For them that identity is a given- how they were born- not a choice. Some of them are Christians. They are creative, enjoyable, moral and respectable people. Certainly there are heterosexuals who are not. There are also people who undoubtedly are experimenting with homosexual acts and a certain life style which is by choice. Either way, "Gay" is here to stay. And the Movement for Homosexuality to be fully accepted in America as legal and normal is not going away. A recent poll quoted in CT shows 44 percent of younger evangelicals oppose same-sex marriage and 17 percent were not sure; 63 percent of older evangelicals also oppose it and 7 percent of older evangelicals were uncertain. This means 56% of younger evangelicals do not oppose same-sex Marriage with 17 % not sure. Thus the majority of young evangelicals are favorable to Gay Marriage. Other surveys indicate that bigotry, narrow-mindedness and legalism, especially about homosexuality, are common criticisms by young evangelicals of churches and a major reason they are leaving churches. What accounts for these statistics besides the influence of the world and the pressure to be Politically Correct? Many in our Society, Evangelicals and non-Evangelicals, believe that Marriage must be defined as a Legal Right for any two adults, Gay or Straight, who want to live in a loving caring, committed relationship. How can Evangelicals accept Society's definition of Marriage? Those who do insist the Bible agrees with this definition. Accepting Gay Marriage is Biblical because doing so is in accord with the Bible's teaching about Justice for all and the teaching of Jesus about love for all. How can they make this claim? Because they do not interpret the Bible according to the classic, grammatical-historical (Original and Common Sense) Rule of Interpretation. If they did, they would agree that Scripture tells us that God instituted Marriage, not Society, and He intends it to be only for heterosexual couples who want to live in a loving caring, committed relationship. [This, in turn, involves what the Bible also teaches about gender, gender roles and the purpose of Marriage and Family]. The grammatical-historical interpretation of the Bible is the only foundation for this view of Marriage. I do not believe, apart from it, there is any real defense of Biblical Marriage and Family. The issue of Homosexuality is a separate subject. The option of same-sex Civil Unions is a separate subject. If we want to insist on the sole definition of "Marriage" as being only for heterosexual couples who want to live in a loving caring, committed relationship, Evangelicals must get back [not just to the Bible, but] to the time-honored, historical grammatical interpretation of the Bible and teach that to our young people. Apparently the majority of them do not know it.

Posted by Cal in Christian Living at 14:29

## **THE NOT SO GAY NEWS ABOUT GAY MARRIAGE**

"The latest Gallup poll found that 50% of Americans "believe same-sex marriages should be recognized by law as valid, with the same rights as traditional marriages – down slightly from 53% last year, but marking only the second time in Gallup's history of tracking this question that at least half of Americans have supported legal same-sex marriage. Forty-eight percent say such marriages should not be legal." Since Gallup began asking the question in the mid-1990s support for same-sex marriage has risen 27% while opposition has fallen from 68%." James' White has a very good post about the issue of Homosexuality in our Society here <http://www.churchandculture.org/blog.asp?id=2742>  
One of the best resources for the study of Homosexuality and Sexuality in general from a conservative evangelical, New Testament scholar is Robert Gagnon  
<http://www.robgnon.net/>

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 13:32

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

## **LEARNING HOW GOD THINKS**

God has a mind- Romans 11:34 "who has known the mind of the Lord"

God thinks- Isaiah 55:9 as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are ... my thoughts than (yours)

God thinks logically.

Logical thinking or rational discourse presupposes and requires certain Rule or Laws of Thought: Identity (A is A) Contradiction (A can not be Not A at the same time and place) Excluded Middle (A or Not A) "The Law of Contradiction is a presupposition and non-negotiable principle for Christian Theology and Apologetics." "Without [logic] no knowledge of anything cognitive can be achieved." "The basic Law of rational intelligibility (is) the Law of Contradiction." - R.C. Sproul Secular Philosophers agree- "denial of [the 3 Laws] would make all discourse impossible." "Without assuming the Law, [no one could] assert anything, not even a denial of the Law itself" - Hospers "any system to be workable at all must be governed by some principle of consistency" - A.J Ayer

What is the justification of these Rules of Logic? They are considered self-evident. Their proof is pragmatic: they work. However, these Laws have a much better foundation: they are derived from the way God actually thinks. He is not obeying the Laws, they are derived from Him.

[http://www.reformedliving.org/index.php?option=com\\_](http://www.reformedliving.org/index.php?option=com_)

Posted by Cal in Christian Living at 08:18

## **LEARNING CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS**

Critical Thinking is a skill set that we can all learn. Identify what you already know and then apply explorative questions to discover what was not initially obvious. In 1956, Benjamin Bloom led a group of educational psychologists in a study on intellectual behavior used by learners. The result is known as Bloom's Taxonomy. According to his original research, learners move up through six levels of critical thinking skills: 1) Knowledge 2) Comprehension 3) Application 4) Analysis 5) Synthesis 6) Evaluation. In the 1990's, Lorin Anderson, a cognitive psychologist, changed the terms and order, demonstrating that multiple viewpoints exist on how we learn and how we view learning. Having said that, the following adheres to Bloom's original taxonomy as I see it. Read the full Article and learn the skills at <http://kudospress.com/serendipity/index.php?/archives>

Posted by Cal in Christian Living at 08:08

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

### **JOHN STOTT on ACTS 2:42**

This digital recording was created at Kudos Press from an original tape cassette recording: Listen to John Stott speak about the fellowship of the believers as found in Acts 2:42: John Stott and The Fellowship of the Believers, 1977 (41:43) <http://kudospress.com/serendipity/index.php?/archives/110-John-Stott-and-The-Fellowship-of-the-Believers.html>

Posted by Cal in Bible Topics at 19:56

### **CHRISTIAN ECONOMIST ADDRESSES CAUSES OF WORLD POVERTY**

From a review of a recent Lecture at Stanford (Calif) University- "Making Money, Spending Money: What do we owe to the poor?" "How do we develop macro strategies through political action and through public information?" [The speaker] argues that that kind of engagement really matters, not just individual acts of charity. Nishan's discussion at the Forum centered on dealing with social and political structures and the underlying issues as well as having and developing macro strategies as a sustainable response to poverty and changing people's lives for the better. As for our obligation, Nishan states that as Christians, we value life and thus must value all lives, and as people who are not poor, we are however complicit in others' impoverished lives by living as we do and we must therefore do what we can to change sociopolitical structures so that poverty is addressed and alleviated"

See more here

<http://kudospress.com/serendipity/index.php?/archives/111-Discussing-Poverty->

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 19:49

### **STUDENT LOANS 101- IT IS NOT WHAT YOU HAVE HEARD**

"Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle agree: It would be a mistake to let interest rates on student loans double in July. Especially if they're going to be blamed for it in an election year." Student loans have become a political football in recent weeks, with Democrats and Republicans maneuvering to point fingers in case Congress fails to pass legislation to prevent rates from rising this summer. The rhetoric has created confusion - and perhaps unnecessary alarm - about what's really at stake." Read more here:

<http://www.kansascity.com/2012/05/02/3588713/student-loans-101-the-interest.html>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:40

### **BILL vs BILLY on GAY MARRIAGE**

Bill Clinton supports Gay Marriage while Billy Graham does not. The former along with VP Biden define marriage as any loving, caring committed couple. The Evangelist knows that Jesus does not, nor does the Bible. The latter defines Marriage as a Covenant between a man and a woman (Matt. 19:4-6) It is significant that many younger "Evangelicals" agree with Bill and not Billy! "Opponents of a constitutional amendment to define marriage in North Carolina say they've faced an uphill battle in getting their message out about the broad impact of the proposed change, with the latest polling showing that the state will likely follow 30 others in approving anti-gay marriage measures." "Voting began early Tuesday on the amendment and candidate races in the 2012 primary, but 512,000 people -- or 8 percent of registered voters -- already have participated through absentee ballot, according to the State Board of Elections. That record turnout surpassed even the 2008 primary, which included Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton on the ballot, according to Democracy North Carolina. The amendment, also known as Amendment One, would make marriage the only domestic legal union that would be valid in the state."

[http://usnews.msnbc.msn.com/\\_news/2012/05/08/](http://usnews.msnbc.msn.com/_news/2012/05/08/)

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 19:21

### **TAX DOLLARS FOR PLANNED PARENTHOOD PUSHED**

"Newly empowered Republicans in states across the country are pushing to kill public contracts with Planned Parenthood, only to find their efforts blocked by the Obama administration and federal courts. In New Hampshire, the administration circumvented officials by awarding a \$1 million grant directly to the nation's largest provider of abortion

services after state officials blocked a grant to the organization. Every federal district court that has ruled so far has sided with Planned Parenthood. That has helped the administration, which has threatened to cut off states' Medicaid funding if they refuse to work with the organization."  
<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/>

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 19:19

## **REASONS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT: OVERVIEW**

This article seems to give a fair overview of the problems of "Jobs" in America today- "Friday's jobs report was a disappointment even though it showed unemployment falling to the lowest level since shortly after President Obama took office. The trouble is that job creation is abnormally sluggish and nowhere near enough to keep bringing down the unemployment rate." "This is hardly news, of course. For months economists have been talking about a jobless recovery. And they point to certain factors as having contributed to the problem — from the severity of the recent recession to the so-called skills gap, a shortage of workers with the training needed to fill the jobs that are available. These factors do help explain why job losses were so bad in the first place and why the unemployment rate reached 10% in 2009, the highest level since 1983. But they don't explain why job creation continues to be so weak."  
<http://business.time.com/2012/05/07/why-arent-there-more-jobs/?iid=biz-main-lede>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 19:18

Thursday, May 3, 2012

### **NEW: MY LATEST DEVOTIONAL (QT THOTS)**

My latest QT Thots are available on <http://kudospress.com/serendipity/>  
The topic is Prayer.

Also available there is John Stott's excellent taped message on the writing of sermons

Note: I can be reached at [cfoxinstitute@thinkersloft.com](mailto:cfoxinstitute@thinkersloft.com)

Posted by Cal in Christian Living at 18:45

### **WITHERINGTON, DEATH, GOD AND EVIL**

Ben Witherington, Professor of NT at Asbury Seminary and prolific author lost his daughter to a sudden pulmonary embolism last January and has written several pieces and an entire e-book about his (and his family's) experience and grief- all within a couple of months. So they are very fresh, honest, emotional, painful and inspiring. These articles challenged me to probe my own thinking on the subject of tragic or unexpected death again. This is related to the debate about Theodicy [if God is Good and All Powerful, how come He doesn't prevent Evil? He must not be Good or He must not be All Powerful]. But the unexpected death of Witherington's daughter does not turn him from or against God or to deny His existence. On the contrary. He affirms his complete faith in God and His goodness. Here are excerpts from an article Witherington posted and my response to it and to a version published in the April edition of CT. My purpose is to clarify my own thinking and faith, not to criticize Professor Witherington the person or father, who has my respect; but I do wrestle with his beliefs and disagree with what he writes about Calvinism and what he says it teaches about God. The Professor says-  
<http://www.reformedliving.org/>

Posted by Cal in Christian Living at 18:43

Tuesday, May 1. 2012

### **TOP FIVE CLICHES LIBERALS USE**

"One of the great differences between conservatives and liberals is that conservatives will freely admit that they have an ideology. We're kind of dorks that way, squabbling over old texts like Dungeons and Dragons geeks, wearing ties with pictures of Adam Smith and Edmund Burke on them. But mainstream liberals from Franklin Roosevelt to Barack Obama — and the intellectuals and journalists who love them — often assert that they are simply dispassionate slaves to the facts; they are realists, pragmatists, empiricists. Liberals insist that they live right downtown in the "reality-based community," and if only their Republican opponents weren't so blinded by ideology and stupidity, then they could work with them."Republicans are just as guilty as Democrats when it comes to reducing arguments to bumper stickers. (Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin has written that "the president's economic experiment has failed. It is time to get back to what we know works.") But the vast majority of Republicans, Ryan included, will at least acknowledge their ideological first principles — free markets, limited government, property rights. Liberals are terribly reluctant to do likewise. Instead, they often speak in seemingly harmless cliches that they hope will penetrate our mental defenses."Here are some of the most egregious examples: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/top-five-cliches-liberals-use-to-avoid-real-arguments/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:42

### **THE TRAIL TO BIN LADEN'S DEMISE BEGAN BEFORE OBAMA**

Jose A. Rodriguez Jr. is a 31-year veteran of the CIA and the author of "Hard Measures: How Aggressive CIA Actions After 9/11 Saved American Lives." [He posted the following-]As we mark the anniversary of Osama bin Laden's death, President Obama deserves credit for making the right choice on taking out Public Enemy No. 1. But his administration never would have had the opportunity to do the right thing had it not been for some extraordinary work during the George W. Bush administration. Much of that work has been denigrated by Obama as unproductive and contrary to American principles. He is wrong on both counts."With some trying to turn bin Laden's death into a campaign talking point for Obama's reelection, it is useful to remember that the trail to bin Laden started in a CIA black site — all of which Obama ordered closed, forever, on the second full day of his administration — and stemmed from information obtained from hardened terrorists who agreed to tell us some (but not all) of what they knew after undergoing harsh but legal interrogation methods. Obama banned those methods on Jan. 22, 2009." <http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-path-to-osama-bin-ladens-death-didnt-start-with-obama>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 18:37