

Wednesday, April 23, 2014

LEARNING TO READ SCIENCE ARTICLES WITH A CRITICAL EYE

A major AP article in our local newspaper today headlines "Science ignorance is pervasive in our society". The reason? "Values and beliefs trump science when they conflict- depressing and upsetting some of America's top scientists."

Think about that claim. Some of America's top scientists do science apart from values and beliefs, as though that is possible! There is no science done that is value free or neutral. Facts are selected and interpreted. That process is not uninfluenced by the beliefs and presuppositions of the human scientists.

The Post below, from the Cornwall Alliance, includes an excellent, helpful article that enumerates the steps involved in judging reports of scientific discoveries. They include accounting for Media Bias, the bias of Scientific Journals and the bias of scientific research funding.

<http://www.cornwallalliance.org/articles/read/whats-incredible-learning-to-read-science-articles-with-a-critical-eye/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 13:14

THE IMPORTANCE OF BELIEVING IN THE PHYSICAL RESURRECTION

1 Cor.15:29-34 ... If the dead are not raised, let us eat and drink for tomorrow we die. Don't deceive yourselves--evil friendships destroy good characters. Turn to sober living, as it is only right that you should, and don't go on sinning. Some of you boast about your knowledge, but you have not a vestige of knowledge about God. It is to shame you that I speak.

Paul demands, "To what end is all the peril and the suffering if there is no life beyond?" The man who thinks that this life is all, and that there is nothing to follow it, may well say, "Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die." ... Jesus himself told about the rich fool who forgot eternity and took as his motto, "Eat, drink and be merry." (Luke 12:19).

Take away the thought of a life to come and this life loses its values. Take away the idea that this life is a preparation for a greater life to follow and the bonds of honour and morality are loosened. It is useless to argue that this should not be so and that men should not be good and honourable simply for the sake of some reward. The fact remains that the man who believes that this is the only world tends to live as if the things of this world are all that matter.

So Paul insists that the Corinthians must not associate with those who say that there is no resurrection; for this would be to risk an infection which can pollute life. To say that there is no resurrection is not a sign of superior knowledge; it is a sign of utter ignorance of God

The above is excerpted (and abridged) from William Barclay's Commentary on 1 Corinthians 15

Posted by Cal in Bible Topics at 10:31

VILE VITRIOL IN THE NAME OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND SCIENCE

In the post linked below there is an extensive list of Evangelicals who are engaged with the subject of Climate Change, including many academically and professionally credentialed Climatologists, Atmospheric Scientists and Meteorologists. I highly recommend going through the List and checking out the work of these people.

I admire their work and their courage facing the barrage of vile vitriol thrown their way by the PC crowd.

This applies also to all who endorse the possibilities of Intelligent Design like Phillip Johnson; likewise with scholars like Thomas Sowell who take on the subject of Racism and Discrimination in America or those such as Daniel Pipes and Ayaan Hirsi Ali who warn us of the very real danger (and evil) of Islamists (radical Islam)

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 09:38

Monday, April 21, 2014

A POSITION PAPER ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE

"As governments consider policies to fight alleged man-made global warming, evangelical leaders have a responsibility to be well informed, and then to speak out. A Renewed Call to Truth, Prudence, and Protection of the Poor: An Evangelical Examination of the Theology, Science, and Economics of Global Warming demonstrates that many of these proposed policies would destroy jobs and impose trillions of dollars in costs to achieve no net benefits. They could be implemented only by enormous and dangerous expansion of government control over private life. Worst of all, by raising energy prices and hindering economic development, they would slow or stop the rise of the world's poor out of poverty and so condemn millions to premature death."

<http://www.cornwallalliance.org/articles/read/an-evangelical-declaration-on-global-warming/>

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 18:51

Friday, April 18. 2014

CHANGING THE CLIMATE CHANGE DEBATE

A balanced, intelligent article offering reasonable approaches to this Discussion
<http://www.bloombergview.com/articles/2014-04-14/how-to-reset-the-climate-change-debate>

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 11:26

Wednesday, April 16, 2014

NEW ESSAY: BEING A PURITAN AND POLITICS

Many Christians I know and care for do not share my views about many social, economic and political issues. The specific reasons for our differences germane to particular issues, laws and policies in the daily news are secondary and debatable. The major, underlying and most important explanation for our disconnect on these matters is caused by our differing views about the Nature of God, of Human Beings and of Scripture. These three Doctrines have great political, economic and social consequences. In fact, all Theology does. This is clearly demonstrated in US History, as I shall try to illustrate in what follows
<http://www.reformedliving.org/>

Posted by Cal in Theological Issues at 19:26

THE HUMAN CONDITION AND PREDICAMENT

Human beings are wonderfully made by a loving Creator. We actually image Him and this gives each of us infinite value. As His image, we have faculties for rationality, creativity, morality, spirituality and communality. God pronounced to be good, but shortly after we were created, something went radically wrong (radix = at the root). We rebelled against our Maker and fell away from Him.

FROM A NEW ESSAY JUST POSTED at <http://www.reformedliving.org/>

Posted by Cal in Theological Issues at 19:19

Monday, April 14. 2014

WRESTLING DOWN DEFIANCE IN THE CLASSROOM

Student attacks teacher in classroom- teacher gets in trouble for wrestling him down
<http://www.churchandculture.org/blog.asp?id=5807>

Posted by Cal in Social Issues at 13:10

Monday, April 7, 2014

THE BIBLE SAYS: PAY YOUR TAXES -AND YOUR BILLS

Rom 13:6-7 you [must] pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God ... 7 Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

Where do Federal Taxes come from?

"Washington has two main sources of revenue, which together account for 80 percent of all federal income: (1) payroll taxes, which are split between employers and employees to fund programs like Social Security, and (2) income taxes, which you're all too familiar with now that it's the middle of April. The media tends to focus on income taxes, because they are the main arena of battle between Republicans and Democrats fighting over deficits, and Buffett Rules, and millionaires. But, surprise!, payroll taxes make up a nearly equivalent share of government revenue, especially since corporate income taxes have shriveled in the last 60 years as a share of the total pie."

Where do Federal taxes go?

"The federal government was once elegantly described by Ezra Klein as a big fat insurance company surrounded by a standing army. It's a useful quip, because our government is basically in the business of security. Social Security, income security, health care security for the elderly, poor and veterans, and guns-and-helmets security account for about 80% of government spending. That's what we pay for when we pay taxes."

<http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2012/04/how-we-pay-taxes-11-charts/255954/>

<http://www.cbpp.org/cms/?fa=view&id=3822>

Posted by Cal in Christian Living at 10:41

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT WAGES

Workers must be treated well and fairly ...and must be paid fully and promptly [i.e.- as per contract]

Jas 5:1 Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries which are coming upon you. 3 Your gold and your silver have rusted; and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire. 5 You have lived luxuriously on the earth and led a life of wanton pleasure; 4 Behold, the pay of the laborers who mowed your fields, and which has been withheld by you, cries out against you; and the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth.

Lev 19:13 "Do not defraud or rob your neighbor. "Do not hold back the wages of a hired worker..

Deut 24:14 Do not take advantage of a hired worker who is poor and needy, whether that worker is a fellow Israelite or a foreigner residing in one of your towns. 15 Pay them their wages each day before sunset, because they are poor and are counting on it. Otherwise they may cry to the LORD against you, and you will be guilty of sin.

Deut 25:4 Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain. cf 1 Cor.9:9

Jer 22:13 "Woe to him who builds his palace by unrighteousness, his upper rooms by injustice, making his own people work for nothing, not paying them for their labor.

Mal 3:5 "So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me," says the LORD Almighty.

I Tim 5:18 "The laborer deserves his wages."

Posted by Cal in Bible Topics at 10:24

WHO ACTUALLY EARNS MINIMUM WAGE

Data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Census Bureau show that most minimum-wage earners are young, part-time workers and that relatively few of them live below the poverty line. Their average family income is over \$53,000 a year. A hike in the minimum wage primarily raises pay for suburban teenagers, not the working poor. If Congress and the President seriously want to help the working poor, they should look elsewhere.

<http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2013/02/who-earns-the-minimum-wage-suburban-teenagers-not-single-parents>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:12

MINIMUM WAGE AND ECONOMIC COMMON SENSE

"Senator Edward Kennedy once called the minimum wage "one of the best antipoverty programs we have." Jared Bernstein, former chief economist to Vice President Joe Biden, thinks "it raises the pay of low-wage workers without hurting their job prospects." Why do those beliefs persist in the face of common economic sense? No legislator has ever overturned the law of demand, which says that when the price of labor rises, the quantity demanded will fall (assuming other things are constant). That same law tells us that quantity demanded (i.e., the number of jobs for low-skilled workers) will decrease more in the long run than in the short run, as employers switch to labor-saving methods of production—and unemployment will increase. The belief that increasing the minimum wage is socially beneficial is a delusion. It is short-sighted and ignores evident reality."

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/jamesdorn/2013/05/07/the-minimum-wage-delusion-and-the-death-of-common-sense/>

Posted by Cal in Current Events at 10:08