

Focusing on the distraction

Recently, I was listening to a morning, drive-time interview between the host of the radio show, and a CT State Senator. They were discussing whether or not businesses could stay open with reduced inside-seating capacity, and additional staff of disinfecting in-between patrons. Profitability was issue, given the current circumstances.

Just last evening I heard another interview between a former civil rights attorney and a radio host, about the racial division that exists in the US, and how we won't ever solve it until both sides agree on a way in which to solve it, the races becoming finally reconciled.

In church last Sunday, I heard an elder who was officiating the pastoral prayer time, ask that we pray for the racial division that is roiling the nation at this time.

What is the common denominator in these three scenarios? They are all three, focusing on the distraction, rather than the issue.

This is what happens in life. A foundational, fundamental problem arises, which then causes other, smaller ancillary problems. Because the ancillary problems are more “immediate”, they usually take precedent. It's the “tyranny of the urgent” thing, you know.

The urgent things must be dealt with if we are to survive to deal with the fundamental, foundational things; and it's very easy to get stuck there.

I'll give you a simple, silly example. You're out driving with the family, and you hear some thumping in one or your rear wheels, and the car is feeling funny. You are sure you've got a flat tire. When you go to get the jack and spare out of the trunk, you realize that the trunk is such a mess that you can't easily get to either the jack or the spare. Instead of putting things aside, getting the jack and spare and changing the tire, you begin organizing the trunk. Meanwhile the family is in the car, freezing, wondering why you're not out there changing the tire. The spouse gets impatient, understandably, and comes to the trunk, only to find you rearranging things. She then engages you in a discussion about what things ought to be and ought not to be in the trunk, and where they should be stored. Naturally, there's disagreement about what's actually necessary in a car's trunk, and what's optional. In fact, perhaps the jack and spare are optional since the car can easily be towed to garage, but then again, if it's a weekend, or a holiday, or perhaps you might one day want to teach one of the kids how to change a flat for the spare... so perhaps it should remain in the trunk. By now it's dark and you're afraid you'll get hit by another car if you're out there changing the flat, so you decide to call the roadside service to tow the car, while you and the family walk on the other side of the guardrail to a nearby coffee shop to wait. Another car comes by, doesn't see yours, hits it

and it's totaled. The tow truck driver who tows the car away, tells you that there was a stone stuck in the tire's tread, and it wasn't flat after all.

This is what comes of *focusing on the distraction...*

In recent months, the church of Jesus Christ has been *focusing on the distraction*, and what is at stake is much greater than the car... rather, what is actually at stake is the culture in which the church exists and operates, and the very culture of the church itself... the operation of which has been severely compromised, and severely damaged in my estimation.

The church is now focusing on its “new normal” instead of its mission to focus on the truth of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. It is focused on how to keep functioning under the “new guidelines” for the various aspects of our culture (of which the church is not to be a part, by the way).

The Gospel understands that humankind is deceived by “the god of this age”, and what comes down frequently from his representatives in government. Is not history replete with examples of the persecution of the Church of Jesus Christ by governments worldwide?

Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart. But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 2Cor 4:1-6

The pandemic premise is a lie.

The underlying assumptions are lies. The underlying premises upon which the draconian measures we are experiencing are based, are lies. When we focus on all the particulars of the “new normal” that is founded upon those underlying assumptions and faulty premises, we, the church of Jesus Christ, are focusing on lies.

The deception that has swept the world, has been bought by the church of Jesus Christ, hook, line and proverbial sinker. Rather than finding out the truth of the matter, the

leaders of the church have chosen rather to trust in mainstream info/news sources, all of which have been co-opted and corrupted by – say it with me now – “the god of this world”. What ever made the church believe that it would be getting proper, truthful, accurate, dependable information from “the news”, is completely beyond me.

But pastors and even denominational leaders seem to have bought that which comes from the god of this world, and are now focusing on the “new normal” (which that lowercase “G” god is mandating and enforcing at the point of a gun), rather than on the truth... which is that all the things upon with the new normal is ostensibly based, are lies... and the church is going along with them, rather than exposing them.

And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. Eph 5:11

I spoke at a church on Sunday, and my wife and I were the only ones there without a mask on our faces. The chairs were “socially distanced”, and the greeters were informing attendees that they needed to have a mask on in order to enter and stay. Oh, and by the way, attendees were only allowed to be there by reservation.

All there, were afraid of one another, at one level or another; either afraid that someone there would sicken them, or that they could sicken someone else, who could sicken someone else, etc, and it might be an old person, or a baby, or an already sick person, etc, etc, etc...

Most there were even convinced of the “asymptomatic transmission” story. That's the idea that if you have no symptoms (in other words, you're not sick!), you could still spread the disease anyway. Think about that for a second... convincing a population that they could get sick from healthy people. Who lies like this but the devil?

That SARS-CoV-2 is deadly disease, is a lie.

That social distancing will stop the spread of it, is a lie.

That our medical institutions would be/were overwhelmed, is a lie.

That there were PPE shortages was a lie.

That economic/social shutdowns were/are effective, is a lie.

That continued mask-wearing and social distancing is keeping the population safe and protected, is a lie.

That state, local and federal authorities are making decisions for public safety, is a lie.

That they know what they're doing in that regard, is a lie.

That they're the best and brightest among us, fit for the task, is a lie.

That somehow they now represent God's Truth rather than the god of this world, is a lie...

... and the church is eating up that lie with a big spoon, focusing on the distractions, rather than on the truth; which is that this is all a lie.

There are data that do not lie, confirming all the lies above as such. Sadly, almost no one is aware of these data, and the mainstream news/info sources are not reporting it... rather, they are misreporting it, decrying it, burying it, censoring it, canceling it, having it banned on various information platforms... Who suppresses information, God, or His enemies?

What is there to learn from this, loved ones?

First, learn and know that the god of this world is not interested in your health, safety, freedom or well being. He is the father of lies, and comes only to steal, kill and destroy... so says God's word of him. It is true and I believe it, and have experienced it. Have you not?

Second, that the truth is out there, available for us, should we desire to know it. It might take some doing, some questioning, some study, some time, some investigation, but is that not what we as members of the Body of Christ are to do... seek the Truth as if it is silver or gold... to search for it as for hidden treasure?

My son, if you receive my words, And treasure my commands within you, So that you incline your ear to wisdom, And apply your heart to understanding; Yes, if you cry out for discernment, And lift up your voice for understanding, If you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures; Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, And find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding; He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly; He guards the paths of justice, And preserves the way of His saints. Then you will understand righteousness and justice, Equity and every good path. When wisdom enters your heart, And knowledge is pleasant to your soul, Discretion will preserve you; Understanding will keep you, To deliver you from the way of evil, From the man who speaks perverse things, From those who leave the paths of uprightness To walk in the ways of darkness; Who rejoice in doing evil, And delight in the perversity of the wicked; Whose ways are crooked, And who are devious in their paths; Prov 2:1-15

The wisest man who ever lived, told us that wisdom, knowledge and understanding are the absolute, most important and essential things to human existence. Above is the quote from him that those things should be sought as if one is seeking hidden treasure! One doesn't seek hidden treasure by just hoping that it'll come along incidentally. Rather, he prepares and sets out, focusing all his attention on finding it!

It is so important that the writer says that in all that one can possibly get in this world, the most important thing to get is wisdom, knowledge and understanding. Observe...

Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth. Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you; Love her, and she will keep you. Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding. Exalt her, and she will promote you; She will bring you honor, when you embrace her. She will place on your head an ornament of grace; A crown of glory she will deliver to you." Hear, my son, and receive my sayings, And the years of your life will be many. I have taught you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in right paths. When you walk, your steps will not be hindered, And when you run, you will not stumble. Take firm hold of instruction, do not let go; Keep her, for she is your life. Do not enter the path of the wicked, And do not walk in the way of evil. Avoid it, do not travel on it; Turn away from it and pass on. For they do not sleep unless they have done evil; And their sleep is taken away unless they make someone fall. For they eat the bread of wickedness, And drink the wine of violence. But the path of the just is like the shining sun, That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day. The way of the wicked is like darkness; They do not know what makes them stumble. My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; For they are life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh. Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life. Put away from you a deceitful mouth, And put perverse lips far from you. Let your eyes look straight ahead, And your eyelids look right before you. Ponder the path of your feet, And let all your ways be established. Do not turn to the right or the left; Remove your foot from evil. Proverbs 4:5-27

Regarding “get wisdom... get understanding...”, you've really got nothing else to do, Loved Ones. Even in the mundane things of life, God is teaching us all the time. That's what He does by His Holy Spirit. Get Wisdom. Get Understanding. That is to be our focus. All else is distraction.

Pastor