



Random Thoughts, Vol. 10

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If this "Random Thoughts" column is new to you, then here is a quick introduction. Below is a collection of my own observations, thoughts, and insights which may or may not prove to be a blessing to others. Each of these is not long enough to warrant an entire article on its own, but begged to be written down nonetheless.

Romans 1 All Over Again

June 26, 2015

Well it appears that the whole nations has "evolved" on the "gay marriage" issue now. Or at least we are going to be forced to. This morning we were informed that the Supreme Court has declared that "gay marriage" is legal in all 50 states. This should not have come as a surprise to anyone. We are seeing the fruit fall off the tree of a nation that is under the judgment described in Romans 1.

By the time you read this, political commentators, radio talk show hosts, and Christian bloggers will have hashed and rehashed the decision and its implications. If you are sick of reading and hearing about it, just move on to the next subtitle in this article.

Here are a list of thoughts on this issue that ran through my brain in the hours after I heard of the SCOTUS decision.

* This is now called the "law of the land." Even presidential candidate Ben Carson, within hours after the announcement, referred to the SCOTUS decision as "the law of the land." Actually, it is not. The Supreme Court cannot make law. Only the legislature can make law, that is why we call them "law makers." Those nine unelected justices do not write law. We need to stop pretending that they do.

* SCOTUS ruled marriage is between "two persons." What? Who are these intolerant bigots? Why "persons?"

Who are they to limit people's love interests. Some people love inanimate objects and want to marry them. They were born this way. Some people want to marry animals. Why should they be prohibited? And why "two." Why not "three" or "four" or more? These intolerant bigots are on the wrong side of history! Who do they think they are to condemn whole classes of people robbing them of their dignity? Who are they to force their morality upon us? Who are they to "limit" marriage to only "two" and only "persons?"

That is the sarcastic side of me coming out.

* What we are seeing is Romans 1 played out before our eyes. This is a nation under the judgment of God and the evidence of that is the fact that the leaders of this nation and it's cultural icons can no longer think. They have been given over to a depraved mind. In short, their thinking is busted. Truth means nothing any more and the court is only doing what we would expect darkened unbelievers to do: stumble through the blackness of their own thinking doing what is right in their own eyes. (**Judges 21:25**) As God's people, we can expect there will be difficult times ahead as we try to live in a world that has lost any moral reasoning and is set adrift on the relativistic sea of its own depravity without a moral compass. We can only pray to the Lord as Habakkuk did, that in the midst of judgment, He will remember mercy. (**Habakkuk 3:2**)

* I am not a prophet or the son of a prophet, but if I had to make some predictions based on the current trajectory our nation is heading, I expect that this decision spells the end of the First Amendment for Christians. Oh, it will take a few years for this to come to full bloom, but not many.

After all, if someone has a "right" to something, then someone else has an obligation to provide that "right" to them. If you think the soft persecution of Christian

business owners and pastors who refuse to do same-sex wedding ceremonies has been egregious - and it has - "you aint seen nothing yet."

This cannot end well for people with a moral compass. No one can be legally protected from refusing to service a same-sex ceremony. So who do you think the Gaystapo is going to target next?

* This world is not my home. I am a citizen of Heaven from which I eagerly wait for a Savior. "Even so, come Lord Jesus."

* This decision is going to do something good for the church. For the last 2 generations, the Evangelical Church in America has been glutted with false converts, wolves in sheep's clothing and closet apostates. Now that the "sin that dare not speak it's name" has been affirmed with the power of government, the apostates are going to come out of the closet.

Tony Campolo, to nobody's surprise came out a week ago and called for the full acceptance of gay couples in the church. Immediately the former editor of Christianity Today (I affectionately refer to it as Christianity Astray), David Neff praised Campolo's move. More wolves, false teachers, and false converts are sure to follow.

This issue will prove to be the dividing line of our age. Those who believe Scripture, love the Lord Jesus Christ, and seek to be obedient and faithful will never embrace this moral compromise. Apostates will. False teachers will. Fake converts will. One good thing that will come of this: we are going to see who the true believers, true teachers, and true churches are. They are the ones who will be faithful to the truth.

* Christians need to get armed and equipped to argue in the public square. You will need to know how to answer those who claim that the Bible doesn't really condemn homosexual behavior. Now is the time for thinking Christians to stand and proclaim truth (lovingly!) in the public square. A good place to start would be to pick up two books: *What does the Bible Teach About Homosexuality* by Kevin DeYoung and *The Same Sex Controversy* by James White.

* People need the gospel. I know this is a bit far down this list, but I am offering these in no particular order. The only hope for people is the gospel. When people are truly saved and embrace the truth, their hearts and minds will be changed regarding this issue. The only way that can happen is if Christians boldly proclaim the need for all men to repent of sin and embrace the salvation offered in Jesus Christ (**Acts 17:30-31**).

As you discuss this with friends, neighbors, relatives and co-workers - be intentional about bringing the conversation around to the gospel. Do not be afraid to quote Scripture even if they reject it as authoritative.

* It is time for this Union to dissolve. Call it cessation if you want. Call it "an end to this experiment in liberty." When nine unelected tyrants in Washington DC dictate to the rest of us what our conscience must be, and what we are required by law to affirm, can anyone really make the case that we are still a union of free and independent states?

Maybe this one is a bit rash, but it ran through my thoughts.

* We REALLY need to get our building finished and soon. In this climate, we are not going to be allowed much longer to rent a government funded school building for our services and activities.

Well those are some of my thoughts. I do hope and pray that God will bring true, genuine Holy Spirit-wrought revival to this land and that nothing bad out of all that I fear comes to pass. If He does not and if these things do, then we must fear God more than man and obey God above all.

"Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, 'The Lord knows those who are His,' and, 'Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness.'" (**2 Timothy 2:19**)

The Jennerization of America

June 26, 2015

Every once in a while, there is a news story that seems to capture not only our collective attention, but at the same time defines all that is wrong in our culture. Bruce Jenner did this when he announced that he was now going to be called Caitlyn Jenner. You are familiar with the details of the story so I won't recount those here.

Those who refuse to refer to him as "she" or "Caitlyn" were quickly labeled as intolerant, narrow minded bigots who are stuck with an antiquated notion of gender.

Let's take a trip back in time. In January of 2005, Lawrence Summers, then President of Harvard University, had the unmitigated audacity to claim that men and women are different and that these differences accounted for certain disparities between the genders. He was summarily fired. He was fired for affirming what is patently obvious to anyone who has two braincells to rub together.

We were told that the notion that genders are different was an antiquated notion and those who still believe the sexes are different were on the wrong side of history. We

were evolving as a society to a place where we recognize there is absolutely no difference between the sexes. To believe otherwise was to disqualify one's self from being the leader of such a prestigious institution of higher learning like Harvard. They were enlightened and on the right side of history.

Today we have evolved to the point of being forced to affirm Bruce Jenner's decision to "self identify" as a female. To state the obvious, namely, that Bruce Jenner is still a man was to show just how bigoted, narrow-minded and antiquated you are. If the sexes are identical and there is no difference between them, then why did Bruce Jenner need to change from one to the other? Doesn't his "transition" show that men and women **are** different? It most certainly does.

10 years ago you were on the wrong side of history for believing that men and women are different. Today you are on the wrong side of history for believing they are the same. The wrong side of history sure evolves fast, doesn't it?

As it turns out, those of us with common sense were on the right side all along!

Planned Parenthood Peddling Parts

7/20/2015

Last week, a video surfaced of Dr. Deborah Nucatola, Planned Parenthood Federation of America's Senior Director of Medical Services, describing how she, as part of Planned Parenthood, sells the body parts of aborted unborn children. With a cool and calm demeanor that would send chills down the spine of Josef Mengele, Nucatola discussed the peddling of baby parts while enjoying her salad and sipping wine.

This revelation raised the moral outrage of the nation. While the mainstream media seemed to be unable to find this story to report on it, social media brought it to national attention. The Pro-abortion lobby went into full scale spin mode referring to the video as "heavily edited" and suggested that there was nothing at all to these charges. Meanwhile GOP candidates started calling for the defunding of Planned Parenthood (PP). Rand Paul posted a rant on his facebook page providing a link to a petition to defund PP and in the same post asked that people please give \$20.16 to his presidential campaign. Ben Carson likewise called for defunding PP and Ted Cruz challenged Obama to prosecute PP for their illegal activity - and it is illegal. Selling human body parts is a felony.

What has seemed to be lost in all of this the fact that

selling the body parts is not the real moral outrage. The real moral outrage is the fact that it is legal to kill these babies in the first place! The real moral outrage is the fact that there are baby body parts available for sale! This is like people knowing that Jews are being killed each and every day in Auschwitz and being virtually silent about it, but once it is discovered that they are using the skin of their victims for lampshades . . . , oh the outrage!

The day before this video was released, none of these candidates were publicly calling for PP to be defunded and yet on that day, nearly 3,000 babies were murdered. So why the cry for defunding now?

Perhaps it is opportune. Maybe these men, who are opposed to abortion, see an opportunity to get something done while the conscience of a nation has been temporarily awakened and they feel the need to strike while the iron is hot. I can understand that.

However, I would prefer to hear these same men demand not just that PP be defunded, but that abortion be outlawed altogether. If PP is defunded, another organization will take its place, kill babies and receive government funding for their "vital services." The holocaust will continue under a different letterhead. This would be as if someone during World War II demanded that Auschwitz be defunded without demanding that the slaughter of Jews be stopped and their right to life recognized.

Abortion is the religious sacrament of the progressive left. They offer the blood of the innocent on Baal's altar to the god of "reproductive freedom." And people are outraged over the parts being sold? The real issue in all of this is that babies are being murdered. I want to hear a Presidential candidate stand up and call for the complete end to the entire abortion industry in this country and the prosecution of abortion providers. That would be real courage.

This news story has forced our society to face its complete moral disconnect. For instance, the only way that the selling of baby parts by Planned Parenthood is morally objectionable is if we admit that those are real living human persons made in the image of God. If they are not, then what are we objecting to? Would you object if the dentist sold the tooth he extracted? Would you feel the same moral outrage if the doctor sold the appendix you had removed? Of course not. It is only a moral outrage if these are human persons.

Second, no atheist can object to this practice because they cannot believe that human persons are more valuable than any other collection of cells. These are just blobs of

tissue. These "parts" are just meaningless matter, chemical reactions, and globs of cells. No "pro-abortion" can object to selling off the remains, because they don't believe these babies have a right to live in the first place. Once their personhood is denied and their right to life is taken away - how can you object to selling their parts?

When I kill a deer, I take the hide into Pacific Hide and Steel and trade the deer hide in for a pair of gloves. I can also turn around and sell the antlers. Is anyone "outraged" over this? No. Why? Because deer are not human persons made in the image of God. Babies are real human persons. All the "outrage" demonstrates that deep down our society knows exactly what it is doing when it ignores and defends the murder of these people in the name of "freedom."

Calling for government defunding of one abortion provider will do nothing to stop the slaughter of innocents.

A Call For Whole-Hearted Christian Courage

7/28/2015

We are living in dangerous and desperate times. The news of the last few weeks has been nothing short of tragically discouraging. I would believe that all hope is lost **if** I thought that the Christian mission was to transform culture, rescue America, or seat moral politicians in positions of power. That is not our calling. Our calling is to proclaim the gospel, stand for truth, and live godly and righteously in the midst of this wicked and perverse generation (Philippians 2:14-15; Titus 2:11-14). THAT I can do. That I can do in the power of the Holy Spirit in reliance upon our Sovereign King. You can too.

We are not trying to transform culture. We seeking to be faithful witnesses for the Risen Christ. A godly man or woman can live well in ANY culture, no matter how wicked it might be.

God has placed you here in this nation, at this time, with His gospel. What will you do with it?

This is not the hour to surrender and cower to the demands of a rebellious world system. This is not the time to shrink back into our shells and stay silent while evil wins the day. This is the time to stand for truth and to stand boldly. We will not compromise. We will not back down. We will not conform. We will not bow the knee to Baal.

We are called to stand unflinchingly in the face of a world that hates us. This world needs the truth. Those who promote the wickedness and darkness of this culture are lost, blinded, and under the wrath of God. They are not the enemy. They are the mission field.

The truth does not change. We have the truth. Those who have the truth are always on the right side of history.

The Church will be victorious. Christ will triumph over all His enemies and His justice will not tarry long.

Our citizenship is in Heaven from which we look for a Savior.

Be encouraged. Be emboldened. Stand firm!

Ephesians 6:10-14 - "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore. . ."

Without Wax-



"The postmodern world has no need of half-evangelists preaching a half-gospel to the half-converted and leading a half-hearted church. What is needed is a generation of bold and courageous preacher-apologists for the twenty-first century – men who will be witnesses to the whole world of the power of the gospel and who will proclaim the whole counsel of God." - Albert Mohler