



On The Frontier



“For The Glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel”

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All Scripture presented is from the Authorized King James Version unless otherwise noted. Comments and notations by this author within Scripture text will appear in brackets.

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Altruism And The Christian

The Word of God speaks quite clearly as regards man's attitude toward himself.

Proverbs 21:2

Every way of a man *is* right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts.

Proverbs 16:2

All the ways of a man *are* clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weigheth the spirits.

This is the primary reason for arguments. In the course of ideological debating, both parties think they are correct and so have no intention of listening to the end of thoughtful consideration leading to change.

Arguments differ greatly from fights as fights often are waged with the intent of protecting or

defending true beliefs. One should most certainly fight for what is right and avoid arguing.

That being said, we can be certain that to every story there are at least two sides. Taking that a step further, a wise man taught me a long time ago that there are usually three sides to every story, i.e., party A's side, party B's side and God's side. Consequently, we would be remiss should we not consider God's Word on every subject pertaining to ideology.

We should further consider the following:

Proverbs 12:15

The way of a fool *is* right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel *is* wise.

Man's carnal nature has led him to the above described foolish thinking. All as a result of believing the "big lie" and disobeying God's command.

Which command stated:

Genesis 2:16-17

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou

eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Simple and concise, allowing for great abundance and latitude for man, however the devil succeeded in deceiving Eve. Adam, though not deceived, followed suite due to his love for her. A regretful and consequence laden act on his part. One which we ALL feel the brunt of to this very day.

Genesis 3:1-5

Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

But of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

And there you have it! The big lie!

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You shall be as gods! Today man is still misled into thinking he is a god. The more successful, the more god-like he thinks he is. Consider this, dear reader:

Romans 1:18-22

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed *it* unto them.

For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

So then, if we wish to be wise, we ought not to profess ourselves as such, especially in the context of denying God His glory. To do so would be foolish.

I Corinthians 1:26-31

For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called*:

But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, *yea*, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

That no flesh should glory in his presence.

No flesh should ever take the glory that rightly belongs to God. Yet, men continue to do this very thing as testified to by their words and ways.

Verse 30:

But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

How remarkable that we are in fact made wise when (and only when) we give God the glory. This then is true wisdom and not the faux-wisdom of the world.

Verse 31:

That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

Let our glorying be in God, His Son, His matchless Word and in nothing else.

Proverbs 14:12

There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death.

Since all the ways of man are clean in his own eyes, it comes as no surprise to learn that which seemed so right was very wrong.

One need only read the book of Judges to see the consequence of men left to their own devices.

Judges 17:6

In those days *there was* no king in Israel, *but* every man did *that which was* right in his own eyes.

The result of the above? Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord as affirmed in Judges 2:11, 3:7, 3:12, 4:1, 6:1, 10:6 and 13:1.

Please, at your leisure read the above chapters in their entirety. The negative impact of acting in concert with what was right in their own eyes was staggering.

Psalms 12:3-4

The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, *and* the tongue that speaketh proud things:

Who have said, With our tongue will we prevail; our lips *are* our own: who *is* lord over us?

That's a promise! And while we don't always get to see this come to fruition, we can be assured it will:

Galatians 6:7,8

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth

to the Spirit shall of the Spirit
reap life everlasting.

We have after all said "Jesus is
Lord." Have we not?

Romans 10:9

That if thou shalt confess with
thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and
shalt believe in thine heart that
God hath raised him from the
dead, thou shalt be saved.

Salvation is wonderful and all
important. To this all would agree.
But lest we forget, we are no longer
the lords of our lives, Jesus is.

II Corinthians 5:14,15

For the love of Christ
constraineth us; because we thus
judge, that if one died for all,
then were all dead:

And *that* he died for all, that they
which live should not henceforth
live unto themselves, but unto
him which died for them, and
rose again.

It is the love of Christ that continues
to beckon our love. Time and time
again we are reminded of his great
love for us and all that his sacrifice
means to us both now and
throughout eternity.

II Corinthians contains the heart
behind the reproof set forth in I
Corinthians where the doctrine of
Romans was being improperly
applied/believed.

Romans 14:7,8

For none of us liveth to himself,
and no man dieth to himself.

For whether we live, we live
unto the Lord; and whether we
die, we die unto the Lord:
whether we live therefore, or
die, we are the Lord's.

This is set in the context of
accepting your brother in Christ.
Truly, none of us live in a vacuum.
Consequently, we must consider
how our words and deeds affect
those around us. And this we will
do if we follow the commands of
God and renew our minds
accordingly.

Romans 12:1-3

I beseech you therefore,
brethren, by the mercies of God,
that ye present your bodies a
living sacrifice, holy, acceptable
unto God, *which is* your
reasonable service.

To be a living sacrifice is to live for
God and not for yourself. This must
be our living ethos. What follows is
the how of implementing it on a
daily basis.

Verse 2 &3

And be not conformed to this
world: but be ye transformed by
the renewing of your mind, that
ye may prove what *is* that good,
and acceptable, and perfect, will
of God.

For I say, through the grace
given unto me, to every man
that is among you, not to think
of himself more highly than he
ought to think; but to think
soberly, according as God hath
dealt to every man the measure
of faith.

Clearly then, this begins by
following the teachings of Jesus
Christ to the end that we live
them.

His teachings are embodied in the
following verse:

Matthew 7:12

Therefore all things whatsoever
ye would that men should do to
you, do ye even so to them: for
this is the law and the prophets.

Many know this as the "Golden
Rule," i.e., do unto others as you
would have others do unto you.

An excellent credo to say the least,
one brought to practicality in the
concept of altruism.

Altruism is the selfless concern for
the welfare of others. It focuses on
a motivation to help others out of a
want to do well without reward
and not because of duty or
obligation. This is exemplified in
the life of Jesus Christ.

John 10:11,15

I am the good shepherd: the
good shepherd giveth his life
for the sheep.

As the Father knoweth me,
even so know I the Father: and
I lay down my life for the
sheep.

Romans 5:6-8

For when we were yet without
strength, in due time Christ
died for the ungodly.

For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

The greatest possible examples of love AND altruism, set forth by God and His wonderful Son Jesus Christ!

John 15:13

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

This great love is the very thing that drove our Lord to the Cross. It is what motivated our Heavenly Father to give His Son for us. That being the case, what ought we to do?

I John 4:10,11

Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

Therefore, when faced with ANY decision, we must be altruistic. We must be constantly mindful of our effect on others because we are not alone in this world and no one has died making us "king of anything."

Ephesians 5:1,2

Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;

And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

If we walk in love we will be altruistic in our decision making and consequently in all our actions.

Philippians 2:3,4

Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

This is not a suggestion but rather a command. Too many Christians have been made to think that the commands of God are suggestions. But even if God were to suggest it would still be tantamount to a command. He is after all God and we are not.

Remember the big lie is a lie and nothing more.

Reproof often lends clarity to our situations, consider the following:

I Corinthians 10:23,24

All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not.

Let no man seek his own, but every man another's *wealth*.

The supplied word found in italics does not speak well to our current use of English. A better word would be "good" or perhaps "welfare."

I Corinthians 10:24

Let no man seek his own, but *each* his neighbor's *good*. (1901 ASV)

The above (good) is more properly supplied.

The Bible in Basic English renders it this way:

Let a man give attention not only to what is good for himself, but equally to his neighbour's good.

The following gives more insight:

I Corinthians 10:33

Even as I please all *men* in all *things*, not seeking mine own profit, but the *profit* of many, that they may be saved.

Obviously the Apostle Paul was both loving and altruistic.

The proper doctrine along with THE supreme example for us to follow is found in Romans.

Romans 15:1-3

We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

Let every one of us please *his* neighbour for *his* good to edification.

For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.

There are those who argue rights when making decisions. However, it behooves us to consider rights in the following light:

I Corinthians 6:12

All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient:

all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

In any situation, ask yourself how you would feel if the roles or circumstances were reversed.

Ask yourself what your motive is.

Are you going to be the sole beneficiary of your words and deeds?

It is the world which promotes the notion of "self." We are not of the world.

John 15:18,19

If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before *it hated* you.

If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

We must condemn self-interest and embrace a true concern for others. Becoming selfless will prove to be far more rewarding than being selfish. This will go a very long way to getting the "worldliness" out of our thinking.

I John 2:15-17

Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

The world is constantly vying for our attentions. This is done through covetous self-interest.

Take note of the following:

II Peter 2:1-3

But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise [emporeuomai] of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

False prophets who would make merchandise of us! Merchandise being the use of a person for gain. That is, to buy and sell.

The passage below translates the Greek word emporeuomai as "buy and sell." It's used twice in succession to emphasize the purpose (gain).

James 4:13,14

Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy [emporeuomai]

and sell [emporeuomai], and get gain:

Those worldly agents who would use us think of us as little more than a chattel. We dare not be like them, not at any level.

The next verse has an interesting truth which may be applied to the false prophets as well as to all those who live for material gain.

Verse 14:

Whereas ye know not what *shall be* on the morrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

This is true for all of us regardless of how we live. Since that is true, how then should we live?

Let us then embrace our Christian ethos and be altruistic in all our decision making, knowing that we are not the only ones to experience the impact of what we say and do.

Let us consider the welfare of others before we do anything. Consideration is, after all, one of the great characteristics of the love of God.

I Corinthians 13:4-8a

Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but
rejoiceth in the truth;

Beareth all things, believeth all
things, hopeth all things,
endureth all things.

Charity never faileth: . . .

Sue's News

Another summer is coming to a close here in Alaska. The Alaska State Fair usually marks the official end of summer with the closing day falling on Labor Day. In the past, the kids went back to school the day after the Fair closed, but in recent years they have changed that to coincide the end of the fall semester with Christmas vacation. So our kids are back in school mid-August.

Many families were not in favor of this because the Fair was the last family outing of the summer. Now there are not so many children at the fair during the week but some families simply let their kids stay home from school for a day at the fair.

We live in close proximity to the Fairgrounds and the traffic it generates can sometimes be annoying. But the number of people who attend the Fair and the economic boost it gives to our community makes 12 days of traffic tolerable. Last year there were about 350,000 people who attended and it employed close to 500 people.

Among the highlights of the Fair are the huge vegetables the local farmers grow. We have a giant cabbage weigh-off every year. This is what

the Anchorage Daily News had to say last year.

PALMER -- At a fair where cabbage is king, Steve Hubacek is the undisputed king of them all. Hubacek broke his own world record Friday when his enormous cabbage "The Beast" weighed in at 127 pounds at the Alaska State Fair's annual Giant Cabbage Weigh-Off.

Now that's a lot of cole slaw!

We still meet at Frontier Christian Ministries' Teaching Center every Sunday at 11:00 a.m.. Linus teaches the Word with great accuracy and heart. We have had a few barbeques this summer with everyone heading over to our house after fellowship at the Teaching Center. We have burgers grilled by Linus and we sit around talking, eating and having a good time. The kids run all around outside and have lots of fun. I'm sure they all slept well on those nights!

My grandsons are growing up fast. Malachi will turn eight years old this September. It seems like yesterday that he was an infant. He is smart and definitely knows what he likes. Right now he is into anything "camo" and would like granddaddy to take him hunting. Arin turned six years old in June and does whatever he can to annoy his brother. Typical boys! They are both sweet and loving, but most assuredly - BOYS!

Lydia is heading to Boston in October to see some friends and maybe stay if she finds a job there. As I have said before, we'll miss her, but she's looking for her own path to follow. Linus IV is doing

well. He has a great job with the Municipality of Anchorage where they work a 4-day week. He spends a lot of his time off with his boys and they have done lots of fishing together this summer. I have some salmon in my freezer as a result.

So until next time, stay blessed!

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NOTES

Sermons We See

By Edgar A. Guest

I'd rather see a sermon than to hear one any day;
I'd rather one should walk with me than merely tell the way.
The eye's a better pupil and more willing than the ear;
Fine council is confusing, but example's always clear;
And the best of all the preachers are the men who live their creeds,
For to see good put in action is what everybody needs.

I soon can learn to do it if you'll let me see it done;
I can watch your hands in action, but your tongue too fast may run.
And the lecture you deliver may be very wise and true;
But I'd rather get my lessons by observing what you do.
For i might misunderstand you and the high advice you give,
But there's no misunderstanding how you act and how you live.

When I see a deed of kindness, I am eager to be kind.
When a weaker brother stumbles and a strong man stays behind
Just to see if he can help him, then the wish grows strong in me,
To become as big and thoughtful as I know that I can be.
And all the travelers can witness that the best of guides today
Is not the one who tells you, but the one who shows the way.

One good man teaches many, men believe what they behold;
One deed of kindness noticed is worth forty that are told.
Who stands with men of honor learns to hold his honor dear,
for right living speaks a language which to everyone is clear.
Though an able speaker charms me with his eloquence, I say,
I'd rather see a sermon than to hear one, any day.