

Applying the Faith

By Ron Kirk, June 7, 2021

This is not an edgy criticism. It is a crying out with some hope of sparking repentance. Apostle Paul says as Christians we go from glory to glory, not from inglory. There is now therefore no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. Yet from the beginning of His ministry, Jesus cried out, "Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand." It is both/and because we all naturally fall short. Therefore, God chastens all whom He loves as sons (Hebrews 12:6). Prophecy is not primarily foretelling the future, but bringing back wayward children of God to their Scriptural foundation—correcting what is wrong in the peoples' understanding and practice.

We see very encouraging signs from the Bible-believing church—a re-awakening of the greater meaning of the Gospel and Great Commission. Ready with an answer applies to everything in life—the application of Scripture to everything think and do. Take every thought captive. The leaders of Christ's body in the churches are starting to get it. The best churches teach worldview. Yet something remains sadly missing.

The problem is that this is such a new thing that pastors are not educated to teach it properly. Scripture demands application. Not mere personal application, or enjoying marriage, etc., Scripture applied to all of meaningful life. So that whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, you do all to God's glory—self-consciously and upon sound preparation, a solid education (1 Corinthians 10:31).

When I sought a remedy for materialistic psychology in Sunday School materials, I finally found in two interrelated movements—The Christian history movement, and the Christian Reconstruction movement. My book, *Thy Will Be Done* attempts to introduce to the thoughtful Christian, and hopefully Christian leaders how to begin to apply the Scriptures.

I learned from these two movements that in order to learn from God's Providence we thoroughly learn to read and apply Scripture. But to keep from re-inventing the wheel, we also look at the work of Providence in men over the ages. We learn from the examples of history—good and bad—to help us find the right understanding of Scripture.

The just walk by faith. God doesn't just give us a check list, but expects us to forget ourselves and seek Him. We stumble along. It took four hundred years of Christian history to articulate the Chalcedon formula that establishes the mainstream doctrine of

Christ. It sixteen hundred years for Christians to get the idea of institutional civil liberty upon the ground of self-government.

We can and ought to learn from those lessons, always taking them back to the origin in Scripture.

America's colonial pastors were the best educated in their communities. They learned to think Biblically about the sciences (learning of every kind), the arts (skills of every kind), farming, warfare, civil government, education. This heritage started with the American Pilgrim, who with a few of their Reformed and Puritan fellows. As Daniel Webster said of the Pilgrims in 1820:

Finally, let us not forget the religious character of our origin. Our fathers were brought hither by their high veneration for the Christian religion. They journeyed by its light, and labored in its hope. They sought to incorporate its principles with the elements of their society, and to diffuse its influence through all their institutions, civil, political, or literary. Let us cherish these sentiments, and extend this influence still more widely; in the full conviction, that that is the happiest society which partakes in the highest degree of the mild and peaceful spirit of Christianity.

Until our pastors understand that all parts of this life matters and learn to think this way for themselves, become truly educated, we will leave the congregations left to contemporary culture as their guiding principle. One foot in the world and one in the congregation is no place to be in a time where the enemy of our soul has a unified, all-in army of consistent sinners, institutionalizing sin in every corner of human existence.

As Paul told the Colossians:

Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily (2:8-9—cited on this very subject in a great sermon I heard yesterday at Watersprings Church in Idaho Falls).

By the way, the Apostle Paul here gives a solid hint as to the right basis of all Biblical thinking applied to life—the imprint on His creation of the nature of the Holy Trinity. In a nutshell, this means the perfect individuality and the perfect union of Persons of the Godhead. For the implications of this thought, I suggest [Thy Will Be Done: When All](#)

[Nations Call God Blessed](#), or a deeper dive in a free copy of [Get Wisdom! Making Christian Heroes of Ordinary People](#).

Posted to Facebook page *Thy Will Be Done*.

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