

Nutrimetary Russian Roulette

Sometimes my favorite meals are those for which I am solely responsible for cleaning out the refrigerator to gain nutritional sustenance. This “hones my epicurean creative talents” in order to find things which will go together in an acceptable manor so as to give the impression of a “balanced diet”. Most of the time, I carry off “the bluff” such that anyone who happens upon this loosely termed “meal” would be satisfied with the explanation that Nancy was elsewhere, and I do not normally eat that stuff especially if she was around.

These are the times when the meals I fix for myself are sufficient for demonstrating why women live longer than men: That being that they do not eat the kind of “gourmet creations” which roll out of the kitchen under my direct talents. It is then that, with me as “chef”, meals are, for the most part, something which one can hang on to with the hopes that it will be a “survivable event”. As an example, I once came home from an afternoon run of about 10 miles distance on a 95 degree day, only find out that my evening meal would consist of a package of mixed vegetables and beer....The explanation is that I was single, 35 years younger, broke, and my mother was visiting in Canada. It does not get much worse than that.

Occasionally, however, there is a sort or reverse glitch where the meal turns out quite well, and, if I say so myself, through no fault of my own, some meals actually turn out to be delicious. I generally attribute this to the “monkey syndrome” which says that if you put a monkey in front of a type writer for a long enough period of time, he will eventually type an intelligible sentence. Accordingly, if you turn me loose in the kitchen where I am left to my own devices, an appetizing accident might happen. The only problem is in remembering what I did right in order to find out where my successes were. This way, when I am fixing a meal for Nancy, I can carry off “the bluff” that gives the impression that I knew what I was doing. It is this endeavor which is what I am referring to by the term “nutrimetary Russian roulette”, because the chances of a resounding success are about the same as hitting the bullet in a game of Russian roulette.

Sadly, people in an affluent society such as the modern day United States treat their Spiritual Nutrition in a parallel fashion as with my version of Nutrimetary Russian Roulette. They think that any church, any spiritual leader, or any theological belief is good; as long as it is something. They flail to discern that with refrigerator scrounging it does not really matter, because most often we will learn from our mistakes, and not repeat them, since our culinary mistakes had such unappetizing consequences.

With mistakes of a spiritual nature the consequences of failure are much more dire. We think we are doing the right thing in a “shoot from the hip” guess as to what is spiritually correct, but in the end it leads to (spiritual) death. We live in a society where our Faith is questioned on a daily basis; and a belief in the Lord Jesus Christ is to be kept quietly to ourselves. The paradoxical absurdity of this situation is that what the world needs most is the Savior....Jesus Christ. This is manifested in the lives of those who are ensnared in the life of sin. We see evidences of this life of sin as it runs rampant in our modern society with its sexual perversions, drug and alcohol addictions, the concomitant failures of family and marriage, and the shootings, knifings, and gang violence which occurs daily in any metropolitan community.

This is not a new scenario. Sin has run rampant since the days of Adam and Eve and causes a conflict between the sinful nature of man and the God desired life in the Spirit. It is momentarily easier, to be sure, to follow the path of least resistance. It is less hassle to just go along with the crowd as they do what seems right in the situation, failing to recognize that the dance they are doing requires an eventual payment in the consequences as they follow the conga line as it snakes its way into Hell.

My dad used to tell me that when you dance you have to pay the fiddler. That being true, our only option is to be punished for our sins, or else have someone pay the price for us. The Bible tells us that we have all sinned and fallen short of God’s Glory.

We need not look very far into the catacombs of our lives to realize that you cannot bury a problem forever. This is especially true with a problem of a spiritual nature.

The problem gets even worse. The Bible also says that the wages of this sin mankind is all guilty of pays only one wage....Death. So this dance of gleeful celebration, the one of playing a spiritual version of Nutrimetary Russian

Roulette, has come up to be worse than the meal of mixed vegetables and beer. Unless there is a major change in our life, we are eschatological losers in this game. The book of Ecclesiastes portrays the search for God through secular means such as could be found in the modern day style of life open to us all now. We become as jaundiced as was Solomon when is forced to open the book with how everything is vanity and chasing after the wind. He continues the book with showing through logical deduction how what is really important in life, God, is not found through the acquisition of wealth, power, sexual conquests, monuments to self, knowledge, or secular pleasures. That is tantamount to “chasing after the wind. Modern day stars of rock music have succumbed to the temptations available to men (and women) when they find themselves awash in a sea of fast money and conscience numbing temptations. They (like Solomon), are forced to conclude that sex, drugs, and rock and roll are a dead end street. They, too, conclude that all is vanity.

So, what now? Where do we get our nutrimentary sustenance in this game with what is now one with eternal consequences? Is there anywhere a solution to the problem of Spiritual Russian Roulette?

The answer is a resounding yes! Just as there is real nutrition in the refrigerator, so there is a true Spiritual Answer in the Person of Jesus Christ. We tend to overlook Him because His answer is so simple. The same verse which says the wages of sin is death, also gives the good news that the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ. Perhaps the most famous verse in the Bible is John 3:16....It is followed by the verse which says God’s Son did not come to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. Romans 8:1 says there is therefore now, no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. We no longer need to settle for a spiritual version of mixed vegetables and beer in an eschatological version of Spiritual Russian Roulette, when there is real spiritual food in the person of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and all we do is to ask Him into our hearts and lives. He has already paid the price due for our sinful exploits and forgiveness is ours if we but claim it.

Proverbs 16: 25

Galatians 5: 16-26

Romans 3: 23

Romans 6: 23

Ecclesiastes 1: 1-11

Ecclesiastes 1: 12- 4:16

Romans 6: 23

John 3:16-17

Romans 8:1