

“Son kissed”

Some time ago, there was an animated commercial on television. During this commercial, an animated little boy was shown tossing an orange sphere up into the air as he played catch with himself. Two other cartoon boys came into the scene. They inquired as to what that was in the first little boy's hands. He responded to their inquiry with the words “it's an orange”.

“It is not”...Came the challenge. This brought on a debate between the two of the little boys; One insisting that he had an orange, while the second little boy argued that it was not an orange.

The debate was hastily resolved when the boy playing catch with himself missed a catch, dropped the orange sphere breaking it open. This released a monster, which ran all three boys off into the sunset. A childlike voice rang out as the three boys scurried away, “if it doesn't say ‘Sunkist’ on it, you never know what you're getting”.

The intent of this commercial was, of course, to claim the superiority of the brand name “Sunkist” by demonstrating that the name should carry with it a claim of superiority by the simple aspect of having the brand name “Sunkist” on the product. We are to believe that this brand carries with it something upon which we may place our faith in the quality guarantee associated with the name affixed to the product itself. This name is all the assurance we will need to place our faith in our choice to consume this product over any other brand associated with analogous products.

Growing up in the late 50's and early 60's brought with it a world faced with a multiplicity of choices which were not available to my parents as they were trying to make ends meet in a recently post depression, post war economy. While they needed to work to survive, I, as well as my “baby boomer” era mates did not have this necessity of working to make ends meet. We had things provided for us by well meaning, but probably over indulgent parents. While they did not have time for the extra curricular activities of life, which are associated with more leisure time, we had both the leisure time and the naiveté of those supervising us that we were not going to get into trouble if left on our own, as it were.

Consequently, we had available to us a wider panorama of choices which did not exist before, and, the results of which were unknown due to the cleverly disguised way in which these ostensibly new choices were presented. Boredom gave way to mischief, and mischief gave way to thrill seeking, and thrill seeking gave way to even greater areas in which an already struggling young person could be led astray by the tried and true wiles of the master deceiver. Before long, children became jaundiced with the ways of the world, blaming the people of our parent's generation who had labored so hard during their youth to provide freedoms which they themselves could only dream about, but never actually enjoy themselves.

We were able to be led astray easier because we had no resistance to what seemed to be the right choice and, just as the little boy playing catch with an orange sphere, we were misled into trusting in the appearance of what seemed to be a viable choice in life; but, as Proverbs says, in the end it would lead to death[1]. As a result of making poor choices when left to our own devices, we went even further astray by making choices to follow the life style associated with the lusts of the flesh[2]. Exacerbated by the stimulus of promiscuity, controlled substances, and rock music many baby boomers were led astray by the “big three” of sex, drugs, and rock and roll. Not only were many led astray, but many had lives destroyed and futures ruined by the deceiving promise of a good time now. Futures were sold for an insecure possibility of an escape from our perception of the fears of a world faced with drudgery and boredom. Work became a punishment rather than something which we should enjoy and take satisfaction in....Being a gift from God[3].

Lethargy opened the doorway to all the earlier mentioned nemeses as we became victims of a society which turned its back on a Bible which said ‘if a man will not work, neither shall he eat.’[4] Easy money came as handouts to a people who had been given handouts all their lives without breaking a laborious sweat to bring about the provisions they had been given under the guise of “social help programs”. Suddenly the orange sphere we had been holding was being tossed up in the air. As we argued that it was our “God given right” to eat and be provided for. Older generations told us that that which we had accepted as our right had come with a price which they had paid.

The proof of their argument came in the form of a “missed catch”. This happened when many of the “baby boomers” suddenly discovered that they had become burned out mindless vegetables....Reaping what they had sown[5] over the years of easy money, free drugs, plentiful sex, and deep pocketed government programs. We found ourselves having sown wild oats and “repentantly praying” for a crop failure. The orange sphere had been dropped; what had appeared to be good turned out to be a hideous mutation of the free society upon which our innocently trusting hearts and souls had taken refuge.

This may all seem hopeless. Adam and Eve were so afraid of God after their sin that they hid themselves after having discovered that they were naked[6]. While a punishment was indeed meted out[7], so was a chance to start over under new conditions[8].

So it is with the baby boomers. We have indeed sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God[9]. Our sin is in fact so grievous, that we should rightfully be condemned to death[10] were it not for the Grace of our Lord and Savior. The sacrificial death, burial, and resurrection of Incarnate God, Jesus Christ covers all of not only my sins, but also those of all people for all time. We have been saved from our trespasses by Grace through Faith. Nothing we could do could earn it. It is the free gift of God[11]. We have found the Orange of life, upon which is written “Son-kissed”. He has welcomed us with a kiss, being pardoned by His sacrificial blood. Praise His Name.

[1] Proverbs 16:25

[2] Galatians 5: 19-21

[3] Ecclesiastes 5: 19

[4] 2 Thessalonians 3: 10

[5] Job 4: 8, Galatians 6: 7

[6] Genesis 3: 1-10

[7] Genesis 3: 11-19

[8] Genesis 3: 20-24

[9] Romans 3:23

[10] Romans 6:23

[11] Ephesians 2:8, Romans 6:23