

Suicism

As children, we used to argue and quarrel over the dispensation of properties. Much as the land barons of the 19th century used to get into “range wars”, so children would argue over whose tricycle was whose, or who brought this toy or that toy. It was up to the ostensible adults to mediate the disagreement and bring said difference of opinion to an amenable conclusion. There were quite often tears and angry words because when children get together, the one word they usually have down pat is the word “mine”. They enter into life with the attitude that the entire visible and handle-able world is the sole property of them, and, consequently, it is up to their discretionary powers to determine who is allowed to play with, use, or otherwise take charge of said item.

Maturation is supposed to hone the selfishness down a bit. Sadly, however there are times when the maturation process only seems to have made a childhood refusal to share mutate into a disgusting, ugly selfish attitude. We see evidence of this in looking at the history of the human race. Generally speaking, these ideas which started out as a disagreement over a toy, changed into adults saying that this property belonged to them. Then it blossomed into the “range wars” referred to earlier.

Arguably, the white man roused the Native Americans from their property here in North America only to “allow them” to settle on small patches of land called reservations. The rest of the country now “belonged” to the white man. The Native Americans got in trade for their generosity, a limit on the number of buffalo they were allowed to kill, restricted access to the rest of the country upon which they formerly roamed freely, and a plethora of maladies brought in by the European Settlers including venereal disease and alcoholism. That not being enough, the white man would use the buffalo the Native Americans used as a food and clothing source, as game hunting trophies. Sometimes the white man would merely stampede entire herds of these huge animals over cliffs, leaving the carcasses to rot[1].

From the time God gave man dominion over the earth and all the creatures therein[2] until the present day, it seems as if there has been a precipitous decline in the relationships man has with his fellow inhabitants of this planet and with the animal and vegetable co-inhabitants who share its limited resources. We are poisoning our planet in an exponentially increasing rate. Our planet has an accelerated amount of tornadoes and hurricanes and according to reports on the weather channel the ones which hit land are much stronger than they were but a few decades ago.

Our society has also taken a nosedive morally. Oregon now has legalized gambling casinos put in by the Native American Tribes (retribution for their treatment 150 years ago?). Drug use, prostitution, and crime are blossoming while prisons are releasing the malefactors early because of lack of prison space. I believe the situation has not yet “bottomed out” yet.

The Bible speaks of the lusts of the flesh in comparison to the Fruit of The Spirit in a caution to believers on how to guard against being corrupted by their influences[3]. For us to protect ourselves we must be aware that we are no longer dealing with stolen tricycles and other childhood offences. While these childhood offenses are but manifestations of the sinful nature of man; all man having sinned and fallen short of God’s Glory[4], they are, I believe, buildups to a more heinous and insidiously spiritually carcinogenic sinful nature. This nature comes out in the form of the crack houses, meth labs, porn shops, and street crime which is running rampant in this “one nation under God”. All this is the sign of a people crying out for answers while screaming out in terror because of the satanic oppression freely roaming in our society in general. While it is true that Jesus said He is with us always[5], and God has told us He would not leave us or forsake us[6], we as Christians seem to have been letting our guards down more than we should, acquiescing to the threats of he who does not own us, or have any control over us. We have been bought at a price[7].

In the age of the notorious gangsters, the late Al Capone was purported to have “lined up” 7 members of a rival gang and murdered them in cold blood on a cold Valentine’s Day in Chicago in 1929. Because of its blatant carnage, the people of Chicago spoke out against the gang massacres. Up until then, people were fearfully taciturn lest they become the victims of a retaliatory strike from the gangsters who laid claim to the illegal alcohol and prostitution territories they had set up, claiming them to be, in a collective sense, “mine”. This silence might have been at least partially due to a

macabre fascination with the violence and bloodshed being spilled on the streets of Chicago in that period of time. Much as humans have a fascination with traffic accidents, slowing down, not only to avoid complicating the scene with further involvement, they also would deep down, like to get a better look. This seems to be an attitude of relief for not being involved, but also to satisfy some inner inexplicable lust for gore.

The attitude of relief at not being involved does not work any more for Christians. While Satan may not be blatantly encamped on our back door....Yet....He certainly has as a purpose, the conquest of God's people. The childhood games, the range wars, and the gangland violence are physical manifestations of the satanic infestation of man's attitudes and ideas. The physical manifestations, though easier to comprehend because of their visibility, the source is more ethereal. We are dealing with the spiritually evil forces against which our mere standard weapons of defense are totally worthless[8]. We need to don entirely new protective and offensive battle attire.

As Christians, we are protected by the salvation of Jesus Christ, but, others in this world are being deceived by the maneuvers Satan goes through to deceive any who will follow Him. Just as a soldier goes into battle with warfare gear so we have spiritual warfare gear. We cannot do battle with the Devil without "the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit....The word of God"[9]. As we walk daily with the Lord Jesus, we must be constantly cognizant of donning this armor of God.

Neither should we be afraid. Elijah stood alone before the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah in a challenge on Mount Carmel to prove who was God. When the challenge was over, the God of Israel was shown to be God and the prophets of Baal were put to death. The result was an end to the drought that had devastated Israel both physically and spiritually[10]. We will be opposed, at times. While it is easy for me to say this, not experiencing any major opposition in my life at the moment, but, Satan likes to let us get soft with the attitude of "I'm safe because it is not happening to me" or "it will never happen here". But just when we get soft we are most vulnerable. Thus, we must be in a constant state of alertness against Satan's deceptions. When there is a dispute over our ownership, we want it to be the voice of Jesus we hear when we are grasped and the word "mine" is vociferously proclaimed.

[1] Williams, Jay The fall of the Sparrow Oxford University Press 1951 pp 61-77

[2] Genesis 1:26

[3] Galatians 5: 16-26

[4] Romans 3:23

[5] Matthew 28:20

[6] Hebrews 13:5

[7] 1 Corinthians 7:23

[8] Ephesians 6: 10-12

[9] Ephesians 6: 14-18

[10] 1 Kings 18: 16-46