

The Master Plan 1

Before I retired from Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, I had much cause to reflect on the forty year stretch of time through which my years of service extended. During this time, I was blessed enough to have had a multitude of experiences. In the earlier part of my career, it seemed to me that these experiences all involved either digging something up with a shovel and digging bar, or filling in what I had just finished digging up. I was “on a first name basis” with many of the shovels in the park, and they all fit my then blistered fingers as they worked in conjunction with the fifty pound six foot long digging bar as “operation molehill” continued; digging, digging, digging, etc..

One of the digging projects was to locate water lines which needed to be repaired. Another project was to dig up the lid for a septic tank so the lid could be removed and its contents pumped out. Considering the latter, the lid for the tank was sometimes buried under two feet of rocky soil. So, the project started with a location service....Me. This meant measuring out the distance from the nearest fixed object, in most cases this was the rest room or picnic shelter which was serviced by the septic tank which was needing to be pumped, then starting in with “operation molehill”. I would then use the digging bar to loosen the rock and dirt away from where the lid was supposed to be.

The lid was usually rectangular, measuring about two feet wide by about three feet long and about one foot thick. Like the tank itself, it was made from solid concrete. It was tapered, wider at the top than at the bottom to stop it from dropping into the 7000 gallon septic tank filled with raw sewage. Since the lid weighed about 1000 lbs, this would have been the ultimate of tragedies. (Had the lid been circular, it would have been impossible to drop it into the tank, but, design engineers never thought of that.) There also was a re-enforced iron handle to hook onto, assuming it had not been squashed down by tractors running over it in the course of a mowing cycle. However, since it was flush with the surface of the septic tank, the location still needed to be perfect.

Enter “my master plan”. While digging to expose the lid, and hopefully, the handle to hook onto with a tractor which has a bucket to which a chain could be attached, I came up with an idea. This idea involved strategically placing four stainless steel rods through top of the tank into the milieu. Two would be centrally located and placed one foot from each side, stopping about six inches from the bottom of the tank. The other two would be placed on either side of the out side of the lid, but angled inward so that they would end up about an eighth of an inch apart, close to the mid point of the sewage.

The next step would be to attach an arc welder to the two rods at the edge of the tank. Then, run the arc welder at 300 Amps for eight hours or longer to separate the aqueous components of the sewage into hydrogen and oxygen. The gas produced would also have nitrates and sulphates in it so it would be extremely volatile. Next attach the arc welder to the mid line rods then, spark it once. Boom, the lid is removed....I even thought of parachute deployment devices to slow the eventual decent of the 1000 lb concrete projectile, which would be blown several hundred feet into the air, and radio locator devices to find the lid. This beats digging. Anyway, it kept my mind occupied.

I do not know if “the master plan” would actually work, but sadly, too many people base their lives, and concomitantly their eternities, on their own master plan. Their plan may work here on earth for secular things, but as they face death, they also face the judgment seat of God[1].

The Bible says that all have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God[2]. It also says that the wages of this sin is death[3]. This same verse also says that the free gift of God is life eternal, but the operative phrase is “in Christ Jesus our Lord”. Secular “Master Plans” are quite often to be taken “tongue in cheek” so to speak. They may be founded in scientific principle, but generally they serve as “brain fodder”....A joking way of laughing at a perplexing situation. When it comes to a situation involving life, death, or eternal consequences, however, we need to find a more Perfect Plan, since it may look good to us as humans, but the end result may be forever tragic[4].

Be of good cheer, God has a Perfect Master Plan which involves the salvation of all mankind. So great is the problem of sin that God had to pay the penalty for it with Jesus Christ His Son, freeing us from the fear of condemnation for this sin in our lives[5].

So important is His Master Plan that Jesus Christ, in order to perfectly carry it out, voluntarily died on the cross to become our Redemption, Reconciliation, and our Propitiation, so that those who claim Jesus as Lord and Savior might not die the second death in the fire of Hell. If justice were meted out according to what mankind deserved, all would perish. Because of the Grace of God, however, we can be saved to acknowledge God's Love for us through Jesus Christ and therefore live in accordance to God's Love for us to serve Him as He planned[6]....In alignment with His ultimate Master Plan.

[1] Hebrews 9:27

[2] Romans 3:23

[3] Romans 6:23

[4] Proverbs 14:12

[5] John 3:16-18; Romans 8:1; Hebrews 9:27-28

[6] Ephesians 2: 1-10