

On The Frontier

“For the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel”

Reason Where There Is None (Sanity In An Insane World)

by Linus A. Mathis III

Fear has been tightening its icy grip upon this old planet with increased fervor these days. Evil events unfold all about us as pain and suffering continue to multiply. Concern continues to mount as the media raises our awareness of depravity to new levels. The frequency with which malevolence reveals itself is ever increasing. Civilization has evolved in ways unthought of and yet the capacity to define (much less solve) this torment remains elusive. So the authorities bring in the "experts." Sadly, they too lack the information necessary to bring about closure. The haunting question lingers. Why?

Would that the Word of God were given the credence deserved it! If ONLY those who profess to uphold it would speak its Truth! Then you'd have answers. I can't tell you how it sickens me to hear respected "spiritual leaders" giving non-answers rather than truth. But, we mustn't insult anyone you know. It's extremely important that we use the right terminology and not force our beliefs upon others. We dare not allege that Christianity is the only valid and godly practice. It's far more important to be politically correct than to be truthful. Think how damaging it would be if we set forth Jesus Christ with conviction. It would be a grave mistake to tell anyone that there is no other way to God. After all, we all have our "own" religion. We're all entitled to

our opinions. Who's to say who's right and who's wrong? None of us has the right to upset the delicate state of personal preference. Right? Or have we?

John 14:6

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

How insensitive of Jesus. Look at how he affected the Apostles. Note what they said to their own kinsmen:

Acts 4:8-12

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,

If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole;

Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, *even* by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Wasn't that inconsiderate of them? Or were they doing what should have

been done? Please forgive my sarcastic rhetoric but somebody has to say something. I should say a cold splash of water is in order. There needs to be a wake up call for the greater part of society. They've been lulled into a dream like state somewhere between dementia and catalepsy. Who could be responsible for such a thing? Why is it that the Truth is not given a hearing? Consider this, if I'm wrong, what I've said and how I've said it won't much matter. In the greater scheme of things it's all minuscule anyway. But, if I'm right then this becomes a matter of life and death. I would therefore be justified to take even more stringent action. The conditions would demand it of me.

II Corinthians 4:3,4

But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

In whom the god of this world (the Devil) hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

The god of this world is responsible for anesthetizing the bulk of mankind. Combine this with fallen man's state and you have the perfect recipe for evil.

Jeremiah 17:9

The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

It should come as no surprise (if you know and believe the Bible) when we

learn that desperately wicked events have been carried out. Even if it's children who are the perpetrators. Regarding this, the Bible speaks clearly. His Word gives sound direction in godly child care. When the Scriptures are our rule for faith and practice we can be sure that our children will be given the best possible advantage.

Proverbs 20:11

Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work *be* pure, and whether *it be* right.

Attentive God fearing parents will be aware of any penchant to misdeed their children might have. Consequently, problems may be addressed as they arise. The Word of God will provide the proper course of action for any situation. Nevertheless, children are just as subject to evil as adults especially if the adults in their lives fail to provide guidance for them. Consider the following passage:

Proverbs 30:11-14

There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother.

There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and *yet is* not washed from their filthiness.

There is a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up.

There is a generation, whose teeth are as swords, and their jaw teeth *as* knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from *among* men.

This could have been written yesterday. The Word of God is so

awesome! It's alive and vibrant, timeless and pure!

Here's a small example of the kind of guidance that God offers to children.

Proverbs 1:7-17

The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge: *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction.

My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

For they *shall be* an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.

My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.

If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause:

Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit:

We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil:

Cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse:

My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path:

For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood.

Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird.

You waste your time setting a trap in full view of a bird. The best snares

are camouflaged. If the bird doesn't see them, he's more apt to be caught. So it is with children. If they are aware of the traps they will be more likely to side-step them. They must know that there is a Devil and that he will forever be evil. We must tell them that there are wicked people who will never do good. Where did this idea of sitting in a circle holding hands and singing "We Are The World" while drinking soda pop and swaying to and fro ever come from? That kind of liberal thinking will lead to all kinds of error! We should never presuppose that if we are good others will be also. That flies in the face of Biblical logic.

If man is to be saved he must accept Jesus Christ. Then and only then can his heart be purified from evil.

Titus 3:3-6

For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, *and* hating one another.

But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;

You might also want to read Ephesians 2:1-10 in this light. Thus, the *ONLY* salvation for man is the new birth through Jesus Christ and by way of the grace and mercy of our

God. Once saved, however, regenerated man must feed his mind with the Word of God. This will provide sanity in the midst of insanity.

I Timothy 6:3-5

If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, *even* the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness;

He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings,

Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

II Timothy 1:13

Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

In the new birth we have God's gift of holy spirit. That, combined with His Word, is all we need to live abundantly in any of life's circumstances.

II Timothy 1:7

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

The world may be insane but we can have sound minds full of the wholesome words of our Lord Jesus Christ. They will provide for us serenity in the midst of chaos, courage in the face of our enemies and reason where there is none.

People often ask; "How could God let this happen?" A common question understandably asked and answered in part by what I've covered. There is a Devil and man is NOT inherently good. Man also has free will and can choose evil if he so desires. Without the Truth of God's Word it's all too probable that evil will be his first choice.

Recently I heard the media asking the "experts" that same question. "How could God let this happen?" They were given conjecture rather than Truth, religion instead of Scripture. My question is; "How could men let this happen?" That is, ignore the Truth of God and His Word, especially men who should know better.

Isaiah 10:1

Woe unto them that decree unrighteous decrees, and that write grievousness *which* they have prescribed;

The only worthwhile answers come from God's Word. In the Scriptures we learn of salvation, in them we learn of Jesus Christ. It is the Word of God that needs to be made known in this our day and hour.

Philippians 2:14-16

Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

God's Word is to the world today as it was to Israel:

Isaiah 1:18-20

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:

But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken *it*.

The Counselor's Corner

With Rev. Linus A. Mathis III

Growing Pains

We as humans continue to grow even after we have reached the stature of our physical potential. Growth and development involve more than height and weight. They comprise, emotion, logic, discernment, knowledge and experience (to name just a few). Notwithstanding, growth that is too rapid produces pain. The design of which (pain) is to alert us to a problem. If the smoke detector in your home were to go off (God forbid) you had better pay attention to it. At the very least you should investigate the situation. Where there's smoke there's fire and where there's pain there's a problem.

We as parents observe the growth of our children in a paradoxical manner. We're proud of their accomplishments and maturity but loath the thought of their becoming adult. Daddies are the last to admit

that their little girl is becoming a lady. The thought of male attendants clamoring for our daughters attention makes us uneasy. But, we're thrilled when their actions are mature. Thus, the concept of maturation brings with it mixed emotions. What exacerbates this condition is society's ever decreasing disregard for childhood. Our kids are pushed into early adulthood from every angle. We as parents should not be among the number that rush children into situations that are not age appropriate. You see, I'm not opposed to my child becoming a teen, but I don't want a thirteen year old acting like twenty one. We should encourage our children to grow. But at the proper rate. It's up to us to supply the proper elements and example for them to reach each stage. If we do, God will give the increase, it's a principle.

I Corinthians 3:6

I have planted, Apollos watered;
but God gave the increase.

Any seed planted responds the same. We may plant and water, but the actual process of germination and growth is up to the Master. Nevertheless, plant and water we must. Failure to do so will result in stunted or mutated growth.

A truth that few people consider is that Jesus Christ had to grow.

Luke 2:40

And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

The word grew has been translated from the Greek *auxano*. The literal meaning of this word is; to cause to grow, increase or augment. As we

know, human growth hormone is one of the main ingredients vital to maturation. This has been put in place by the Creator. Notice also, that this record speaks of spiritual strength, wisdom and grace. Certainly Mary and Joseph played a part in this aspect. The Heavenly Father put in what was necessary and Mary and Joseph augmented. (Even tadpoles won't become frogs if their thyroid gland is damaged or removed.) This word *auxano* is the basis for the English word auxin. Auxins are plant hormones responsible for growth. When light and water are present, the plant grows. When they are disturbed the plant often becomes misshapen. In later years they are responsible for the loss of deciduous leaves in fall. They also play a great role in the delay of senescence or ageing.

Remarkably the word increase, found in I Corinthians 3:6, is also *auxano*. There it means inward growth as a Christian. In plants, it's the auxins that cause the plant stem to bend towards the light. In children, it's the parents that cause the children to bend toward the light of God's Word.

In the record of Luke 2 we learn that the caravan they were traveling in left Jerusalem without the Lord Jesus Christ. They traveled a full day before realizing that Jesus wasn't with them. This would be possible as the children would be in a group together with their cousins and friends. A children's fellowship of sorts. Similar to a field trip gone on its way temporarily shy a child or two. What's so wonderful is the Lord's response to them when they found him.

Luke 2:49b

wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

Mary and Joseph had to augment that desire. In doing so, they did God's Will.

A promise in the Word assures that the God-fearing's children shall be like "olive plants." This is an Eastern expression, an orientalism. When olive plants mature, little plants grow up all around them. As the mature plant gets older it begins to cease production of fruit signaling that it will soon die. But, the fruit of the little ones provide for the big one and since they're from the same root system the life of the older plant is extended. The fruitfulness of the offspring provides for the parents. We should help our children to realize their fruitfulness. It never hurts to grow when you pace yourself with God.

Psalms 128:3

Thy wife *shall be* as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house:
Thy children like olive plants round about thy table.

-*"The Counselor's Corner" also appears in Alaska Parenting Magazine in an edited version and under a different title"-*
