



IS MAN'S REAL PROBLEM SOCIAL?

It seems that the United States and Planet earth are going through great upheaval and turmoil. In every segment of society, we see fear, confusion, falsehood, acts of violence, devastation, destruction... "justice is far from us and righteousness does not overtake us; we hope for light, but behold, darkness, for brightness, but we walk in gloom...and truth is lacking" (Read Isaiah 59:1-15). Anarchy is in our streets. It brings to mind the Scriptures in Matthew 24 and Luke 21 concerning the things that Christ said would happen on planet earth before His return. Matthew 24:12 "And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold." We are there! Matthew 24:7 says, "nation will rise against nation". The Greek word for "nation" is ETHOS which really means ethnic groups. So, we are seeing ethnic groups rising against each other right on our television screens! I truly believe we are seeing the beginning of birth pangs. Luke 21:11a "there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilence." Earthquakes have increased dramatically over the last ten years. We have biblical-size locust swarms in the Middle East and Africa which are threatening to cause famines; and we now have the worldwide pestilence called corona virus (COVID-19) stalking our land! It is certainly a time for Christ's Church to pause and seek God's wisdom and counsel.

As we look at the heart of man, we need to ask ourselves: What is the root cause of the world's fear, unrest and turmoil? The real question for our world, nation and church is: *Is man's real problem social?* Many voices in the church today are telling us that man's problem is a social problem. But, we would do better to go to God and search in His Word to find out the root cause of the turmoil in our world today. Psalm 2:1, "Why are the nations in an uproar and the peoples devising a vain thing?" It is the clash of two different world views: **THE WISDOM OF MAN VS THE WISDOM OF GOD** as described in the Bible. These views are based on two vastly different and conflicting premises concerning man.

The world's view of man as expressed by many -- including academics, humanists and socialists -- is that man is inherently good and is shaped and formed by his environment. This view believes that if man gets a good environment, better education, better living standards, etc., he will be formed into a model citizen because he is inherently good. The humanistic and communist/socialist manifestos promote this belief system. Historically, everywhere these systems and worldviews have been used has ended up failing miserably. The latest example of this failure is in Venezuela where most of the population is now unemployed, starving and eating out of garbage cans! The history of man from the beginning of time shows that man is not inherently good but that man has a real problem. Worldview dictates that man's problem is social! But, **THE BIBLE CLEARLY STATES THAT MAN'S PROBLEM IS SIN.**

Let's go to the Bible. What does God's Word say about this? What is God's view of man? Before we begin, let's see what God thinks of man's worldview and of the world's wisdom? 1 Corinthians 3:19-20 says "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God. For it is written, *"He is the one who catches the wise in their craftiness";* and again, *"The Lord knows the reasonings of the wise, that they are useless."* God's view of man's wisdom is that it is foolish and useless! Romans 3:10-18,23 "as it is written, *THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD; ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS, THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE. THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE, WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING, THE POISON OF ASPS IS UNDER THEIR LIPS; WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS; THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD, DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS, AND THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN. THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...*" God's description of man is vastly different from the worldview! It is a polar opposite! God's view is that man is NOT inherently good, but rather inherently wicked! ALL have sinned and come short of the glory of God! How many are in ALL? God's view of man is that man has a *SIN problem -- not a social problem!* According to the Bible, man's sin problem began in Genesis 3 in the garden when Adam and Eve chose to believe Satan over God -- and all men and women born since that time are born with a sin nature. Genesis 6:5 tells us that "Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."

Remember the question I asked in paragraph two? *Is man's real problem social?* God says that man and the world's real problem is a **SIN problem, not a social problem.** However, today the professing church is being drawn into the idea that man's problem is a social problem; and the true Gospel of Jesus Christ is being replaced with a social gospel that focuses on unbiblical, man-centered terms such as "self-esteem needs", "security needs", and "significance needs" -- elevating man above the Most High God. Less than 30% of the Pastors and the pulpits of America believe in the authority of Scripture. That means that the road is wide open for deception and lies to infiltrate. The social gospel is taking the evangelical church by storm! This entire concept comes from Marxist theology -- the socialist idea that we are all victims of some form of prejudice, crime, etc., and that we all need to be compensated in some way by society for these injustices. If someone does not belong to one of the victim lists, then they are considered to be the problem!

NOW PLEASE HEAR ME: I believe many people have experienced crime and mistreatment and injustice and without question we need to see they get help. But my point is: What is the real help every human being needs? Man's real problem is SIN. The reason anyone is treated unjustly is because another person has sinned against them! And the reality is that both perpetrators and victims have the same problem before a holy God: SIN. In God's eyes, BOTH are under condemnation and eternal damnation; BOTH need to be cleansed, forgiven and reconciled to God first and then to each other. BOTH need God's Redeemer -- the Lord Jesus Christ. So, fixing the social issue does not fix the problem -- it just intensifies it. **JESUS CHRIST IS THE ONLY ANSWER TO MAN'S SIN PROBLEM!** And may I preface: **THE REAL JESUS AND THE REAL GOSPEL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE HOLY SCRIPTURES.**

In the 1800's, when Karl Marx and Charles Darwin were writing their godless theses, a famous pastor by the name of DL Moody was quoted saying *"it is utterly impossible to make a man better without Christ, and that is what men are trying to do. They are trying to patch up this old Adam's nature. There must be a new creation."* What every human being needs is a supernatural makeover by God through the salvation of his soul by Jesus Christ which is called being regenerated (Ezekiel 36:22-27). This message is being lost in the new so-called social gospel now being presented by many mainline evangelical leaders! The Scriptures say there will be godlessness in the last days and we are surely in the last days! 2 Timothy 3:1-5 says "But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, *holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.*" Sounds like it's a sin problem and a lot like the evening news to me...

So church, where do we stand? Are we out protesting? or spending endless time in politics? or instituting social justice programs? instead of being on our knees crying out for God's divine intervention and revival to bring change to our land (2 Chronicles 7:13-15)? Pastor and Seminary Leader Voddie Baucham Jr said "we are not seeing terrible things in our culture because we vote the wrong way. We are seeing terrible things in our culture because men love darkness rather than Light". And Josh Buice, Pastor and founder of the G3 conference, stated "Dear Pastor, after Paul was saved by God's grace, his ethnic pride was buried in the depths of the sea. He spent his remaining days of his life preaching the Gospel to Jews and Gentiles before his head was cut off in Rome. His message wasn't "Jewish lives matter"- IT WAS THE GOSPEL!"

Know this: As the church goes so goes the nation. Wake up church! Get in to the Word of God! Let God and His Word guide you, not the philosophy of man! Repent of any known personal sin! Keep Watch! Weep over deceived hearts! Pray without ceasing! Cry out to God to send true Revival to His people that will bring about true Spiritual Awakening in the hearts of people all over the world! Pray for men of God to preach the pure Word of God with unction; and for God to give the listeners ears to hear and hearts to respond by faith. The Gospel message is for ALL -- because ALL lives are precious to God.



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