

Making Sense of Quite a Muddled Mess

Part 2

I find myself with a daily decision. What will determine my thinking in this world. If I look to the Word of God, I discover the answer. **Rom.12:2-** *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.* It must be the word of God that has primacy on my worldview, which makes perfect sense because...**2Tim.3:16-17-** *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.* You see, the Bible alone is the inspired record delivered to man by God Himself. As interesting as social media and news agencies may be, what they are not is inspired. They tend to be simply a series of opinions, some of which I may agree with and others I may not. But they cannot be viewed as anything more than the opinions of men and therefore entirely insufficient for the living of my Christian life. So, I have to be careful about what will influence the way that I think. For me, the Bible has to be the major influence upon my thinking and it should show itself in the manner in which I engage the world around me.

So, as I look at sin in the world, as I look at it in all of its various forms, what does the Bible call me to in terms of my emotional response to these things? **Pr.8:13-** *The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.* The Bible instructs me as to what is right in regards to my emotional responses to evil and sin in the world. In fact, anything less than this, is to be seen as one who does not live in the fear of God. If I don't hate evil, all evil, then I am not living my life with the proper reverence and fear for the God who created me and saved me. Therefore, I have to view evil itself without respect of persons. I cannot excuse evil because it is in my friends, family or even myself. Yet, even in this the Word reaches deep down into my heart and it regulates how this hating of evil shows itself in my life. **Eph.4:26-** *Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath.* I must be mindful about my response even as I am justly angered by a given set of circumstances. I may find myself angry, but that never justifies sin on my part. I can't speak evil of others or such like, but I must honor God in thought, word and deed. This is where even the believer can err and feel justified in responding in a way that is contrary to the Lord. We feel that we have proper grounds for our anger and therefore what I may say or do isn't the point, the only point is that there has been a just cause of my anger. You see, that is to be conformed to this world's thinking. **Titus 3:1-2-** *Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work, **to speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men.*** Thus, the Bible has taught me how to look at my world, how to respond to my world and that alone must be my guide.

Yet, as I read the Word, I am reminded that I cannot begin with myself in this matter. How do I determine what is evil? Is that to be based on my personal judgement and so forth. You see, loved ones, this is where many make a grievous error. I do not determine what is evil. God alone has the right and the ability to do that. This is an error we have been making since the Garden, where man sought to be the judge of good and evil. This is not our place; we must turn to the Word of God and the God who alone is the Judge of all. So, as I do that what do I find with regards to justice in the world?

Dt.32:18- *He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment.*

Is.1:17- *Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.*

In light of these things, I desire to see justice done in every case of injustice. Why, because this is what I learn in the sacred record. I pray that in matters of governance and law people will be treated fairly, that those less fortunate will be given equal treatment in the laws of the land along with others. Why do I desire and pray for these things? Because the Word of God tells me that this is the heart and mind of God. **Pr.11:1-** *A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight.* According to my God, all should be held as equal in the eyes of the law and none should be given preference or taken advantage of. **Dt.1:17a-** *Ye shall not respect persons in judgment; but ye shall hear the small as well as the great; ye shall not be afraid of the face of man; for the judgment is God's.* **Dt.16:19-** *Thou shalt not wrest judgment; thou shalt not respect persons, neither take a gift: for a gift doth blind the eyes of the wise, and pervert the words of the righteous.* **Ps.82:3-** *Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy.* **Col.3:25-** *But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.* These things must be the unwavering conviction of the child of God because they are what we find in the unchanging truth of our God.

So, what must I do with these truths? If God seeks justice and He is a God of justice, then I too must long for and seek justice whenever and wherever I can. I have to be shaped by the Word; I have to live my life by what God reveals to me in Scripture. But, then, how do I go about seeking justice? Again, I turn to the word: **Mt.11:29-** *Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.* **2Cor.10:1-** *Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you.* My Savior is meek and He is gentle, and in that character, He has influenced countless millions of lives. So, for me, I choose to follow Him, I choose to be meek and gentle and, in that way, to seek justice. Dr. King once said: “*Our use of passive resistance in Montgomery, is not based on resistance to get rights for ourselves, but to achieve friendship with the men who are denying us our rights, and change them through friendship and a bond of Christian understanding before God.*” It is the goodness of God that leads to repentance and therefore I choose to act even as my God, and seek by goodness and gentleness to see people changed by the truth. Therefore, for my part, I long for justice but I do so in a spirit of peace, realizing that this is exactly what the word of God teaches me.

Mt.5:9- *Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.*

Ja.3:17-18- *But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.*

I also recognize, from the example of my God, that for me to seek the best for others may prove costly to me. If I desire to be used by God, I have to accept that the only way to that end is by personal sacrifice. This is not the way the world operates, but this is the way of my God.

Jn.3:16- *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.* **Gal.2:20-** *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.* God loved and He gave, Christ loved and He gave, therefore if I am in Christ and I love my neighbor as myself, I too must be willing to give of myself. I must do so in a manner that is agreeable to God, yet always remembering that I must do so. For each it remains to seek the Lord as to how we can positively impact our world for Christ and the good of our fellow man. Realizing, that as in the case of our God and His Christ, to do so is usually at personal cost. **Col.1:24-** *Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church.*

Now some may argue that this seems to be too slow a process or perhaps doesn't seem to be working. My only response can be that I will not abandon the Word of God because of the behavior of men. I will stand upon the Word and seek to humbly follow its precepts as long as I have breath. Therefore, based on God's word I seek justice, but I will only seek it in a manner that is consistent with the God that I worship. This I will do, while being fully aware that the only One who can truly affect the peace I long for is Christ Himself. I can pray for governing officials, and I must, as commanded by the Word. However, I am only looking to the perfect rule of Christ to truly bring in what I long for. **Heb.1:8-9-** *But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.* Christ is the only Ruler who truly rules in righteousness; He is the only Ruler who fully loves righteousness and hates sin in all of its forms. I pray for the rulers we have and I long for the coming of the Ruler all men need. In light of that, we again must take this opportunity to sit people down and share the Gospel, telling them of our King, the Righteous King and invite them into His Kingdom now by faith that they may enjoy His peace. Whenever and wherever we can we must speak up for justice, but we cannot fail to speak of God's Christ in the process. Without Him there can never be any true justice in the world of men. In Part 3, we will look at how the Word teaches me to view my fellow man. How do I seek justice and behave justly, in the eyes of God, toward all men? This, again, we will find is clearly taught in Scripture.

May our God richly bless you,
Pastor Mark