



Sunday, January 26, 2014 Zapping-you Whenever Thoughts Flow

ROMANS Part 14

Chapter 2:24

Romans 2:24

“For because of you the name of God is being blasphemed among the nations.”



In this litany of deadly human weaknesses that I've termed “The Decimation,” our shortcomings continually startle us. When it looks as though we may recover from blatant outward sins, Paul calls the conscience onto the witness stand and—oops, no one escapes defiling that. The gavel bangs and we're hauled off to jail. When further humiliations seem impossible, in comes Romans 2:24. Now

the human race—led by Israel—is being marched toward the gallows. Can it get any worse?

YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME

So unlikely are some Scriptural revelations, I must continually stare at them and dare them to stay on the page. For instance, I, Martin Zender, am destined to rule the universe with Christ. Can you believe it? And yet I'm staring at the evidence in Ephesians 2:6 and 2 Timothy 2:12. The ink has dried; the revelation sits there and refuses to move.

Another unlikely revelation is that the Son of God died on a cross. How could it have happened? The Son of God must have been so thoroughly disguised that not a single human could have pierced His anonymity apart from ridiculous doses of spirit. You could not simply get a good night's sleep, wake up refreshed, and know Him. Vitamin pills could not produce it. Neither could squinting at Him, or listening carefully to His words. You couldn't stare at Him and try to relax your eyes—hoping for the revelation to appear like one of those 3-D Magic Eye pictures—in hopes of perceiving Him.

For Peter to see it, a miracle had to occur. Jesus asked the fisherman one day, “Who do you say that I am?” Peter answered, “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:16). Jesus nearly fell down. He explained Peter's sudden ability this way: “Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father Who is in Heaven.” If Peter had relied on flesh and blood, he would have beheld what everyone else beheld: an ugly Jew. Chapter 53, verse 2 of Isaiah reminds us that, “He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.”

Another bizarre exploit of divine invention (God is loaded with them) is the Savior of the World being



born in a stable. For a crib, Joseph stuck his baby in a cow trough. It was the only thing available to him. I will continue to marvel at this until my marveler wears out. I stare at the passage, expecting it to go away. If I blink my eyes and re-open them, surely the trough will have been replaced by a nice new bed with gilded railings. Nope; never happens.

Then there is the priesthood of Israel, the self-appointed officers of the “We-Will-Tell-You-When-Messiah-Arrives” League. The result of unprecedented academic strain? The Messiah walks right in front of them, and they miss Him. They think He is merely a carpenter from Nazareth. If only they had simply rejected Him. But no. *They* have to make sure He gets nailed to a cross naked so that He can be completely humiliated and die of asphyxiation. Then they force Him to give up His spirit to God and expire in front of His mother. Then they laugh and go home—another day at the office.

“FOR OUR NEXT TRICK...”

Then comes this:

“For because of you the name of God is being blasphemed among the nations” (Romans 2:24).

This takes the cake, and eats it too. Romans, chapter 2 is the perfect place for a shock like this, for in this section of Romans Paul paints the dimmest portrait

of the human condition ever to see print. In this verse, dim turns to black. Left to itself, humanity merely falls down and returns to soil. If only it were left to itself. When God needs rabid opposition, however, He hardens hearts (Romans 9:18). He expertly infuses certain humans with mega-doses of stubbornness (get this: these people actually think God can’t do stuff without them), and we soon smell an odor worse than death: self-righteousness.

In the days when Israelites began 1) twisting God’s righteous law, 2) breaking a third of the commandments before breakfast, 3) seeking to horde God’s blessings, and 4) damning everyone but themselves, a poor innocent guy could at least look up at the stars—apart from human interference—and smell God. As soon as God’s favored nation took the stage, however, the poor innocent guy was then treated to the most star-obscuring, hypocritical collection of ninnies since Nebuchadnezzar and Nimrod. At least the aforementioned kings spared God’s name from the mudhole; God never attached His name to them. He saved that for Israel. Now that God has attached His name to a people awash in pride, Israel makes Him look like *such* an idiot that all the world’s inhabitants laugh in His face and call Him demeaning names.

When God publicly adopted the sons of Jacob, Israelite behavior became fodder for public scrutiny. The conduct of the Jew, relatively private before Sinai, now showed up on the nightly news in 490 countries. Everything they did henceforth reflected upon *Him*.



God was blasphemed, not in spite of the Jews, but because of them. Without them, the stars reflect His handiwork twinklingly. With them, the God jokes never end. (No one ever made a joke about a star; people instead wonder about them—what they are; they wish upon them.)

“They create new waves of enmity wherever they open their mouths or unseal their pens.”

God is made a laughing stock by the very people called to be His friends. These friends take God’s gifts and hoard them. They pack the gifts away with moth balls, retrieving them only when the itch for personal advantage strikes. (Am I getting repetitive?) All can see the hypocrisy except them. The Jew boasts in the light, yet lives in darkness. (I am not anti-Semitic; I am pro-fact.) The world sees the scary thing (a

people who think they’re enlightened, yet who stand in utter darkness), and run from it. Some members of the world community giggle behind their fingers at it. Others institute pogroms. The Jew thinks, *What a bunch of unspiritual people. They can’t stand the truth.* If only that were the case. It is the Jew who can’t stand the truth.

It’s no excuse to hate them. Marvel? Sure.

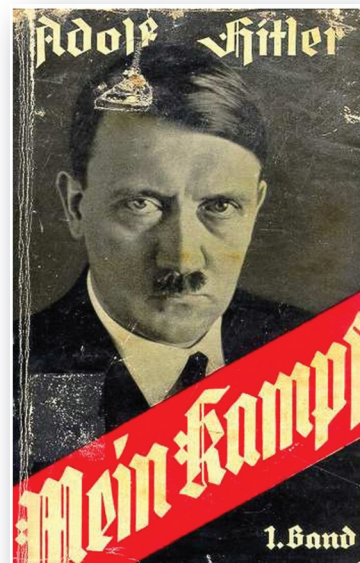
Paul launches the slammer-jammer against Israel in 2:17. 2:24 is the nadir. The apostle continues slamming through verse 29, but verse 24 is where the bilge water pools. For me, it’s the ultimate “you’ve-got-to-be-kidding-me” moment. Just when you think things could not get more backward or unlikely, God unleashes a people destined to bring blessing and light to the world, who instead turn the entire world against Him.

ENTER, CHRISTIANITY

Christianity has taken up the mantle of “we-think-we’re-standing-in-light-but-we’re-actually-blinder-than-deep-sea-fish-watch-us-screw-up-everyone’s-opinion-of-God” from Israel, and draped it upon their own shoulders. Israel is still mocked for its dead ritual, but that ritual now invites more amusement than scorn. In the scorn department, Christianity commandeers the driver’s seat. No people since Abraham’s sons have so thoroughly trashed the world’s opinion of God.

I could easily head off onto a sidetrack now—and I

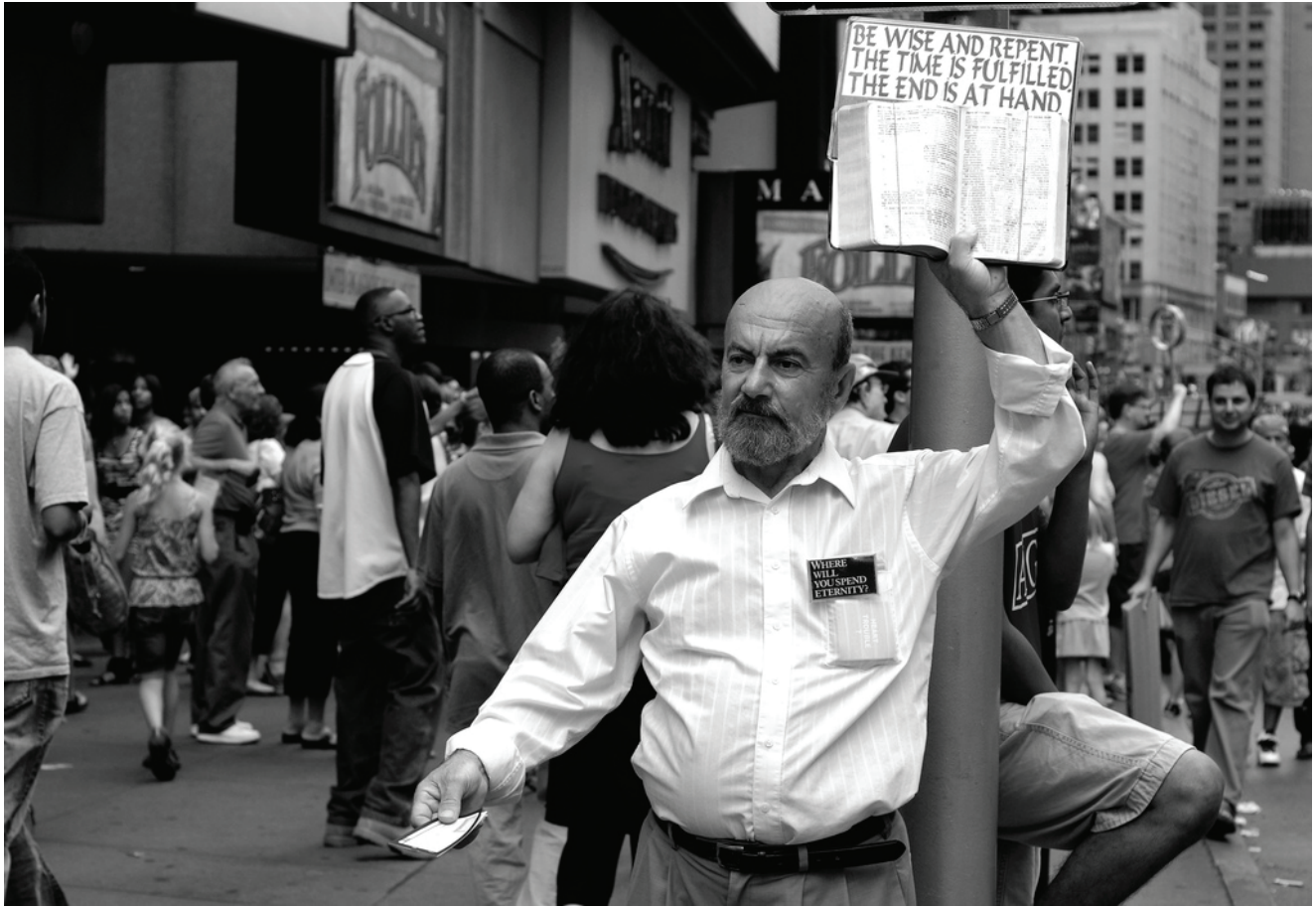
believe I will. I want Christians to read this and awaken from their unwitting role as blasphemers. Purporting to be God’s friends, they create new waves of enmity wherever they open their mouths or unseal their pens. No secular assembly turns more people from God than this bunch; how could a *secular* assembly possibly accomplish that? What person witnessing Hitler’s atrocities curses God? No one; the man never attached God’s name to his enterprises, and vice-versa. The names of God and Christ, on the other hand,



saturate Christian enterprises like fake maple syrup on pancakes. The nutrition is just as worthless. Because of this religion, God is mocked, spit upon, rejected, run from. Not even Hitler wreaked such havoc upon God’s good name; decent people still read *Mein Kampf*.

I feel sorry for the countries into which Christian missionaries travel. Before the coming of the Christians, the inhabitants of these dark places at least have the stars—true witnesses of God. Now they must redirect their attention away from the eloquent heavens toward center stages of hammered-up wooden platforms, where Christians named Bill and Bob and Betty perform acoustic guitar solos between stints of rousing hellfire rhetoric: *Believe in Jesus Christ, or be burned in hell for eternity! And here are some toys for your kids! Come and get your free dental check-up! God loves you as long as you love Him! Want a new roof? Turn or burn!*

I wish all Christian missionaries would stick to building huts, filling cavities, and paving roads. Grab a hammer, a bucket of cement, dental floss—and a muzzle. But please stop talking. The more you talk, the more you make God a hypocrite, a liar, and a flat-out lunatic. The word “evangelizing” contains the root word, “evangel,” which by definition means, “good news.” In the evangelizing department, the only good news you can offer mission victims is to finally say, “Well, we have to go now. Bye-bye.”



REFUGE IN SKEPTICISM

Thomas Allin writes in *Christ Triumphant*:

Let me speak plainly. Too long, far too long, have the clergy been silent; content to complain of a skepticism, of which a main cause is a doctrine they continue to teach (without, I believe in many cases, more than a languid and merely traditional acceptance of it). I repeat that no thoughtful man can believe a doctrine condemned by the conscience; and so men will seek a refuge in skepticism, when they hear the clergy teaching these evil traditions (for they are no more) as part of the revelation of that God, Whose blessed son tasted death for every man. Yes, the peculiar horror of the popular creed is that it sets up evil as an object of worship, of reverence, of love.

So revolting to our moral nature is the popular creed, that it, more than any other cause, produces the most wide-spread unbelief. Compared with this, all objections to Christianity sink into insignificance.

The intelligent are by [false teaching] forced into open revolt.

Paul's accusation of the Jews rehearses the present phenomenon of a world repelled from God by the friends of God:

Lo! you are being denominated a Jew, and are resting on law, and are boasting in God, and know the will, and are testing what things are of consequence... You have confidence in yourself to be a guide of the blind, a light of those in darkness, a discipliner of the imprudent, a teacher of minors...You, then, who are teaching another, you are not teaching yourself!...For because of you the name of God is being blasphemed among the nations (Romans 2:17-24).

I cannot emphasize it enough (many of us have forgotten it) that the most dangerous enemies of the cross are completely (and I mean completely) oblivious of their role. So often I am told that exposure and rebuke must not be exercised upon those who are unconsciously deluded, that is, upon those who are at least sincere. But by this we can excuse Charles Manson and Adolph Hitler, both of whom sincerely believed that their actions were righteously motivated. The problem is that we have become deadened by familiarity to the horror

of the eternal torment doctrine and its effect on God's name. We cringe at the crimes of Manson and Hitler, yet merely roll our eyes when hellfire spews from the pulpit. How can I make you see that today's whitewashed Christian who embraces eternal torment is truly, as the writer testifies, unconsciously depraved, morally and spiritually.

You say, But they are nice people! I say, So were the Pharisees! The key word here is "unconsciously." You say, But they don't really teach it with enthusiasm. I say, they are guilty by association. As the author notes, even a languid and merely traditional acceptance of eternal torment is sufficient to wreak the direst damage. Face it: we are tired, discouraged and beaten. And we disguise our melancholy by misappropriating the verse, "all is of God," lending a false air of spirituality to our own fatalistic bent, and to our personal loathing of confrontation. We have lost our righteous indignation, that brand exhibited by our Lord and by Paul. As Thomas Allin says in another place:

I say, that, however familiar this may be, it is necessary to ponder well the sad facts, for by awakening a righteous horror and indignation, we may often most effectually combat such dogmas.

It is this torch that I now carry.



The intelligent are by [false teaching] forced into open revolt.

What underlies so many, if not all, of our societal woes? Open revolt. The mother who kills her unborn baby is in open revolt. The child pornographer who defies the law is in open revolt. The supreme court justice who bans prayer from the classroom is in open revolt. The filmmaker who glorifies men lying with men is in open revolt. The gunman who kills schoolchildren is in open revolt. The man who leaves his wife is in open revolt. The woman who steals from the department store is in open revolt. The teenager who smokes his first cigarette is in open revolt. Whether in big ways or in small, in public, private, or in the depths of the human soul, humanity is in open revolt.

Now you must ask yourself: against what, or whom, is humanity revolting? Ask them as individuals, and they do not know. The source of their misery is so subtle that they themselves do not know it. But

we know. They are revolting against God. Not against God as He is, but against the caricature of God painted through the centuries by the unconsciously depraved; by the morally and spiritually bankrupt who look, by every outward appearance, to be the whiteness of the world.

They are revolting against the god of Christianity.

... who is on the move. Christian organizations are ever gearing up for some grand evangelistic war that will "teach the gospel" to "every nation" by such-and-such a time. These organizations devote millions of dollars and countless man-hours toward the furtherance of their false gospel, an essential element of which is eternal torment. Dr. James Dobson, former president of Focus on the Family, issued the following statement in 1998. This statement serves as a template of how seriously other Christian operations take their role as evangelists—evangelists without an evangel, that is:

The changing culture forced a re-examination of this ministry in 1996. Secular humanism, the sexual revolution and the New Age movement had taken

"The source of their misery is so subtle that they themselves do not know it."



their toll. Spiritual confusion was evident everywhere. Thus, we began to ask if we were doing enough to introduce people to the Giver of Life. How should our ministry adapt to the spiritual needs of a society that was rapidly forgetting its Christian underpinnings?

In May 1996, our Board of Directors convened for their regular spring meeting. In addition to discussing the business of Focus on the Family, the 11 of us struggled to answer this vital question: What is the role of this Christian ministry in a post-Christian world? We deliberated for the better part of a day and then found ourselves on our knees at about 10 p.m. There were tears that evening as we began to understand the Lord's new direction for the work He had called us to do.

In short, we agreed to give greater emphasis to the basics, to infuse a greater spirit of evangelism into each of the 70 ministries that comprise *Focus on the Family*. Called the Campaign for Righteousness, it expresses our passion and *raison d'être*.

Try, if you can, to see past the self-righteous struggle, the bended knees, the tears and the spiritual-sounding platitudes (the Pharisees were identically engaged) and realize the shocking truth: Dr. Dobson and his Board of Directors have absolutely no idea what the real gospel is. Worse, they are so deceived that they have adopted and decided to give a greater emphasis to a false gospel (a teaching of demons) in place of the true one. These men's idea of evangelism is: *Snap out of your sin long enough to believe in Jesus Christ before you die, or you will be eternally tormented in flames within sight of God Himself. Who will approve of the proceedings. And by the way, you're saved by grace.*

Writing in 2 Pet. 2:1-2, Peter predicts the coming of such false teachers:

Yet there came to be false prophets also among the people, as among you also there will be false teachers who will be smuggling in destructive sects, even disowning the Owner Who buys them, bringing on themselves swift destruction. And many will be following out their wantonness, because of whom the glory of the truth will be calumniated.

What is "disowning the Owner Who buys them," except the doctrine of free will, which removes grace from salvation and purchases this boon for those wise enough to barter their willpower (free will) in exchange for it? What is a destructive sect except that which promises eternal destruction for all to whom God has yet to impart faith? And what does the term "smuggling" suggest if not subtly? Wantonness is not the monopoly of Mexican drug lords. In the Greek the word is *aselgeia*. The elements are UN-MOON-LEADING.

The literal, Scriptural definition is: leading or going away by stealth when the moon is not shining. Peter uses this term to describe those who lead others astray in the absence of light, which in the context is Scriptural revelation. Wherever fun, food, fellowship, and the traditions of humans usurp Scriptural teaching

(the careful and meticulous kind) false and destructive teachings follow. Because they are counted among the believers, the false teachers of Peter's context must be Christians.

The sad paradox is that these men, in seeking to combat secular humanism, the sexual revolution, the New Age movement, and rampant spiritual confusion, are actually poised to spread it. How? They are bent on propagating the very message that caused these societal woes in the first place.

If there has ever been a sadder, more vicious or pathetic circle, I don't know what it could possibly be. When I first got wind of Campaign for Righteousness in 2000, I wrote the following:

A fine and proper hope for normal people is for all evil to have deeper purpose. But if most of mankind is

"They are bent on propagating the very message that caused these societal woes in the first place."

tortured for eternity, what is the deeper purpose? How does anyone solve evil? How do you solve billions of humans writhing in endless misery in front of God, Who is loving and able? How do you solve your husband, wife or children forever turning over flame? If eternal torment is true, then God is insane.

If God is insane, nothing is solvable. Let us kill our young children. Let us arm abortionists with government funding and sharper scissors. Those sucked broken and dead from the womb enter sweet bliss. They do, compared with eternal hellfire. Don't they? Then better to kill the children now, before the age of accountability. Better this than risk them not finding Jesus and being consciously broken for eternity. For, narrow is the way that leads to life, and few there be who find it.

James Dobson and others fight evil in this world. They tsk-tsk people who barter in illegal sex trade, gamble away their life savings, curse God, and kill human fetuses. But the people are bartering, gambling, cussing and killing because the doctrines of Dobson have maddened them. These are not doctrines of Dobsonian invention, but ones he and others have foisted on the world.

In Colorado Springs they plan to reform the bad people of Earth. The bad people say: "Mind your own business. Focus on your own damn family!" Such opposition troubles the planners; note the mystification and head scratching. Such is the seduction of self-righteousness, when

you can't see Godzilla in the room. Martin Zender

says: *Clear away your Emerald City haze there in Colorado.*

Then all you have left is a loving God who only loves the loving.

The rest He tortures for eternity.

Damn, I wonder if

that hurts. Your God is worse

than your devil, Mr. Dobson. And you wonder why your programs grind and halt. Religion has removed your eyes, and blindness keeps you from seeing Godzilla in the room. His large head—with sharp fangs and sick, hot drool—is sticking out your roof. Yet all you see is the world running from your building. "Why are people running from our building?" you ask. No answer is immediately forthcoming. So you think: *We must need more money. I will write another newsletter.*

Stop writing and listen! Here is what people are saying: "You are giving us God? No. Your all-loving Deity

must be loved or He loses His mind. If we don't return His affections, He tortures for eternity—whatever in the world *that* could possibly look like.

LOVE HIM OR ELSE is the call of "grace" from your God houses. It is gift-wrapped in stained glass and the latest choir-robed singing group. Being blind yourselves to your own imperfections, you have no idea how this affects our morality. And now we should reward you with right behavior? Your own God does not love His enemies, but rather turns His back on them. Is it our task to outperform Him? If we can, then He isn't God. Many do love your brand of Savior. We call them hypocrites. As for us, we will continue to rebel against man-made morality crusades and shop for calmer deities.

SAME PLAYBOOK

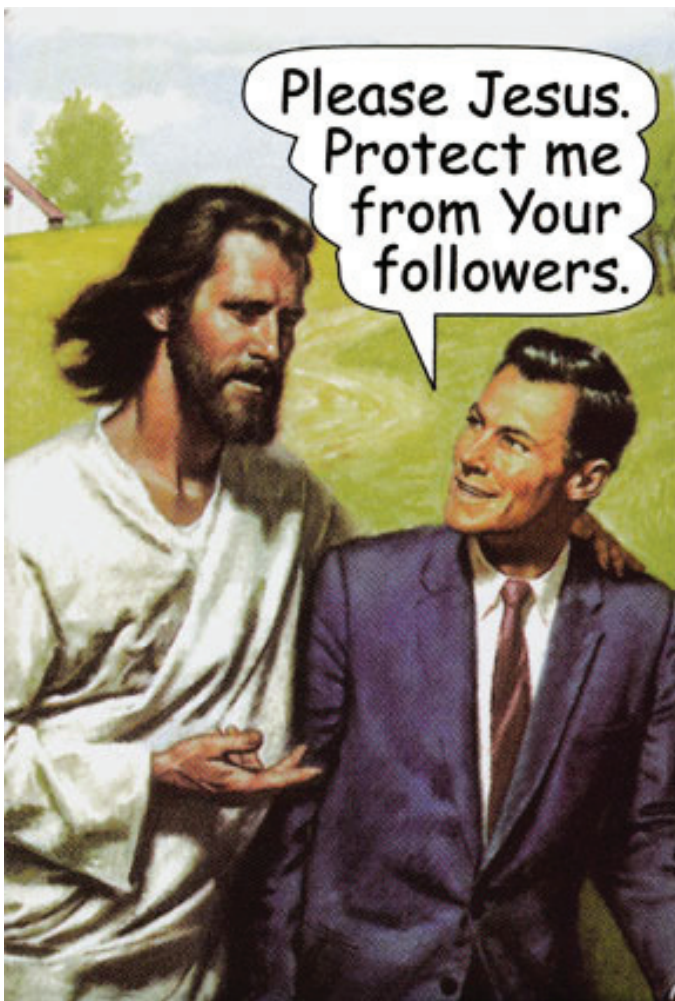


Nothing changes. Today, Christian ministries still look to failed attempts at world salvation like Campaign for Righteousness as the right idea. In the Spring of 2000, James Dobson was still lamenting over national immorality with his left hand, while unwittingly resolving to fuel it with his right. In a "Focus on the Family" newsletter published at that time, Dr. Dobson wrings both hands for three pages over the precarious condition of the traditional family. Then, on page 4, he says a most amazing thing:

Isn't it interesting that in many countries where Christian influence is minimal, the family continues to be supported overwhelmingly?

Interesting? It's more than interesting, Dr. Dobson. It's the answer. If only you realized the truth of your own statement, that where Christian influence (and therefore the false gospel of eternal torment) is minimal (such as in third-world countries), there still remains some semblance





of morality. Thomas Allin said it over one hundred years ago:

Thus it is that by this shocking creed the moral tone is lowered all round ... wherever it is accepted ...

If only you realized the import of your own words, Dr. Dobson. Then you would re-examine the Christian influence, to find out what could possibly be so monstrously wrong with it that it would actually inspire immorality and unbelief. An honest Scriptural search would expose to your eyes the anomaly of eternal torment, a doctrine so demonic and unscriptural that it makes Satan victor over Christ, and sinning humanity the arbiter of its own eternal destiny. What a day of revelation this would be! Armed at last with the true gospel, you would put your many resources to work dispensing it, at last alleviating the pain and despair you are now inadvertently forwarding.

But no. Nothing dawns on the man to date, and Dr. Dobson continues to help spread the gospel of salvation

by human willpower, whitewashing it as the gospel of grace. But to his credit, he did offer this advice toward the end of his letter:

We must continue to pray that the Holy Spirit will bring to life that which is seemingly dead and to bless us with a sweeping spiritual renewal in the years ahead.

There may well be a sweeping spiritual renewal in the years ahead. And indeed, it would depend (relatively speaking), on life brought to that which is seemingly dead. But what Dr. Dobson would shudder to understand (and no doubt reject forthwith) is this: the answer to his prayer demands the exposure and certain destruction of the religious system that he presently and dearly espouses. —MZ

Dear Martin,

Good morning. I am writing you to let you know that your books rock. Learning this truth has finally afforded me a fuller, happier, and more fulfilled life. Your writing is brilliant; I love your sense of humor! I find myself laughing aloud while reading in the subway on my way to work.

I miss the Crack O' Dawn Report which used to come out every Saturday. I assume you are not creating it any more? I don't blame you, it is a lot of work. But it is also Art. It is beautiful. Let me know please if you are just taking a vacation. —M.P. Toronto

Hello, everyone! Thank you for reading, listening, and watching. I am way behind on my correspondence. Please don't give up on me. I am trying to do a lot of things. New people are coming into the truth all the time. To those who have contributed financially to this work, thank you from the bottom of my heart. This ministry continues to be a miracle. I will make Crack O' Dawn Reports as I am able. I have two new books ready to come out, which I will announce shortly. I love you all, and thank you again for everything. —MZ