



SHIELD OF FAITH

"Take Up the Shield of Faith" - Paul

Monday June 17, 2019

"Honor your father and mother" — which is the first commandment with a promise — Ephesians 6:2

Honor

America is all about the art of the deal. I think that was the title of Donald Trump's book. Unfortunately, we only think of deal making in terms of money. Economics is all that matters. Morality isn't a thing. We are good if we make money when we deal. We are bad if we lose money. God is a deal maker. But he doesn't care about money — currency. In fact, He calls money the "root of all evil." Huh. The verse I quoted above discusses one of the ten commandments ... the first, Paul writes. **He says it comes with a promise ... a sort of deal from God the Father.** The rest of Paul's thought originally written for Christians living in Ephesus is "so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." **So, here's the deal.** You choose to honor dad and mom and God gives you long life on the earth. You can clearly see the truth here, even without choosing to view it as a promise God makes to those who follow the first commandment. It just makes sense that people who honor dad and mom would live longer. Obviously, the research demonstrates it is true. Additionally, common sense suggests that dad and mom would be worthy of honor ... and that extending that honor would benefit the child who chooses that path. **Christianity is spiritual, of course. It is, however, also practical in an infinite number of ways.** We don't spend enough time thinking about the practical effects of our religion. This is one of the more important practical benefits of following Jesus Christ, instead of pop culture or the art of the deal. I'm reading a book that a friend recommended to me this weekend. It is about the end of America. It begins detailing the inevitable collapse of our debt-based economic system. This is a symptom of our problem. As I wrote in yesterday's email, quoting General Douglas MacArthur, "History fails to record a single precedent in which nations subject to moral decay have not passed into political and economic decline. There has been either a spiritual awakening to overcome the moral lapse, or a progressive deterioration leading to ultimate national disaster." It is the spiritual awakening that we need, not a deeper understanding of how money and deal-making works. Too much focus on economics leads only to fear and inaction. **If America is going to survive it will do so because Christians emerge from their skinny-jean-tat-yoga-tongues fetish and start crusading for Christianity.** Fathers will be in the vanguard of this Crusade, not mothers. This battle is about law and order. It isn't about love. Fathers love when they honor their dad and mom at the points where they deserve honor. **Paulie and I will do that on June 26th from the steps of the Supreme Court. We will honor the marriages of our parents ... both lasted more than fifty years.**

Call me if I can help. 1-207-956-0819.
