



SHIELD OF FAITH

"Take Up the Shield of Faith" - Paul

Tuesday August 20, 2019

But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. — Matthew 6:7

Vain Repetitions

<https://email.althahosting.com/campaigns/bs1991h683892>

I've decided.

Later today I'm going to cancel my weekly one hour session with the local Catholic Priest. For the time being I'm going to go all in with Coach Dave Daubenmire's "Lonely Hearts Club Band." It isn't a church or denomination. He describes it as "organic." I think of it as a Christian movement.

Regardless, if you want to learn more it's easy. Just visit www.coachdavelive.com on the internet. He holds an online meeting every weekday morning at 7 AM EST. He almost always does a deep dive into a passage of scripture. But what I love the most about his movement is his dedication to assembling Christians ON THE STREETS in the fight for common CHRISTIAN decency in the United States of America.

I'm sick to death of the Western Church — Protestant and Catholic. They are the two "official" arms of Western Christianity. And both are pathetically weak. Especially at the top. The laity of both "churches" are starting to get "woke," as the millennials would say. But I think it is too little too late, frankly.

You know things in a civilization are rotten to the core when the most courageous "Christian" man you can find is Donald Trump. At least he's a man ... in a sense.

At the core of my being I wanted my exploration of the Roman Catholic option to work. I don't want to plan my own funeral. I want to be part of a unified Church that I don't have to figure out for myself. I'm worn out with the rabid and vapid individualism of Protestantism. I want something deeper and more social.

What I realized in meeting with the Priest, and attending a number of religious services (masses), is that their meetings are no more spiritually potent or real than a protestant bible study or "worship" service. The gritty reality of Christian faith has drained away. I was thinking that the doctrine of transubstantiation would prove enlivening to my parched soul.

Admittedly, I'm not giving the real presence a real chance because I'm choosing not to sign on the dotted line with Rome. For now, (in my mind) I'm choosing to settle for the grace of baptism. I'm a Christian in the eyes of the Roman Church (I think ... though I'm sure some Catholics are going to dispute me on this). God is good.

Continued on the back

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It makes me a bit sad to shelve my consideration of Rome. I was enjoying my meetings with the Priest. He is well educated, and we were enjoying our discussions about the history of Christianity in the West. But I must be respectful of his time. I cannot continue to meet with him if I'm not serious about becoming a member of the Catholic Church.

The Holy Spirit has released me. God has placed Paulie and me in a wonderful place in our lives. All of our sons, daughters in laws and grandchildren live near us. We work for our youngest son who is building a small internet-based business. Our older two boys are in our lives every week. I am soooo thankful.

Spiritually I am much richer than I deserve. God placed Coach Dave in my life. He has done more than any other man to draw me out of myself and closer to Jesus Christ. I'm going to continue fellowshiping with him, and the "Lonely Hearts Club Band" he is assembling.

I titled this column "Vain Repetitions." Some protestants use that verse to attack Catholics who pray the rosary. They use the verse as a proof text to support their protestant extemporaneous praying. I reject that application of the verse. This theological squabble, however, illustrates the point I want to make in this column.

It doesn't matter to me. Good on you if praying the Rosary brings you closer to Jesus Christ in your heart and mind. Extemporaneous evanjellyfish are no better with their trivial, clanky, syrupy "worship" choruses.

I'm a Christian American. I'm Christian by baptism and American by birth. This place is my home. America stops being American when it stops being Christian. This much I know.

And, there's no such thing as a Christian who doesn't HATE divorce, baby murder, drunkenness and debauchery. I want a tongue on fire for what's right and true. I'm not giving up on America. I believe we can exorcise the demoncrats among us.

I don't care whether we remain a democracy with two political parties, or become a monarchy again. I'd prefer a King who honors Jesus Christ to the political disaster America is right now. Most Americans have no idea what distinguishes a democracy from a republic. They don't care to know. All they care about is being able to enjoy their gay disco. And that's just the Christians who go to church.

Most Americans now think a constitution is only a person's physical state. They could care less about the old document long ago emptied of it's power by so-called positive law.

Truth be told American churches today have more in common with a gay disco than the Church Jesus Christ established two thousand years ago. Coach Dave's Christian movement is closer to what Jesus intended than any church I've ever attended.

Apologies to my wonderful Catholic friends who have been reaching out to me in recent weeks. I love you. And to my evanjellyfish friends, I ain't all in with you either ... obviously. But I love you too.

Hey ... at least I didn't title this column "I kissed Christianity Good Bye."

Selah.