



SHIELD OF FAITH

"Take Up the Shield of Faith" - Paul

Wednesday August 7, 2019

Thanks for Writing and Calling!

I'm sure you won't be surprised to learn that yesterday's column generated responses. Thank you for taking time to read the column. Many responded with comments, suggestions etc. Thank you.

I love Evangelicalism and Protestantism. I am thankful for what I've experienced and learned in this religion. I've been reared in it from my birth. Thanks Mom and Dad!

I remain Evangelical/Protestant. As I asked yesterday, "What Happens if I Cross the Tiber?" I haven't decided to cross it. I am giving it serious consideration.

I needed to get the whole subject on the table because it has been on my mind for decades. No serious Christian can avoid being mindful of great Christian traditions that reach back to the Cross. To choose ignorance of Christian history is to impoverish oneself unnecessarily. History is rich, meaningful and instructive.

As one writer opined in his email to me, "I always thought that, for an Evangelical, you sure speak and write like a Catholic." Full disclosure demanded yesterday's confession.

So, where do I go from here? One day at a time, as they say. Later this morning I'll meet with the local priest for my second session on the Catechism of the Church. I look forward to that.

Next weekend Paulie and I will drive up to central Ohio. We'll gather for Christian fellowship with brothers and sisters who are dedicated to putting "Boots on the Ground." I love what Coach Dave is doing with his Christian faith. He has touched off gatherings of courageous Christians across America, and in at least one other nation.

Unlike so many in our generation he is not backing down to political correctness. And he stands strong in the name of Jesus Christ against the most popular and ridiculous evils emerging in our time.

I recommend you go to www.coachdavelive.com and watch yesterday's one hour edition of his morning show. He interviewed a young family man. A U.S. Marine, God called this man away from a desk job, and his family (temporarily) in America, to go to Iraq and fight alongside the Kurds, many of whom are Orthodox Christians. The young man recounts the dramatic story of his showing up in Iraq so God can show off. And boy did God show off. You need to go and watch the show. I'm not going to take space here to give more detail. It is the August 6, 2019 show. He tells this story in the second half of the one hour program.

Continued on back

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It's looking like Paulie and I will be in Branson, Missouri over Labor Day weekend. I've never been there. I don't have any desire to go. I'm not a Branson sort of guy, I guess. It is the next stop on the Equal Justice Tour. You can learn more about that at www.equaljusticetour.com. Branson is a place for American Patriots, Trumpsters ... deplorables. We are going to spread the word about the Tour.

I love what Coach touched off with this Tour. His response to being visited in his home by the FBI was to take the fight to Hillary's doorstep — literally. You learn so much when you step out of your comfort zone and engage people in the real — not virtual — world.

Coach isn't afraid. We shouldn't be afraid of Hellary and her cronies either. Christians shouldn't be afraid of anybody. We've got the God of the universe inside us. We of all people should know that we are walking out his providential plan.

Courage is contagious. I love Flip Benham. He raised the Benham brothers. They have been popular on the evangelical speaking circuit for years. Flip raised them confronting moral evils on the streets of America — especially in front of baby murder centers. The push back against this profound evil led by men like Flip and Father Pavone has proven effective. Opinion is shifting on abortion.

One of my favorite short videos on Youtube is Flip confronting the lesbian Mayor of Charlotte at a public hearing. He packs the gospel of Jesus Christ into three minutes. He couldn't have done better had he sat in the corner and woven a whip as preparation for his talk. Blistering. Effective. Confrontational. Christian.

I feel like I'm wandering a bit here this morning. Stream of consciousness writing. I'll trust that God is going to use it for his glory.

I'll close this morning with an article recommendation. John Horvat II is the author. He has done much thinking about "Frenetic Intemperance." He published a book on the subject. It is titled, "*Return to Order: From a Frenzied Economy to an Organic Christian Society — Where We've Been, How We Got Here, and Where We Need to Go.*" He defines Frenetic Intemperance, "as a restless spirit inside certain sectors of modern economy that foments a drive inside men to throw off legitimate restraints and gratify disordered passions. It is not a specifically economic problem but a moral and psychological vice that manifests itself everywhere in modern economy."

The article I want to recommend is titled, "Ten Ways to Avoid Frenetic Intemperance." Here's the link: <https://www.returntoorder.org/2017/08/ten-ways-to-avoid-frenetic-intemperance/>

I like number ten, "Do not take as role models those who have money as the central axis of their lives. Admire character not a person's bottom line."

Amen.