



SHIELD OF FAITH

"Take Up the Shield of Faith" - Paul

Wednesday, November 6, 2019

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. — Romans 13:8

The Colorful Fashion of Human Flourishing

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Government is important in Christianity. It shows up everywhere in the Christian scriptures.

Noah Webster described government in the first definition of his 1828 dictionary as, "Control; restraint. Men are apt to neglect the government of their temper and passions." The second President of the United States of America, John Adams, observed a few years earlier, "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

The friend to George Washington, and cousin to the Revolution's Boston Massachusetts firebrand, Sam Adams, also observed, "This would be the best of all possible worlds, if there were no religion in it." and "But I must submit all my hopes and fears, to an overruling Providence, in which, unfashionable as the Faith may be, I firmly believe."

I won't examine the complicated religious thinking of the faithful Christian-church-attending John Adams in this column. I do want to suggest that he was caught up in the ferocious religious skepticism of his 18th century peers. He hints at that in the final quotation above, "unfashionable as the Faith may be."

The "Faith" in which Adams places his "firm belief" is Christian, as it came to him nearly three hundred years into the West's experiment with protesting against Rome. If he was anything at all within Christianity he was firmly founded in the theological stream of Protestantism.

Here we are over two hundred years downstream from Adams in the most Protestant nation on earth, the United States. There are now over 30,000 Protestant Denominations. There is still only one Christian God. All of Christianity is monotheistic. Most of those 30,000 Denominations are Orthodox. They hold, in varying degrees of awareness, to the sacraments and creeds of the Faith. Some ... like the Mainline Denominations ... are collapsing into apostasy as they pervert themselves into Satanic Social Clubs embracing modernist dogmas that promote baby killing, sodomy and "sexual liberation."

Paul the Apostle defended the State — the idea that society requires governing. As always, Christianity is hierarchical. Paul begins his definition, "Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God."

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Paul talks here of “governing authorities.” The highest governing authority is God himself. Jesus Christ is OVER all government. His morality defines the institution designated ruler over a people all the way down to the etiquette that colors the fashions of human flourishing. Jesus Christ is either Lord over all, or He isn’t Lord at all.

The most fundamental governing authority in any civilization is the individual person. If an individual person dedicates their soul to hate then corruption is the result. If enough individuals do this then the society loses all civility. It stops functioning as a civilization.

The United States of America is barely functioning anymore. The nation is devolving into a rabble of God-haters. It is very basic. We’ve turned God’s name, Jesus Christ, into a blasphemy. We don’t need God to judge us from outside. We curse ourselves in our native tongue billions of times every day.

American politics has little to do with governing. It is entertainment — theatre. Politicians are actors. The most popular Presidents in my lifetime are actors. Reagan and Trump both decided to convert their finely honed acting skills into political power. The dumbed down masses gobble it up. The fake drama of politicians is spoon fed to the sheeple by a corporate advertising controlled adoring media.

The path forward has little to do with money or economics. We will emerge from this post-modernist nightmare as each of us choose Love over debt.

Paul got it right.

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.

Amen.