



SHIELD OF FAITH

"Take Up the Shield of Faith" - Paul

Wednesday, November 27, 2019

Make up your minds not to prepare your defense — Jesus to his disciples

Authenticity is a Superpower

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It's all the rage to prepare. I don't know if the Baal Scouts still have it in their motto, but I remember from my Cub Scout days the motto, "Be Prepared." Preparation is an essential American value.

Yet, Jesus told his disciples to "Make up your minds NOT to prepare your defense." He told his disciples they "would be seized and persecuted." He promised, "You will be handed over to the synagogues and to imprisonment." He predicted that they would be "brought before kings and governors for the sake of my name."

I've never been able to think of Christianity as entirely a religion of the masses. It produces it's best results under persecution. Saints obtain their credentials by overcoming the fads and fashions of their time. Christianity grants them a superpower rooted in God's law.

I'm reading a book right now entitled, "Protestant, Catholic, Jew: An Essay in American Religious Sociology" by Will Herberg. It was published in 1955, ten years after WW II ended. Herberg argues that America is a triple melting pot of the three religions mentioned in the title. In other words the American Way of Life is characterized by the fact that nearly all Americans, by the third generation after immigration, identify as either a Protestant, a Catholic or a Jew. This makes the God of these religions, or at least the idea of Him, America's most potent force for unification of the nation.

No issue has galvanized more Americans over a longer period of recent history than "abortion." I don't like the word abortion as the one word that describes the issue. It grants too much agency to the mother and father — mankind. I'll use the phrase "baby murder" instead. Even the morally loose President of the United States is opposed. Ironically, the thrice married reality star Donald Trump is probably going to be the President that criminalizes baby murder.

Generally, Jews favor the destruction of babies in the womb while Catholics oppose it in the largest numbers. Protestants are split with the elite denominations in favor and the common folk leaning against.

One would think that disagreement over the murder of innocent babies would cause civil war. We've engaged in the practice while debating it politically for nearly five decades now. We've funded the global spread of the idea in both practice and philosophy that entire time. And we've added to this political, religious and cultural philosophy the related evils of sodomy, transgenering, no-fault divorce and ubiquitous pornography. We've made these practices into essentials of freedom and democracy.

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The American Way is what made this possible. Herberg proves that the three religions are subsumed by the American Way. The values of debate, politics and knowledge entered religion on the issue of baby murder and were empowered to manage a “settlement” of the issue. In other words, the clear logic and teaching of these three religions on baby murder was weakened to the point of irrelevance by theological hair splitting. This enabled forces eager to exploit the issue an opportunity to gain power over the masses.

These forces are demonic. They can be defeated in only one way — by spiritual means.

Christians and people of good will are confronting this diabolical force. An important characteristic of this righteous force in the world is authenticity. Men and women are stepping up and reasoning in public having made up their minds NOT to prepare their defense.

Exercising faith in their God Christians are realizing that Jesus Christ is giving them an eloquence and a wisdom that none of their opponents are able to resist or contradict. They have taken to heart the promise of Jesus Christ to his disciples in Luke 21, “You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relations and friends; and some of you will be put to death. You will be hated universally on account of my name, but not a hair of your head will be lost.”

Jesus promised, “Your perseverance will win you your lives.”

Christianity has persevered for two millennia. Trump is promising an end to legal baby murder in less than five years.

We have only just begun to fight.

Amen.