



SHIELD OF FAITH

"Take Up the Shield of Faith" - Paul

Monday, December 2, 2019

For I am under authority myself and have soldiers under me; and I say to one man, "Go," and he goes; to another, "Come here," and he comes; to my servant, "Do this," and he does it. — Matthew 8:9

Christianity is the Great Faith

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Jesus Christ was approached by a Roman soldier in Capernaum. The centurion's servant was sick. The soldier asked Jesus to heal him. Jesus said he would "come myself and cure him."

The soldier replied that he wasn't worthy to have Jesus come to his house. He said, "Just give the word and my servant will be cured." The military man explained, "For I am under authority myself and have soldiers under me; and I say to one man, 'Go,' and he goes; to another, 'Come here,' and he comes; to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

The Bible says that Jesus was astonished by the centurion's response, "In truth I tell you, in no one in Israel have I found faith as great as this." And then Jesus flings open the gates to the Kingdom of Heaven saying, "And I tell you that many will come from east and west and sit down with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob at the feast."

Before he heals the servant with a word Jesus concludes his inclusive description of the future in a terrifyingly exclusive way, "But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

We Americans have absorbed a dangerous lie about religion. Because it cannot be manipulated by money and worldly power this lie could end in the destruction of Western Civilization. The forces controlling our civilization have convinced most of us that religion can be good for you if you treat it like Aladdin's genie. Keep it bottled up and let it out only three times in your life — when you're a child and you submit yourself to an initiation rite like baptism, marriage and then your funeral.

Otherwise than that religion must exist far in the background of our lives providing sentimental elevator music when called upon. This is a lie because while that may make for good psychology it has nothing to do with religion. Christianity, and indeed all religions, are encompassing. They make universal demands. All religions offer an existence, a life, that goes deeper than the world. Religion isn't an explanation. It is an eternal life.

It is a narrative into which the individual goes. It is not a narrative that the individual gets to create for himself. This might be the American Dream, but that has nothing to do with the religious urge. No, religion calls a person out of himself. Every religion calls the individual on to a divine path, an eternal quest for virtue.

For a time America wore Christ's harness. We submitted to the gospel ... the Ten Commandments.

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After the scepter of empire passed from the British Empire to the United States we abandoned this quest. Now we've come to believe that we can absorb Islam into the melting pot.

The triple melting pot of America is leaking. The sociologist Will Herberg discovered in the 1950s that after three generations in America immigrants identified as one of three religious groups — Protestant, Catholic or Jew. This didn't mean that they went to Church or the Synagogue. It just meant that they identified generally with one of these religious groups. They might go occasionally. Religion as elevator music.

Global elites believe that this is the future for humanity. They are bending all their will and power to this goal. Blend all religions together under the aegis of politics, economy, knowledge, entertainment and war. They've exhausted everybody in the world with their hyper-Americanized multicultural utopian nonsense.

The fact is that a religion cannot serve forever as background music. All religions create in groups and out groups. It is inevitable that they will clash.

We are taught that Jesus Christ came to earth to make us one big happy koombayah singing in group. It's like Jesus Christ's branding for the new millennium was created by Coca Cola — "I'd like to teach the world to sing in perfect harmony ..."

The big problem with this idea of Jesus Christ is that it is so obviously NOT TRUE. Jesus Christ was the most exclusive religious figure to EVER walk the stage of human history. It's His narrow path or the broad way. There's no in between with Jesus Christ. NONE.

And Western Civilization is Christian ... for two thousand years. Will those who wish to subvert Christian tradition and morals succeed? I'm betting they won't ... but most of my friends aren't so sure. They have a powerful argument, I must admit. Times they are a changing. There's lots of terrifying change in the wind for sure.

All the more reason to draw inspiration from the Christian Saints of our past. We have a deep well of tradition, culture and history from which to drink. If you're thirsty let me know. As God is saying forever "Come, let us reason together."

Amen.