



OAK GROVE ENCOURAGER

"And let us consider one another in order to
stir up love and good works" Hebrews 10:24

JANUARY 28, 2007

"They" Misled Us!

By Paul Harvey (1974)

"They" told us that if we'd relax about sex, take our clothes off and not get all up-tight about it, there would be no more sex crimes. So we let it all hang out—and the incidence of rape has increased 10% in one year! Maybe we'd better question some of the other advice "they" gave us.

"They" told us we'd been too tough with criminals; that we should go easy on them. So we went easy on them—and the rate of violent crime has increased 47% since 1968; increased 6% last year, is increasing 15% this year.

"They" told us that, if we'd be more

generous with poor folks, there'd be no motive for stealing anymore. So we gave everybody a guaranteed income; and robbery, burglary, larceny, and auto theft are running 15% ahead of one year ago.

"They" said churches are "old-fashioned," that they must modernize, liberalize, rationalize, compromise. And those that compromised most are shrinking fastest. If it is appearing up to here that "they" gave us some awfully bad advice—they did!

"They" insisted that our schools must boot God out and rely on enhancing junior's intelligence. So we graduated a generation of juniors with refined intellects and undisciplined emotions, and school-age suicides have soared 92% in two years.

"They" told us alcoholism and drug addiction were sicknesses, not crimes. Now we're gagging, choking, strangling, on forbidden fruit.

"They" said informal marriage was enough, so now the odds are 5 to 4 your rapture will be ruptured and 2 in 7 that the next baby will be born illegitimate.

Who are these "they" who've been thus misleading us? "They" are the materialists who deify the finite sciences.

"They" meant well, but their intentions are paving the road to hell. Now, I've quit commentating and gone to preachin'. I don't mean to. But I can't separate goodness and badness from today's news and explain it. Every ugly headline in today's newspaper—and yesterday's and

tomorrow's—is somebody's emotions gone out of whack. He might be smart as all get-out; but if he's emotionally colorblind, he is an unguided missile destined inevitably to self-destruct.

Spaceship Earth came with a book of instructions; let's see what it says. It says we should not be slothful in business. In fact, it says he who does not work—let him not eat. It says women should wear modest apparel. It says don't steal anything—anything! It says don't get drunk—period! It says sleep only with your own wife! It says you don't do what you "want," you do what you "ought," and for those whose consciences are anesthetized, it specifies which is which. In other words, if that rule book were not divinely inspired, it would still be the best blueprint for an orderly existence! If it did not promise life hereafter, it would still contain the best formula for a good life here.

2 Timothy 3:13-15 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, 15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Oak Grove church of Christ
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**Oak Grove
Church of Christ**

(502) 749-9209

Sunday

Bible Class:

9:30 AM

Morning Worship:

10:30 AM

Evening Worship:

5:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Class:

7:30 PM

Evangelist:

Bruce J. Dehut

Home Bible Studies Available
Upon Request

What Is A Conservative?

Some time ago I watched an interesting television program in which a well-known "conservative" political figure was being questioned by a panel of students concerning his views.

One of the first questions asked was, "What is a conservative?" The gentlemen's answer was something to this effect: "Actually, instead of being called a 'conservative,' I would prefer the word 'conservationist.' We all recognize a conservationist as one who is dedicated to the preservation of the natural beauty, environment and resources of this great country. A 'conservative' is merely a conservationist in the political realm. He is dedicated to the preservation of the Constitution of the United States and the rights and privileges guaranteed therein. He is firmly opposed to any theory or trend which would, in its ultimate effect, weaken or deprive us of this, our greatest national resource."

As I listened to these eloquent words, it struck me that such remarks have a direct application in the religious as well as the political realm. In the religious world and even in the church, we hear frequent use of the terms "liberal" and "conservative." But what is a religious "conservative?" Adapting the words of the television speaker, a conservative is merely a conservationist in the spiritual realm. Instead of the Constitution, he is dedicated to the preservation of the gospel of Christ and the doctrines and practices which arise therefrom. A "conservative" is firmly opposed to any theory or trend which would, in its ultimate effect, weaken or deprive us of this, our greatest and only guide and spiritual resource.

Another student asked the political conservative, "Is it true that conservatives are opposed to progress?" The speaker pointed out that such was a popular misrepresentation of the conservative position. He affirmed that the conservative view alone afforded the stimulus for real progress --progress within the framework of the Constitution.

Many times we have heard the charge from religious

"liberals" that "conservatives" cannot make progress. But such charge is also a popular misrepresentation. A point of verifiable fact is that in a world of declining religious interests, the most rapidly-growing religious groups are those who hold to "conservative" ideals. We affirm without hesitation that by a "conservative" approach alone can any real progress be made which will please our Lord - progress within the framework of the Scriptures!

Under the laws of this great country, we are free to choose whether we wish to be a liberal or a conservative, politically speaking. Political ideology is not legislated. But under the laws of God, Christians are required to have respect for, strictly abide in, and defend the gospel. (See Galatians 1:6-10; 1 Corinthians 4:6; Jude 3, etc.) Perhaps another way of putting this is that God requires Christians to be "conservative" toward His divine revelation.

The Christian, then, should be one who upholds, defends, and preserves, as a "spiritual conservationist," the worship, work, organization and doctrine outlined in the Constitution of the Kingdom of God, which we know as the gospel. He pleads for all to return to the "old paths." He calls for "building according to the pattern" in all things. He opposes every human theory and trend which would compete with the Divine plan. He strives for that progress which, although not always "highly esteemed in the eyes of men," is nevertheless the only real progress which matters. For it is progress which honors and glorifies God and His word.

May God help us all to be "conservationists" in the government of our glorious King! -- Bob West, The Milpitas Messenger, January, 1996

Perpetual Cleansing?

If we lived in a country where all you had to do was pledge allegiance to the laws of the land once and from thence forth could conduct yourself according to your own conscience, even if contrary to the country's statutes, chaos would reign. Yet many people are convinced that is

how Jesus Christ has established His kingdom, the church. They would have you believe that after your initial confession that Jesus is Lord that you are set for life even if you fall back into the ways of the world.

To enter into the kingdom of Christ a person must: Hear, Believe, Repent, Confess, be Baptized (Immersed), and **BE FAITHFUL UNTIL DEATH (Revelation 2:10b)**. None of the steps can be neglected if an individual desires to obtain eternal life, including living a life as close to the Lord as possible. ***If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin (1 John 1:6-7).***

Even after becoming children of God there are times when we stumble in our Christian walk and He has provided an avenue for the removal of those transgressions. ***If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).*** We have recorded for us an example of a person who went through the process described. Simon the sorcerer had obeyed the gospel yet soon after was enticed to sin by his passion for preeminence (***Acts 8:9-19***). The apostle Peter gave Simon the remedy for his sinful condition, ***"Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you" (Acts 8:22).***

We should not lull ourselves into a false sense of security by thinking once we have complied with the gospel call we can never fall. Please give careful consideration to the writings of the apostle Paul, ***"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?" (Romans 6:1-2).***

- Bruce J. Dehut

THE LORD'S DAY PRIVILEGE LIST

Sunday Morning Service

Announcements: Mike Shepherd

Song Leader: Wayne Runner

Opening Prayer: Doug Smith

Lord's Table: Arvil Young
Randall Hood
Chris Runner
Robert Hood

Scripture Reading: Brian Shepherd

Sermon: Bruce Dehut

Closing Prayer: Chuck Sharp

Sunday Evening Service

Announcements: Mike Shepherd

Song Leader: Wayne Runner

Opening Prayer: David Shepherd

Song Service

Lord's Table: Arvil Young

Closing Prayer: Bill Milliner