

March 22, 2015

Insights...

“Discretion will watch over you, understanding will guard you, delivering you from the way of evil, from men of perverted speech, who forsake the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness...”

Proverbs 2:11-13

- **Pastor Dave’s uncle Ray**, an Iowa hog farmer, went to church each Sunday wearing a clean, crisp pair of overalls, a cotton button down collared shirt and a blue suit coat. One Sunday while visiting relatives in another town they attended church with the “in-laws.” The pastor at this church didn’t appreciate Ray’s typical Sunday outfit and said to him, “*Next time you go to church you should pray and ask the Lord what you ought to be wearing.*” “*That sure is good advice Parson,*” Ray replied, “*I did that this very morning.*” “*And just what did He tell you?*” the minister replied. “*He told me He didn’t know - He’d never been to your church before.*”

- **The enriching, and sometimes militaristic nature of God’s Word** – Go ahead...look them up.
 - When the enemy attacked, you pulled back. Why? “*We are not retreating – we are advancing in another direction.*” Maj. Gen. Oliver Smith putting I Timothy 6:10-12 into practice during the Korean War.

 - You’re encircled. You’re low on ammo. What do you tell the troops? “*They’ve got us surrounded again, “the poor _____!”* General Creighton Abrams, perhaps unknowingly, reflecting the message of Psalm 54:5 during WWII.

- **And speaking of resistance**, “*When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it.*” Henry Ford

- **Recently a concerned father of a 2nd grader** (and philosophy professor) discovered the following exercise on a “fact vs. opinion” online worksheet used by his son’s school. The students were asked, “Are the following facts or opinions?”
 - Copying homework assignments is wrong.
 - Cursing in school is inappropriate behavior.
 - All men are created equal.
 - It is worth sacrificing some personal liberties to protect our country from terrorism.
 - It is wrong for people under the age of 21 to drink alcohol.
 - Vegetarians are healthier than people who eat meat.
 - Drug dealers belong in prison.

The answers? In each case, the worksheets categorize these claims as opinions. The explanation on offer is that each of these claims is a value claim and value claims are not facts. This is repeated ad nauseum: any claim with good, right, wrong, etc. is not a fact. The punchline: there are no moral facts. And if there are no moral facts, then there are no moral truths. (What are your kids being taught? DMH) [Why Our Children Don’t Think There Are Moral Facts By Justin P. McBrayer, New York Times, 3/2/15]

- **Prayer is not simply a “spare wheel” that you pull out when in trouble.** It is a “steering wheel” that directs the right path throughout the journey.
- **Trivia Question:** Recent economic reports estimate: as much as [A. one-sixteenth B. one-quarter C. one-third D. one-half] of the nation’s money supply now moves through the gambling industry each year.

For Prayer...

- ...Ron (Karen) Chad’s dad - will be have a triple bypass on March 31st.
- ...Jean - My brother Jeff, let our family know that he has adenocarcinoma of the pancreas with tumors in the liver. It was very sudden. The side (around the liver) became very tender. There was a biopsy done this past Friday. He told his kids last night and our mom this morning. His church will be told later this week. Our mom has already lost a husband and another son to cancer so we expect her present depression to deepen.
- ...Glenn – surgery on his foot, Wednesday, went well. We pray for a speedy and full healing.
- ...Kelly and Sarah as they enter into a serious season of candidating in hopes of raising support to minister in New Guinea.
- ...Penny and Gary offer a prayer of thanksgiving for the marriage of their daughter Dolly to John.
- ...Timothy (Dave’s son) has been missing for almost a year now. Praying for his safety and salvation. Praying for Dave and peace in the Lord.
- ...Sawyer’s reparative heart surgery this past Thursday went well. This is a critical time of recovery and we pray for God’s grace and healing hand. Please remember this family in prayer.
- ...VBS Committee recently lost some key members and excellent teachers from last year cannot help this year due to scheduling. We pray for God’s gracious provision and your considerations.
- ...Our President and civic leaders. Godly wisdom, and courage. Christians in harms ways and others who are victims of the evils of man’s inhumanity to man.
- ...Mexico Missions Team in Monterey.
- ...Sale of Homes.
- ...Mike – upcoming knee replacement surgery.
- ...Couples who are fighting serious physical illness together.

Jeff & Laurie	Christy (Mike)	John & Sue	Norm & Peg	Cheryl (Deane)
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- ...Our Expectant Mothers

Sarah (Kelly)	Daisy (Aaron)	Diana (Steven)	Brittany (Andy)
Christine (Ben)	Sarah (Beaner)	Paige (Matt)	
Terra (Ronnie)	Kristin (Shawn)	Chante (Brent)	

...but O how I miss her...
*“The pain I feel now is the
 happiness I had before.
 That’s the deal.”*
 C. S. Lewis

- **Trivia Answer:** C. one-third. Management consultant Eugene M. Christiansen determined that “Americans spent more on gambling than they did on health insurance, dentists, shoes, foreign travel, or household appliances.”