

June 7, 2015

# *Insight...*

***“Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.”***

Psalm 51:1

- **Years ago Pastor Dave was an avid golfer.** One evening he came in from the course and Anne (Pastor Dave’s first wife) asked him with whom he had played that day. He said, *“Oh, no one in particular.”* She asked, *“Why don’t you play with Max anymore?”* “Well,” he replied, *“Would you like to play golf with someone who gets angry, throws his clubs, accuses others of cheating, fudges his scores, moves his ball in the rough, and won’t stop talking while you’re hitting?”* “Certainly not!” Anne replied. Dave then mumbled, *“Neither does Max.”*
  
- **Apologetics with Love...**Christian apologetics is important, but its importance is often misunderstood. Our job is not to win arguments, but to win people. It is Scripture, not my argument, which is sharper than any two-edged sword. The job of my argument is to clear a path for Scripture to reach the heart. And to do that, the argument must ride on the back of sacrificial love. Donald T. Williams in Touchstone, May/June 2015.
  
- **Where are the Millennials going?** George Barna and LifeWay Research have both conducted extensive studies in order to answer this important question. Here are some of their findings. Of the 1,200 studied, 2/3<sup>rd</sup> identified themselves as Christian.
  - 14% said they were atheist or agnostic.
  - 14% listed no religious preference.
  - 8% claimed affiliation with a religion other than Christianity.
  
- **The Vanishing Millennials...**“The lack of integrity of many Christian leader – including parents, church leaders, denominational authorities, and other – seems to be a primary cause of the exodus of young people from the organized church.” “the church lost the millennials by its ineffectiveness – and for many, the loss came long before they left for college. The secularist professor simply finished the job begun by Christianity without integrity.” From an article by Carmen Fowler LaBerge, Youth Retreat: Finding Where the Church Fails to Connect with Millennials & How We Can Reverse the Trend, in Salvo, Summer 2015.
  
- **Landmarks for Mercy...*****“Do not remove the ancient landmark,”*** Solomon says in Proverbs 23:10. Just what a king would say: kings want to keep things just as they are, and convince everyone that they have always been so, so long as they can sit on top of the heap.

But the sequel of the Proverb doesn’t fit that skepto-Marxist reading. Preserve the ancient landmarks, and do not “enter the fields of the fatherless.” In Israel, every clan within every tribe received a portion of the land, and those ancestral lands were to be restored every fifty years during Jubilee. “Preserving the ancient landmarks” didn’t mean preserving the status of the powerful; Israel was to be “conservative” in order to protect the rights of the poor.

Israel's original land settlement was unique, and so, in detail, was the Jubilee. But the truth of the Proverbs 23:10-11 is permanent. Settled ways are good for the poor. We conserve in order to care for the vulnerable. We defend tradition because, and insofar as, tradition is an instrument to defend the weak. Peter J Leithhart in Touchstone, May/June 2015.

- **Trivia Question:** True or False...There is evidence that the proverbial pendulum of pornography is beginning to swing back towards conservative values. This is evidenced by British actor and comedian, Russell Brand's video which denounces porn as "filth" and wishes he had the strength never to watch it again.

### For Prayer...

- ...Karen (Rob) mom, Barb, fell this past week breaking both knees and her ankle. We pray for the adjustments that healing, pain and a new care facility will demand. Thank you for your prayers.
- ...Please pray for the family and friends of Anne Rakos who had been missing several days when her body was discovered yesterday. Anne was a friend of many in our church family and helped start the Kid's Ranch in Baraboo.
- ...Kicking Bear Outreach & Family Fun Day, next Saturday (9am-3pm). There is still a need for some volunteers to help keep participants safe. Pray for our Kicking Bear Team!
- ...Pete and Liesl transporting supplies to their village. Pray for good road conditions as they approach rainy season. Pray also for visas for their son Kester and for their co-workers: Rachel and Katie.
- ...Please pray for Sawyer (6) who is experiencing complications from a recent heart surgery. Doctors treated the fluid build-up around his heart with medication and allowed him to go home. We pray for continued healing and successful treatments.
- ...Chuck (Esther) – back in the hospital with heart issues. We are praying the Lord will enable the doctors to see and help Chuck gain cardiac stability.
- ...Graduate activities: Open Houses, Jobs, Ministries...
- ...Norm (Peg) – Had gall bladder surgery on Wednesday. Praying for a good recovery.
- ...Our leaders in government and the moral climate of our community and country.
- ...VBS Committee – workers, preparation and kids to bring kids.
- ...Couples who are fighting serious physical illness together.

|               |                |            |                |
|---------------|----------------|------------|----------------|
| Jeff & Laurie | Christy (Mike) | Sue (John) | Cheryl (Deane) |
| Renee (Dick)  | Ken & Judy     | Bernard    |                |
- ...Our Expectant Mothers

|                |                |                 |                 |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Sarah (Kelly)  | Jen (Cody)     | Britta (Jonah)  | Brittany (Andy) |
| Chante (Brent) | Diana (Steven) | Kristin (Shawn) |                 |

"My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of just and unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line. What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust?"

C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

**Trivia Answer:** True