

HEALING OF THE MIND

By

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One reason man cannot solve national problems is that the problem is within man himself. Corrupt conspirators use the tools of sex abuse, drugs and violence to gain their ends, but such tools would be useless without the voluntary cooperation of the populace.

This diagnosis comes straight from the Maker Himself: “There is none righteous; no, not one. There is none that understands...There is no fear of God before their eyes (Rom. 3:10, 11, 18). Politicians, commentators and educators fail to accept this diagnosis, because it applies to them too. The fact that the condition is everywhere denied is evidence that it is true. If man were not a sinner he would tell the truth about himself, but if he were by nature unrighteous he would, by that nature, lie about it, and this is exactly the case.

Created in the image of God, man’s life-style was orderly, productive and peaceful. When he sinned against the Creator he not only disrupted the relationship with the Creator, but this break with the Giver and Maintainer of life also brought about a change in man’s very nature, resulting in confusion, despair and violence. Man had been given dominion over the world, but after his own nature was so adversely affected that he could not rule himself in harmony with God, his dominion also fell into disorder. God’s pronouncement of death —“To dust thou shall return” — also included a curse upon the world: “Cursed is the ground for thy sake” (Gen. 3:17, 19). The overflowing hospitals, starvation, earthquakes, floods and droughts over the world support the fact that the whole “creation was subjected to vanity” and writhes in agony because of sin (Rom. 8:20).

Just as sin did not originate outwardly, but inside man — in his mind and heart — so the effects of sin are not merely the outward chaos we see, but the derangement of the mind itself. “Every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (Gen. 6:5). Contrary to what socialists claim, the problem does not come from the environment, causing men to work evil: the problem flows from the evil in man, causing the disorder of his environment. The disorder of sin is so comprehensive that it throws all man’s senses off balance. He does not understand revealed truth nor see it when demonstrated. “Their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed” (Matt. 13:15). The mind, the very seat of intelligence, reason, and will, has been corrupted so that men have “become vain in their reasoning and their senseless heart was darkened (Rom. 1:21). His wisdom has become foolishness (I Cor. 1:25). This is why he uses God-given resources to develop a technology which he cannot control for good, but which he uses to ruin his happiness and freedom. He uses his mind, not to construct life as the Creator designed, but to oppose the Creator’s will and purpose so that his highest powers are “exalted against the knowledge of God” (II Cor. 10:5). It is no surprise that his educational system should uphold the false theories of evolution in order to oppose the truth of creation. Neither is it a surprise that drugs should be so popular with young people whose minds have been directed to the opposite of God’s purpose. The corruption

of sex, as manifest in widespread fornication, adultery and pornography, is further proof of the fact that man's "senseless heart was darkened."

Under the mind-twisting effect of sin man does willingly the work of Satan because to him it is normal behavior. "All the world lies in the evil one" (John 5:19). To man in sin this is a normal condition, the way it should be, with each man doing what is right in his own (blinded) eyes, as the popular song says, "I did it my way."

The issue before the world, therefore, is not inflation nor energy nor drug abuse, nor politics, but the sin which lies within man himself and it can only be solved by the drastic work of remaking man. The world in its wisdom does not know God, yet man is made in the image of God and can function properly only in proper relation to Him. As long as man pursues his own wisdom he will grow further from God. Since his very thinking process has fallen into disorder with the general condemnation of the world under the curse of sin, the faster he applies this thinking the faster he deteriorates into the morass of disorder. The more power he is given, the more chaotic and miserable the results. Since governments are made up of men, the government of man will grow farther and farther from the Kingdom of God. But the men who run the government are convinced that, by applying more of their (defective) wisdom, they can get it all straightened out, and eliminate the confusion, despair and violence. This is to ignore the issue.

"A dying patient may require surgery and yet dread it, thereby self-deluding himself into thinking that his condition only calls for a band-aid. A doctor who accepted this patient's conception of himself and his condition would not only be a quack, he would show absolutely no concern for the patient's true health and recovery. So, also, the Christian scholar who genuinely desires the spiritual reclamation of the unregenerate thinker must not allow the unbeliever to diagnose his own condition and thoughts and then prescribe an insufficient cure. The unregenerate thinker does not merely need a band-aid of additional information; he needs the major internal surgery of regeneration. He needs to forsake his thought and be renewed in knowledge after the image of his Creator (Col. 3:10)." (Greg L. Bahnsen, "The Chalcedon Report," Oct. 1974.)

This was exactly the issue that brought Jesus Christ into the world. He came to "save his people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21) and to "put away sin by the sacrifice of himself" (Heb. 9:26). In fact, throughout the entire Bible the issue is **sin!** Even the law was given that through it man might have the knowledge of sin (Rom. 3:20). When Jesus began His ministry, Matthew said that it was "To preach, and to say, Repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt. 4:17). When Peter preached the first Gospel sermon after Christ's death and resurrection, he concluded with the command, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of our sins" (Acts 2:38). The object of the baptism was not, as so many churches say today, for the purpose of being initiated into the church, but for the purpose of having sins remitted.

The kingdoms of the world are in chaos. If Christ continues to delay His coming, what then? The only order that can be established is that of a well-ordered mind. This is possible only when men are regenerated in mind, born again with every thought brought "into captivity to the obedience of Christ" (II Cor. 10:5).

Paul writes, "be not fashioned according to this world, but be you transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Rom. 12:2). The Christian, therefore, is first to bring his own mind

under the total control of Christ, then bring all his resources (mind, energy and materials) to the support of the gospel of Jesus Christ to the end that others may be redeemed from the darkness of sin to the light of truth and a sound mind. The gospel centers on this one thing: That Christ entered the world as man and died as a man for man's sins, that man, being loosed from sin, might be resurrected to eternal life, healed in mind and body to reflect the glory of God in whose image he was created.

A collective body cannot be whole when all its parts remain in corruption and confusion. For a long time the main-stream church has sought to reach the world by identifying with it. The result is that not only has the main-stream church failed to change the world, but it has actually descended to the world's level. For the most part chaos reigns in the church just as it does in the world. What the Christian must do, both individually and in the church body, is to recognize that sin is the issue and that it requires major surgery. Then he must take the scalpel, in this case the sword of the spirit, God's word, and apply it with boldness and skill.

In times of national calamity the prophets of Israel preached a return to God through repentance and renewing of the mind. "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his faults; and let him return unto the Lord" (Isa. 55:7). In a time of continuous revolution and violence, the apostles went everywhere preaching the gospel and it was said of them that they were turning the world upside down. Christ, who claims to be both "Light" and "Truth", did not leave us in the dark as to what to do in the chaotic condition of the world. His solution was that "repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name unto all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem" (Luke 24:47). Paul writes that Christians are to be seen as "lights in the world, holding forth the word of life" (Phil. 2:15, 16). Until men come to this word of life for sin to be cleansed, they remain in a darkened state so that all your other efforts however enlightening they may be, fall on hardened hearts and mushy minds.

God's command is that men should repent of sin, and He even delays judgment that all might have the opportunity (II Peter 3:9). A renewed mind is absolutely essential for man to fellowship God, to do His will, and have life everlasting. Main-stream churches have so failed to understand this that they have abandoned the study and presentation of the objective truth concerning Christ and have turned to an experiential faith. Instead of renewing the mind through an understanding which God reveals in His word, many believers today spend their efforts seeking after some kind of physical or material experience. They want a good feeling rather than the acceptable and perfect will of God done in their lives. They are more interested in the healing of the body than in the healing of the mind which has been distorted by Satan (I Cor. 1:21). Many seem to spend more time reading about healers and miracles than they do about the renewal of mind and heart which is essential to pleasing God.

The person who has submitted to the regeneration of God not only finds peace and joy in his life which the world cannot give — and does not even understand, but he also becomes one of the building blocks by which the world about him might be helped and once again restored to order. The unregenerate man has neither peace of his own nor can he lead anyone else out of the chaos, however hard he tries.

Christ entered the stream of human life for one purpose — to take away sin. When He comes again it will be to give immortality to those whose sins are removed, and to judge and destroy those who persist in sin. The problem of the race of man today is sin,

and the only solution is the gospel of Christ. All whose lives are re-ordered by Christ become a part of His Kingdom, as over against the world-kingdoms where sin reigns. Hence the issue, on the social basis, is between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of the world. By comparison, all other issues are minor.

“We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in the evil one. And we know that the Son of God is come, and has given us an understanding, that we know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in His Son, Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life” (I John 5:19, 20).

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