

Of late there has come a concept long in the forming that in the least opens my eyes of understanding. That concept is one I picture as a hierarchy, or a spectrum better said, whereby one finds himself in one level or another in relation to the Presence of the Almighty God.

To rapidly get to the picture, let us reason together of Isaiah in chapter 6 wherein he is “carried by the Spirit” into the very throne room of the Most High. He declares himself a man of unclean lips who dwells amongst a people of unclean lips. Or Paul “caught up by the Spirit” into the third heaven where he saw things of which were unlawful to speak. These positions are about as high as a mortal can go, physically, mentally and spiritually.

Then there is the other end of the spectrum whereby a human being walks as if he were an animal, having no understanding of the Third Heaven, nor the Most High, His word, ethics, morals, intelligence, meditation, nor anything that is higher than brute impulses to kill and eat.

Most of us, however, are in neither extreme position but somewhere in between. That in-between ground, like the bulge of a bell curve depicting the center of a given population, is where the bulk of the so-called ‘Christian’ community lies. In the NT they were called the *ekklesia*, or the ones who are “called out”, otherwise known as the Body of Christ.

But ***are we really*** near the center of this population of the Body, or have we drifted one way or another?

Let us look at several individuals in the annals of the past 2000 years and see where we might see ourselves. Though severely incomplete, the list would include for example, Leonard Ravenhill, who spent his lifetime preaching either in the streets of London during WW II and later in the Protestant churches of America. In addition to writing about the higher life, he spent much of his waking hours either reading and studying the Word, or praying in the dead of night between midnight and three in the morning.

Or A.W. Tozer, who wrote tomes about the character and human worship of God, and his passionate preaching in various edifices.

Or Madame Guyon, who spent much of her life in a horrible dungeon, in which she plumbed the “Depths of Jesus Christ”, the title of a book she penned afterwards. The words of her testimony will shame the most devout of believers.

The list goes on almost innumerably, but is a list of people of days gone by, from conditions entirely foreign to Americans; –or at least to a few Americans more than 65 years of age, and a very few less than that. We don’t even resemble these men and women!

The concept I wish to convey is **one of serious decay of our position relative to the Most High.** It is patently obvious to me that particularly since WW II we have plummeted from a position of mental and spiritual pursuit of Him, His Word and even thoughts of Him. In short, our minds no longer are used to dwell on Him or anything of Him. How has this happened?

Leonard Ravenhill seemed to have touched on the answer many years ago when he said entertainment, or amusement, has replaced the pursuit of God in any form. The word '**amusement**' is a compound word comprised of 'a', meaning 'without', and 'muse', meaning to think, or ponder. So the totality of the word **means 'without thinking'.**

Back to the pivotal time event called WW II, we find the advent of a current form of amusement called television. From TV we evolved (or *de*evolved...) commensurate with the advance of the middle class in the forms of education, prosperity, health, wealth and communication. In the late 90s came the explosion and advent of the plasma TV, Internet, personal computers, e-mail and instant information. By the 2000s the cell phone phenomena evolved into every home, car and business and junior high student. By 2008 and erupting until now in 2012, the computer power has allowed an unbelievable degree of communication via texting, calculating and design unparalleled in history.

But in doing so, the mind, and by direct extension the spirit, has lost much of its potential to reflect, or in any way bring glory to the Most High. To borrow a line from another paper, "high oratory, or any form of entertainment, leaves a sensory imprint that occludes any meditation." For these we were created, whether acknowledged or not. Reading is a lost art, much less thinking, even less meditation, by which we contemplate our origins, current affairs and eventually the Presence of the Most High.

So where are we, and where are we going? With the exception of a few public figures such as Thomas Sowell, Walter Williams, Cal Thomas and others who are not caught up in the possession of iPhones, iPads, and other digital prisons.

What happens when a God-created man ceases to think? **Grasp this**; thinking, meditating and pondering are attributes unique to man. When these are absent, guess what? – ***we become animals !!!***

Think not? –then consider the events of only the last few years: remember Charles Manson, O.J. Simpson, Clockwork Orange, 9/11, Columbine, Fort Hood, Killeen, Connecticut elementary school, omitting a slew of others similar in between, but not so newsworthy. Consider a young male mowing down grade school children without mercy, mothers drowning their children in a bathtub, young boys raping 5-year olds, *ad nauseum*. Are not these acts of atrocity as those committed by animals?

So you defend your mindless evaluation of these acts by saying they were acts of passion, on drugs such as Prozac, Zoloft or Ritalin. Fine; then defend if you will those who were not on drugs. HmMMM?

I have seen with my own eyes humans from three months to 38 years that have become mentally interrupted and challenged. The very young that have been given digital ‘toys’, which occupy a good portion of their conscious moments, have a hard time socially, particularly with older folk. I have seen the older users critically strapped as to the length of sentences they can decipher. The length of their mental capacity is reduced to a four-word text. When I have gone beyond two-three paragraphs, I am accused of being crazy wordy and too, too intellectual. A book or technical paper leaves them in a sort of shock.

In the short time these video games, “learning” Ipads and assorted videos with screens of any kind have been extant, I have seen the regression of their minds to increasingly **possessive** mental states, as well as a waning of any ability to process data of any kind. Their excitability tolerance becomes volatile and short-fused; their emotions seem to be on a flight test. Fear and/or other spiritual deviancies seem to be right on the surface of consciousness.

“Oh, you say,” “these beginner types are harmless.” Really? –then check their ability to converse with you on any intelligent level, or how many times you have to tell them to do something; –or their decreasing level of respect and ability to communicate with whomever. Or for that matter consider your own removal from social interaction due to your iPhone. You might be surprised; your audience will not be. As it is said, what the parents do in moderation, the children do to excess.

Or better yet, let’s look at things ten years from now, when it will be far too late to rectify the effects that could only have been formed during their childhood and adolescence. We may not like to think of such things, but **these perpetrators** of child-drowning, children-massacring boys and other acts of atrocity **were once someone’s young child** !!

This may be a bit afield, but from what I understand of the Word, ***anything*** that displaces the thought and awareness of our Most High God is an idol. Users of idols are called idolaters. Idolaters are listed amongst the most heinous of sins.

A watchman is supposed to watch for advancing hordes, or surreptitious enemies under cover of night. They are to notify in no uncertain terms the populace sleeping in perceived peace. But if ***he*** should happen to fall asleep and the advancing hordes break down the walls, he will be shot on sight. Even a common group of black crows has a watchman. If he does not warn, they will kill him on the spot.

Lest my words be adulterated, hear this;

We are on the cusp of animals roaming our land killing, raping, shooting and who knows what else.

What made them that way should not be on our hands. Digital can be deadly.

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