

There are but a few things that are critical to the point of life or death; the first is our attitude toward the Most High as to whether or not we really consider Him Sovereign. The second, dependant on the first, is the type of fear we have with respect to Him. A third, a derivative of the first and second, is the direction which we turn our faces, an idiom meaning the focus of our heart, the object of our thoughts at all levels.

‘Focusing our attention’, or ‘turning our faces’ are idioms; on the negative side, the idiom ‘turning our back’ on something or someone is to exhibit contempt to the utmost degree. Still more words from Roget’s Thesaurus that bring our minds to full appreciation of the phrase are:

|            |          |             |
|------------|----------|-------------|
| disrespect | outrage  | sneer       |
| disparage  | scoff    | despise     |
| contempt   | derision | trifle with |
| affront    | mockery  | push aside  |
| neglect    | flout    | desecrate   |

All these indeed are words to describe ‘turning one’s back’, but there is a word that sticks out in my own mind. That word is **betrayal**. To betray someone is to do unto them the worst, from an attitude they are simply not good enough for you to support or grant attention in the slightest form. Betrayal is betrayal; cowardly, low-life, arrogant, haughty, supremacist, like a snake.

In a previous paper I wrote about the acts of God and those of others not being good enough for the indulged. As this is penned, the two are deeply connected. With all the high-tech modes of attracting our attention, we find ourselves in a maelstrom of pleasure. The irony of the matter is that although the maelstrom is making a fearful noise, we seem to not pay much attention, but instead are mesmerized by its power. Einstein commented that he “feared the day when technology surpassed our social interaction. When that happens, we will have a generation of idiots.” We are there.

The singular scripture that screams the message behind the turning of our backs is found in Ezekiel 8. The entire chapter deals with the subject at hand, but verses 6, 10, 11 and 12 are potent. I quote,

“And He said to me, “Son of man, do you see what they are doing, the great abominations they are committing here, to drive me far from my sanctuary?” ...so I went in (the wall) and saw portrayed there upon the wall all kinds of creeping things, and loathsome beasts, and **all the idols of Israel**. And before them stood seventy elders of the house of Israel....He said to me, “Son of man, have you seen what the elders of the house of Israel are doing in the dark, every man in his room of pictures?”

Then verses 15-18 make the point:

15-18. "Have you seen this, O son of man? You will see still greater abominations than these." And He brought me into the inner court of the house of the LORD. . . .between the porch and the altar were about twenty-five men with their *backs to the temple of the LORD*, and their faces toward the east, worshipping the sun toward the east.

In reading these passages, I can almost hear the Most High livid with anger, after all He had done for Israel, restraining His wrath with the utmost effort. I can almost hear Him screaming at Ezekiel, or at least speaking to him in a most intense tone, one that got Ezekiel's attention.

To me at least this is one of the most powerful passages to be found anywhere in the Bible. I cannot read it without imbibing into my deepest soul the anger that God feels when His people do these things. The passage was part of a *rhema*, a special word from Him concerning the behavior of a set of deacons ("elders") in the mid-80s. There were twelve active at the time, to whom I delivered the paper at their monthly meeting. But as I hand-delivered the paper to their houses of the four on inactive rotation, *each one of them was in their room, in the dark, looking at their 'pictures'*. Freshly cognizant of verse 12, the hair on the back of my neck stood up as I delivered the paper, and I could not leave fast enough.

As I understand it, there are three major expressions of turning one's back on the Most High. The **first** is ignoring of His word, by our level of interest, counting as trifling what He said. This is the very worst of insults and acts of defamation towards Him. The **second** is to focus inordinate attention on things not evil in and of themselves. The **third** is the focusing one's attention on things definitely evil and lurid. In all three the understanding should be clear 'turning one's back' is *the degree of rotating your mind's eye toward that thing, to the exclusion of the Most High*. In other words, to the extent He no longer is the center and axis of your mind's energies.

That, my friends, is **idolatry**.

What God said is what He is. It stands to reason our attitude towards what He said takes precedence over anything else, whether we follow that pattern or not. There are too many evidences that affirm the one-on-one relationship between a true believer and his or her absolute love and insatiable appetite for all that He said. The two are inseparable, make no mistake about it. If I do not have a genuine love, respect and obedience for all that He said, I should be seriously questioning my being reborn in the first place. If there is aught that is ahead of love for His Word, we are on thin ice indeed as to whether or not we are in idolatry.

Several relevant passages highlight the importance of this relationship:

Ezekiel 23:35; Because you have forgotten me and cast me behind your back,  
therefore bear the consequences of your lewdness and harlotry.

Psalms 50:7, 16-18 “Hear, O My people, and I will testify against you. I am God, your God.... But to the wicked (of my people) God says: “What right have you to recite my statutes, or take my covenant upon your lips? For you hate discipline, and you cast my words behind you. If you see a thief, you have consented with him, and you keep company with adulterers.”

**Adulterers:** 5003 *naaph*: to commit adultery, figuratively to apostatize (*Roget*, renounce, defection, turn-coat, withdrawal, back-sliding, change sides, abrogate), idolatrous worship (false religions, secret fraternities, occult, et al), physical adultery. But in the Bible, adultery more commonly refers to adultery of the heart, its affections, allegiances and so forth. Thus one can commit spiritual adultery by loving, worshipping and paying allegiance to anything, anyone, or any institution or relationship over and above the person and words of the Most High. Adultery and idolatry are closely linked in concept.

Nehemiah 9:16 (Ezra talking about Israel, and by extension about us, being spiritual Israel), “Nevertheless they were disobedient and rebelled against thee and cast your law behind their back and killed your prophets, who had warned them In order to turn them back to you...therefore you did give them into the hand of their enemies, who made them suffer.”

This thing of turning our backs on what He said is going to reap horrific consequences, whether we are chronic church attendees or not. There is going to be a separation of His people that will leave many speechless in the midst of their agony. About the only thing they will be able to utter is “What did I do?”

The second level of idolatry is the group of evil and lurid things affecting the Body, or at least what is perceived as the Body.

It seems to me the Beautiful People attending the Church of the What’s Happening Now dance all around the real issues inherent in this discussion. That issue is the degree to which we participate in the erotic and sensuous. It is a demonstrable fact rentals of X-rated movies in motels go up dramatically whenever a religious convention comes to town. Equally, secular TV and other media are full of erotic ‘pictures’ which we ever-so-innocently gulp when watching same. Say what you will, we are in an extremely sexual society, pulling our seed as well as ourselves into a morass of obscenity and depravity.

This is nothing new, you say; no, it is not. But the degree to which we (our kids) are being pulled downward, viz-a-viz Sodom, is somewhat new to America. And most of that pulling down occurred dramatically within the last two generations, neither of which is aware. Oral sex, particularly in junior high, exploded in the 90s under the administration of Bill Clinton, whom I call the Poster Boy for that perversion.

Sodomy and pedophilia (would some of you please look up the gory details of those acts?!?) has and is exploding under the auspices of Michael Jackson, Mylie Cyrus and others, on *regular* TV, not some porn site. The scandal of the Catholic priests/pedophiles (which had been going on for many years) ruined the life and made a harlot out of many a young boy. It essentially promulgated the act of sodomy. But, we seem to have forgotten all that.

“Ah”, you say, “we don’t do those things!” Better check your kid’s texts, you might get a surprise...

So in what and where are the members of the What’s Happening Now? What do we do that so angers the Most High besides casting His words behind our backs and ignoring Him? Has anyone checked the proliferation of the exposure of cleavage amongst the Beautiful People? Has anyone missed the tight jeans revealing every curve of a woman’s body at the local sanctuary? “Everyone does it!!” Oh?

Has all the Body missed what Jesus Himself said about the woe due the one by whom stumbling comes? Are you going to tell me any man can resist looking at cleavage, however ‘discreet’? –or any teenage boy? How could either one miss seeing “things”? How could any male miss a female strutting her stuff in front of him, all the while pretending to be so, so, pious, so, so, ‘proper’, so, so, ‘normal’, so, so, ‘married’??

Ah, but let us not discriminate and be sexist, leaving out the habits of the males. No indeed, we shall not, for we are as guilty of turning our backs as the next. For from us comes much sexual arousal simply by looking at the wares of the approaching female. Both are complicit.

Are we getting the picture? It is the tide toward the forbidden and *away from* Him that we find ourselves afloat.

All the above falls into the category of the obvious, the physical, the visible; what eludes even the best of us are those things **not** evil in and of themselves. Let us hope I have not lost you flinging this paper in the trash, for it is the following that hooks most of the quasi-believers in the proverbial jaw.

To repeat, when we talk about turning our backs on the Most High, we are to understand it involves both our physical bodies as well as our mental acumen. This is why one of the first sentences dealt with the issue of considering the Most High as Sovereign, in all things, large and small.

From what I have studied, it is patently clear that the first-century Christians had but one thing on their minds: the Lord Jesus. Their eyes and hearts were constantly focused on Him, and what He willed for them that day. Oh, but we are too busy today with things, kids’ activities, demanding work schedule, this social engagement, and so forth!!

One only has to read in the Revelation about His reprimands to the *ekklesia* at Ephesus. Oh, you say, that's way back then. Maybe, maybe not; seems to me His letters to the seven *ekklesia* are held sacrosanct by a lot of people. Best not disparage them.

Our turning has pretty much devolved into the following:

- towards comfort, our plans, our way.
- towards success, however we define that.
- towards perfection in all areas of our lives, home, health, looks, possessions, however we define perfection, including being right about everything.
- pleasure and entertainment.

This country, for a significant majority, has drifted into a mindset of;

|                     |                |                |                 |                   |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Zero strain         | Zero work      | Zero waiting   | Zero restraints | Zero correction   |
| Zero effort         | Zero patience  | Zero sacrifice | Zero rules      | Zero problems     |
| Zero risk           | Zero obedience | Zero reproof   | Zero angst      | Zero restrictions |
| Zero responsibility |                |                |                 |                   |

### *Narcissism*

We shall find one of these days, sooner than later, a total absence of anything Godly; we shall find one of these days that law and order, hedges and blessings have been removed. We shall find one of these days a dissolving of society around our little world, instead filled with lawlessness which has invaded our personal sanctuaries.

We now have a Poster Boy of Lawlessness as our leader, his lawlessness being mimicked by the youth just as oral sex was mimicked by Jr. High youth two decades ago. Rebellious youth essentially mimic whatever is the most obnoxious, shocking and taboo to their parents. That is what will prevail as we speak. Most of the ruin will affect our seed, sodomy and pedophilia being uppermost, all in the absence of restraint as lawlessness spreads.

This awareness will be as when a swarm of fire-ants has unknowingly crawled up our legs, which, at some unseen signal will unilaterally start stinging and injecting their acid poison. By then our focus will be so indurate toward ourselves, we will not have a clue where to turn. Turn?!? –did I say ‘turn’?!? Why would we all of a sudden be of a mindset to ‘turn’?

What do you think He will say to us then?

Ben-Issachar  
September 10, 2013