

Light Brings Salt

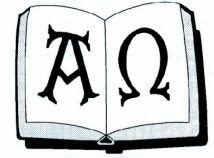
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Iron Range Bible Church

Dedicated to the Systematic Exposition of the Word of God



Consequences of Removing God from the Culture or Political Correctness Run Amok

The following is an excerpt from an article by Pastor Jeff Riddle of Jefferson Park Baptist Church of Charlottesville after viewing the Ecumenical Convocation last week at Virginia Tech. This was to be some kind of a healing service for the community. It was anything but. P/T

How do you have a service of mourning with no clear commitment to belief in any particular religion or view of God? The painfully politically correct service was hard to watch. Here are some reflections.

Most disconcerting was the segment when four leaders from the religious community" were asked to speak. They were Dr. Riyad (sic?), a leader of "the local Muslim community," Julie Still (sic?), from the Living Buddhist group at Va Tech, Sue Kurtz (sic?), from the Hillel Society, and Bill King, the Lutheran campus minister.

The Muslim read from the Koran in Arabic; the Buddhist quoted the Dalai Lama; the Rabbi read from Ecclesiastes 3 in Hebrew; but the mainline Lutheran minister never mentioned the name of Jesus, though he did make an out of context quote from the gospel of John ("The Light shines in darkness but the darkness does not comprehend it"-John 1:5) without any reference to its location in the New Testament (contrast the pains taken by the imam to locate his Koran quotations) or its true Christological meaning.

The words from these leaders (except the

Muslim and the Rabbi, to some degree) were blandly humanistic. The Buddhist informed us that "the message of all religious teachings is the sacredness and value of human life." She also noted that "we are born into this world with an inherent good nature" and "we must restore our faith in humanity."

The mainline Lutheran told the audience that one of their purposes for coming together was to "drink deeply from religious streams." Note the plural. The "all is one" spiritual philosophy was the only view on display. He also affirmed what he called "the sovereignty of life over death" but said nothing of the sovereignty of the God of the Bible.

On one hand, one might say that the representation of various religions was appropriate (the victims did include those from diverse religious backgrounds). On the other hand, it seems odd that no evangelical Christian Minister or Pastors of local Christian congregations (the Lutheran is a campus minister) were on stage (perhaps some were invited and declined to be part of the "interfaith" experience). Also, the choice of representatives supposedly from the "local" religious community was so obviously and cloyingly politically correct. One wonders, in reality, how many practicing Buddhist are really in Blacksburg or Montgomery County, Virginia? Check out the religious stats for Virginia, Roanoke, and Montgomery County. The largest group (evangelical Protestants) and even Catholics were not included at the Convocation podium.

The few overt Christian aspects of the convocation included the instrumental

version of "Amazing Grace" and the unison recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

The Convocation ended with a poem by Va Tech Professor, Nikki Giovanni. This was one of the most surreal aspects of this convocation. First, this "Black Panther" poetess came to the podium dressed as a man with a dark androgynous suit, white shirt and black tie. Her poem, "We are Virginia Tech" was presented in the oratorical style of a black preacher. She shouted, "We did nothing to deserve it" (contrast Jesus' reaction to unexpected evil in Luke 13:1-5 and his challenge: "But unless you repent you too shall perish."). She encouraged, "We are better than we think." And she compared the human losses at Va Tech with a baby elephant losing its family to ivory poachers! Wasn't the whole point of the convocation to decry the devaluing of human life?

When no preachers of the gospel are allowed to speak, I guess a woman poet dressed up as a man is the best a secular world can offer.

The convocation also reflected the secular university's undying confidence in "counseling." A senior administrator encouraged students to go where they could get the best hugs. When you do not have the body of Christ, I suppose counseling and hugs are the best you can do.

The convocation was a fascinating look into what human-centered spiritual life looks like without all the encumbrance and strictures of the God of the Bible. As Jeremiah lamented in his day, "They have healed the hurt of My people slightly, saying 'Peace, peace!' when there is no peace." How do we find real peace? See Romans 5:1: "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

The Pelosi Revolution Are You Ready!

The Pelosi social democratic revolution continued this week as the powerful House Judiciary Committee passed by a 20-14 vote the most wide sweeping hate crimes legislation in history—a bill that if it became law would establish homosexuals as a protected class of people and challenge the very constitutionality of free speech and religious freedom. The bill would make it a federal crime

to speak out against homosexuality because it criminalizes the "actual or perceived" prejudice of the person committing the hate crime. If a homosexual "perceives" he is threatened by a statement, or a look, or an attitude, and the court agrees, the purveyor of this so-called crime will go to jail for up to 10 years.

The bill mentions the phrase "actual or perceived" no less than eight times. The preamble to the legislation, without citing any statistical evidence, states that hate crimes are being perpetrated in such great numbers that federal law is no longer adequate to "address the problem." The bill claims that even communities are involved in these crimes by saying, "A prominent characteristic of a violent crime motivated by bias is that it devastates not just the actual victim and the family and friends of the victim, but frequently savages the community sharing the traits that caused the victim to be selected."

This bill not only is a forerunner to setting up a police state where entire communities could be targeted and, perhaps forced, to take homosexuality sensitivity training, or face prosecution, but it also establishes that more than just the victim of the actual or perceived crime can also be perceived harmed by the same crime. This bill sets the stage for judges and lawyers to interpret its intent in a way that could result in prosecuting entire communities for the perception of being against homosexuality. It parallels the radical Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network's reasoning for demanding sexual orientation sensitivity training in schools where students speak poorly of homosexuals.

This fascist legislation is carefully written to use federal funds and federal jurisdiction to eliminate resistance against the social democratic revolution. **Listen, these are not normal legislators doing normal legislation. This bill and other recent actions are part of a strategic implementation of a revolution designed to ravage the Constitutional Republic of the United States of America and replace it with a social democracy, meaning socialism or communism, and mandating state atheism. These people will not listen to you when you call their offices, they are revolutionaries bent on a coup.** Matthew 24:4 says, "Take heed that no man deceive you." Your freedom is under siege.