**A WORLD WITHOUT THE BIBLE**

***Holy Message Shining***

Between 2015 to 2019 there were 1,800,000,000 complete or partial Bibles distributed around the world. Since the invention of Johannes Gutenberg’s press in 1455, in which the first book printed was the Bible, the Bible has been the number one selling book. That’s 565 years of being number one on the Best-Seller list. In that time it revolutionized Western Civilization and changed the world.

Former Yale University professor William Lyons Phelps wrote: “Our civilization is founded upon the Bible. More of our ideas, our wisdom, our philosophy, our literature, our art, our ideals come from the Bible more than from all other books combined.”

George Bailey (Jimmy Stewart) wished in Frank Capra’s holiday classic *It’s A Wonderful Life* that he had never been born. Through Clarence, the funny little second-class angel, George got his wish, only to discover the horrific consequences. Bedford Falls had become Potterville and the cozy and peaceful little town had become a seedy Red Light district full of bars and brothels. As the old saying goes, be careful what you wish for, you just might get it.

Most present-day school textbooks are written by secular humanists who are purposefully rewriting both American and World history to strike God, and the Bible, from the record. That fact is indisputable and undeniable. But let’s suppose they could snap their fingers and make history as they wished it to be. What if these atheist’s dreams could come true when they wish that the Bible had never been written? Just re-do all of history as if the Bible never existed. What would our country be like now?

I’ve been reading a book I highly recommend titled *What If The Bible Had Never Been Written*. The authors are James Kennedy and Jerry Newcombe. In it they explore the following topics of what life on earth would be like if there had never been a Bible: Morality, Society, Law, Politics, America’s Founding, Science, Literature, Missions, and Exploration. A second book worth your reading is Jeremiah Johnston’s *Unimaginable: What Our World Would Be Like Without Christianity*.

I don’t have time or space in this article to give their discoveries but suffice it to say it is staggering. Reading of life without the Bible will bring you to tears. In short, remove the Word of God and its impact on man and we would all be living in a dark world that would be spiraling toward Sodom. It would be a world like the judges where “*every man did what was right in his own eyes*” (Judg. 21:25). I challenge you to study a few civilizations that outlawed the Bible to discover what the world would be like without it.

For example, the Greek / Roman world before the coming of Christ reveals what life was like before the Bible. One out of every four people on earth were slaves. Life was cheap. The average lifespan was 20 years. Women had no rights. Children were exploited and horribly abused. Any historian can easily show these gruesome facts. But read it for yourself in Romans 1:18-32. “*God gave them up to uncleanness … God gave them up to vile passions … God gave them over to a debased mind*” (vss. 24, 25, 28).

What was the result? “*being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, 30 backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful”* (vss. 29-31). Would you want to live back then?

If you don’t like ancient history just look carefully at the 20th century that we just left. When I was 10 years old there was a Supreme Court ruling on June 18, 1963 that now lives in infamy, right alongside the January 22, 1973 ruling of Roe v. Wade. In an 8 to 1 vote the justices declared it unconstitutional to read the Bible or recite the Lord’s prayer in public schools. They claimed the first amendment, which guarantees the freedom of religion, was under assault by reading the Bible in school. For the previous 187 years of our nation’s history the Bible was the foundation of our public school system. Suddenly it was outlawed. The “religion” of secular Humanism took its place and the rise in crime and immorality are easily traceable to that date.

Just look at civilizations of the past century that outlawed the Bible. Communist Soviet Russia (Josef Stalin, Vladimir Lenin, Karl Marx). Communist China (Mao Tze-tung). Communist Cambodia (Pol Pot). Communist North Vietnam (Ho Chi Minh). Communist North Korea (Kim Jong Il & Kim Jong Un). Terrorist nations (Iran, Iraq, Syria, Libya, etc). In those nations that forbid the Bible there is rampant evil and injustice. Life is cheap and fear is ever present with its citizens.

Today’s atheists in America do not know that they are playing with fire, a fire that could destroy our civilization.  In the Greco-Roman world, and in our own American history, ask these questions: What ended racism?  What ended slavery?  What ended systemic abuse of children and women?  The answer is the revolutionary Christian message about equality as declared by Paul in Galatians 3:28, “*There is neither Jew nor Gentle, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus*.”  This radical Christian idea took hold of the Roman world and the West, and for the next millennium, no influential philosopher advocated slavery.

The writings of Irishman Edmund Burke impacted the work of William Wilberforce in the British Parliament in the late 1700’s. Three of his quotes were moving forces in Mr. Wilberforce’s successful quest to end slavery in England. They were motivated by Burke’s strong belief in the Bible and Christianity. Can you relate to these sayings?
“Those who don't know history are destined to repeat it.”
“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.”
“Liberty does not exist in the absence of morality.”

With my strong belief that all of us who call ourselves Christians must take our stand against this pressure to live in a world without the Bible, I close with the beautiful chorus of this familiar hymn:
“Give me the Bible, holy message shining, Thy light shall guide me in the narrow way; Precept and promise, law and love combining, till night shall vanish in eternal day.”

Let your light so shine. – Rick