

RELIGION

What do we do with all of these problems?

By REV. DR. SCOTT H. CARR SR.
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Why are so many politicians seeking bigger government? Why are so many citizens desiring the government take over more of their lives? Why is big business so consumed with greed? Why do we abort 3,000 babies per day in the U.S. (nearly 40,000,000 since 1973)? Why are there parents who let their children raise themselves and essentially call most of the shots? Why are so many children defiant to authority? Why is Cumberland County so high statistically with the negative affects of our society? Please add your own questions to the aforementioned problems we face in our society.

These questions are quite simple to answer: We have lost the fear of God in our postmodern world and we cannot teach our children

what we do not possess ourselves. In this culture in which we live today, truth is relative and each person's perspective is equally valid as another person's perspective. It is true that we can have differing views on so many issues, but is one really more correct than another?

When we look at Christianity in the twenty-first century, we see many people who do not even open their Bibles to know what God says about life and how He looks at our plight today. Many do not own a biblical worldview by which to view life and the events of the day through His lenses. When we study God's Word, we see that mankind is not any different now than since his Fall in the Garden of Eden. Yes, we have more technology, but we are still in desperate need of salvation from sin, hell, and our very selves. We are still too

often consumed with the pleasures as well as the cares of this fleeting life. We do not have an eternal perspective.

Proverbs 1:7 says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction (discipline)." Fear here is defined as a reverential respect for and awe of God. Psalm 19:9 reads, "The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the Lord are sure and altogether righteous." We as a society do not revere Him. We do not respect Him. We do not stand in awe of who He is because we do not know Him.

Jesus says in John 14:6, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." You see, God the Father is not out to get you and zap you with a lightning bolt because of the sin you try to hide, or maybe not hide,

in your life. He has made the way for us to be forgiven, acceptable to Him, and adopted by Him as His sons and daughters; that way is Jesus Christ. When we know Him, we know God.

Yes, He will have to send people to hell one day who chose not to love, follow and know Him in this life. But, it is not because He desires to do this; it is because His justice and holiness demand that sin be paid for. Please realize that sin does bring pleasure for a season, but it ultimately ends in death. You do not have to spend an eternity in hell. You can invite Jesus Christ into your heart and life to save you, forgive you, and grant you eternal life, but it is your choice as to what you do with Him.

As stated earlier, if you are passionate about seeing your world changed, fear the Lord because He is your Creator and the One who

will one day judge you; love Him because He loved you first by sending Christ to pay the price for your sins; and, follow Him all the days of your life because it is in losing your life for Him that you will find it for all He desires it to be for you.

Our world will continue to progress to a one world government and all the negative things that go with it because the Bible prophetically says it will, but that will not be the end. God will one day make a new heaven and a new earth where Jesus will reign as the King of kings and Lord of lords. You are personally invited by God Himself to be a part of that kingdom as it grows even now because Jesus Himself says in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

I close with this challenge to every reader, both believers and nonbelievers alike. Will you turn away from your sins, invite Jesus to be both your savior AND your lord, ask Him to forgive and cleanse you, and (re)commit to serving Him all the days of your life until you reside with Him for all eternity? No matter what you have done or have not done, He is passionately in love with you, wants the best for you, and desires to have a personal relationship with you. Will you answer His call today before it is too late?

Rev. Dr. Scott H. Carr Sr.
Scott Carr Ministries, a traveling worship/evangelism ministry, is an ordained minister and member of Carll's Corner Community Fellowship. You may contact him at scottcarrministries@gmail.com, P.O. Box 994, Bridgeton, NJ 08302, or 455-9734.