

Give Respect to Whom Respect Is Due

‘Two men were golfing together near a cemetery. While the one man was preparing to putt, a hearse turned into the cemetery. He immediately looked up, dropped his putter, removed his cap and bowed his head. After a couple of minutes he returned his attention to golf. When the two men returned to the clubhouse, his partner told the man that he was deeply moved by the respect shown toward the deceased. The man acknowledged him by saying, “I really feel it was the least I could do after being married to her for the last thirty-four years”.’

What a respectful husband! Not!! Clearly he loved his golf much more than his wife. His brief moment of “thoughts and prayers” when his wife’s hearse came into the cemetery was so meaningless and literally heart-less, that it would have been better for the world, and himself, if he hadn’t even bothered. For what he did was truly sinful. Maybe not in the eyes of this decrepit world, but most definitely in the eyes of God, the Judge of all the world. And that man, though fictional, he represents many people in the world who wouldn’t know how to show respect to anyone even if it hit them in the eye. Our world today in large part is populated by younger people who know next to nothing about showing respect to anyone, least of all God! Tragically, the major-

ity of our young people have been so dumbed down by the devilish teacher's unions in our public schools, and many private ones to boot!, especially the most prestigious and elite universities, that they are even unaware that they hardly know anything about reality at all. What else explains the idiocy of the young electorate in New York City, who voted in a rabid Islamic terrorist-communist as their new mayor? Of those young'uns, some 30% were Jews!! Talk about voting in the very people who will later try to kill you!!

Pampered and protected by well-meaning but clueless parents, and intrusive government agencies, children were taught to express themselves, to "explore" their identities so they can be whatever they want to be, never to be offended or hurt by anyone outside themselves. Hardly ever having to obey any kinds of rule, "winning" prizes for doing absolutely nothing, is it any wonder they lack any sense of respect for anyone or anything beyond themselves, least of all the law? When laws are not enforced, when the only consequence of criminal behavior is a proverbial slap on the wrist, is it any wonder that crowds of young people turn unruly and violent when anyone or anything does anything to crimp their style? For they don't know how to act any other way. Truly, they know not what they do. If the "queers for Palestine" only knew what would happen to them if they actually tried to live in so-called Palestine, well, they'd wind up dead before it had a chance to penetrate their warped, atrophied minds.

But it's not just young people. Their parents and elders truly

“helped” them along to the way to such “blissful” ignorance. Supposedly enlightened parenting revealed the cancer of mindless ignorance that had been growing in the older generations as well. The thinking that letting their children run wild was best for their development, shows how their own parents had let them go astray en masse by abdicating their responsibilities to the public schools. We didn’t get to this sorry state of affairs overnight. For decades we’ve been too “blessed”, too comfortable, too rich. The majority of people are too prosperous to really know what real poverty is, let alone what real work is. Who needs work? Working aged people can get by good enough solely from government handouts. As long as there’s not a shutdown! But we’re told by liberal politicians and their liberal media cronies that a prolonged government shutdown would cause millions to starve to death! Yet they themselves prolong the shutdown supposedly to keep healthcare affordable. Funny, though, the longer they extend the shutdown, the more people will starve and won’t need any healthcare at all! Oh, but, that doesn’t make sense, because it never happens, because it’s all just political posturing fear mongering.

What’s plainly obvious to anyone with the stomach to actually examine all these national societal shenanigans is the near total absence of truth. It seems now that the normal functioning of society relies on constant streams of lies, narratives which shift and morph depending on whatever is politically expedient at any particular moment. So, if almost everything is a lie, is there any

integrity left at all? Well, the lessons from Malachi describe the very similar situation that characterized Jewish society in the days after God had blessed them with returning to the Holy Land, with a rebuilt Temple, life was “good”, albeit under the benevolent sovereignty of the Persian Empire. God sent Malachi to call the people back to their loving God. Oh, but they were too busy with their own lives. They were giving God all the respect He deserved. Or so they thought. As long as they went through the motions of His commands, they were just fine. Thank you very much.

But God did not see it that way. For if one’s heart is not in it, it’s no different than not having done it at all. And not doing it at all is clearly sin. But going through the motions, in their view, was way good enough. After all, what did the Lord expect? Why, it was too much, far too expensive, to offer Him burnt offerings of perfectly good livestock. Why those priests ate too much good stuff anyway. The priests were actually the ones leading the march downward to the basest of human behavior. Why, everyone knew that obeying all of God’s commands was, for many of them, unwise and unprofitable, let alone too costly and too inconvenient. We can know better than God what is good enough for Him. We know the words and commands He should have said, and, once He gets into His right mind, He’d undoubtedly agree with our judgement and assessments. After all, all those worship regulations were unreasonable and took way too much time.

In their minds, God was but an afterthought. And so all their

so-called worship was nothing but a sham. Nothing but a pretense. There was no heart in it. It meant nothing, except as a cute, quaint tradition. Like going to church is to many older folks today. Or to the “religious” who want to virtue signal to others how “better” they are than the run of the mill people who don’t go at all. And so they show up, and fill their time gossiping and having a good time with their similarly-minded friends. After all, it’s far more fun to virtue-signal among those who will see you and nod approvingly, stroking each other’s egos that they’re so much better informed, educated, and intelligent and so know what’s truly best for everybody else.

Does anybody consider that God Himself might have something to say about it? Doesn’t seem like it. Rather, the prevailing mindset seems that God should appreciate all the perfunctory strutting pretense they go through to put on the weekly show. Well, the very last prophet God sent before sending His Son in human flesh, Malachi, was commissioned to let the people know what’s really what. Did they listen? Precious few did. Most went on, so-called priests leading the way, picking and choosing the Scriptures and commands that were palatable and fashionable at any particular time. And so they are primed for a soon-coming judgement. As does America and the world, 2,500 years later. Recent Gallup and Barna surveys reveal that most churches are no different than Judah was in Malachi’s day. So-called worship is whatever the leadership deems is appropriate, appealing and

accommodating to the culture at any given time. After all, we don't want to offend anybody! Why that would be unconscionable to our fellow Americans! Why we know better than God as to what He wants and needs. No need to ask Him, or read His obsolete scriptures! Doing just what we want. Going to church. Or not. Tithing. Or not. Reverencing Him. Or not. Praying to Him regularly. Or not. What does it really matter? He's a God of grace anyway. So we're all good. Not!!

If there is any one Person in all the cosmos that deserves the utmost and highest respect and love, it's God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. That we don't consider how best to obey Him, how best to love Him, which is to obey His commands and love what and those whom He loves, condemns us as full-blown sinners in need of being born again. For without Holy Spirit living in us, in faith, we can never please Him. How can we please Him if we don't love Him? The Apostle John clearly explains to us what we must do, if only to ensure our lives are eternal. I John 5:3-5 is our daily duty: "True love for God means obeying His commands, and His commands don't weigh us down as heavy burdens. You see, every child of God overcomes the world, for our faith is the victorious power that triumphs over the world. So who are the world conquerors, defeating its power? Those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God". For this belief is not just a state of mind. It's the motivating force for our life itself. Lord Jesus is the center of all things, and our very heart and soul! Respect Him!

