

Chronicles of Diversity

Your leadership weekly



Future Wonder Springs
Adventures Logo

Fractured Rapture Tales Spectator Communities

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Tale 17 Spectator Communities

When I was driving home from Olympia after forming a new for profit corporation Friday, I was thinking about a number of things I thought I have been called to accomplish with this organization. Wonder Springs Adventures Limited. Way to many words, for a social acceptable organization in a world that have given us such meaningless corporations as ING, Verizon, and Qwest to name a few.

Not only is the name not politically correct, it will have a world view much different than the greed and corruption of modern world institutions. I think the rewarding of Donald Trump in the recent TV series, which I have not watched at all, is so repulsive that I don't have adjectives to use in this somewhat family Christian literature.

My thoughts soon mellowed into what theme I would like to convey in the work and mission of the company. A wilderness community pilgrimage has pretty much been my theme these almost five years of weekly writing. Not a pilgrimage of the American Dream, the self made individual conquering the wilderness and others, on his or her way to fame, property, and prosperity.

Wonder Springs Adventures Limited, is a pilgrimage through a desert in which the completely self reliant individual ends up dead. This concept is the antithesis of what is romanticized as what made this country great. I have learned that in true live and death survival situations, only one factor is common to all survivors. That is that they pray. Which begs the question what about those who don't survive?

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Again we have developed a television spectator series in which teams are designed for self destruction, with one individual winning the prize. It's a game after all, in which the most cunning wins, and the rest go home with almost nothing.

Soon my thoughts turned to the buffalo, or more precisely the American Bison, the largest mammal in North America. We have bison today, pretty much by the grace of God working through a few individuals. Buffalo, according to Biblical standards is a clean ruminant. North America has other ruminant animals, deer, elk, sheep, and antelope to name a few, and they all are somewhat community animals. But the bison alone, is known for its community structure. What a perfect fit it would be to have the bison as part of the Wonder Springs Adventures logo. So I decided to see what I could find on the internet that might be useful.

The ability of native people to live and prosper on the grasslands of the American west was the result of the buffalo. The buffalo seemed to be created to perfectly manage the ecology of the grasslands to the joy of these native people, both before and after the introduction of the horse. However, because of their importance to daily life, strict rules were enforced by the tribes to maintain and allow the bison herds to flourish. Next to the Great Spirit, these native people revered the bison like no other animal.

Searching the Library of Congress website for public domain buffalo photos I came across a lithograph from 1853 for a buffalo logo for chewing tobacco. By changing the wording with a little PhotoShop and Illustrator, we could have a very interesting corporate logo in a couple of hours of time (for someone who knew what they were doing in PhotoShop and Illustrator, me it will probably take a week.)

Time is money. Perhaps at no time in history has this statement been more true. If Christians followed the Old Testament principle of the tithe, funding church work would be no problem. The amount of money available to do the work of the Lord would rapidly change the world. But money is not the real issue. When we pass the weekly collection plate and see people eagerly put a couple of bucks in the offering basket, what you are really seeing is also a commitment of time.

The church offering is seen in a way as an admission pass to an event. A movie, a ball game, a concert, you come, you pay your money, you might learn something, and you go home, or to the mall, Costco, or out to lunch. So much to do, and so little time.

One of the interesting things about a church service compared to the other events that fill our week and our Sunday is the fact that church is probably the only event that requires some sort of structured community participation. Worship, whether high or low church, requires some sort of at least passive participation before the sermon begins. That is true if you bother to show up before the sermon.

Interesting? You can many times set your watch by the time people arrive at church. It looks like a conscious choice not to participate in community worship, because that is what it is. But if it is true that songs of praise and worship are the foretaste of heaven on earth, you wonder what these people will be doing in heaven. I doubt it will be catching the last few minutes of the Sunday News show.

This week on May First the church will come to gather at Safeco Field to participate in a "May Day for Marriage" event. A worthy start, for something. Something that would have not been needed if the Christian church was really the salt and light of the world. Something in a stadium to again go and cheer. To listen to the stars of the church give motivational speeches, and then fifty thousand people will file out and spend the rest of the afternoon working in the yard. But again there will be a time of worship when we may get a glimpse of heaven, for those who show up on time.

I suppose the shocking thing about this is that it will take place in Seattle. Perhaps pastors here see more passive sin than elsewhere in the country, perhaps it is just a move of the grace of God. Ironic, that the only place large enough to hold it is one of our coliseums to our sports gods. The most successful local sports god, at least until this season.

Beginnings are a good thing, if they lead toward a positive change in society as a whole. But if nothing changes, then all you are left with is another passive life experience. The change that needs to take place is within the Sunday church goers. If nothing changes in the padded pews, nothing will change in society. It is really a ham and egg situation. The pig is committed, the chicken is involved, and the passive, make all the noise and take up management time.

I guess its “Two Buck Chuck” in California. In Washington, because of our liquor taxes, it’s “Three Buck Chuck.” I suppose it would make acceptable communion wine, except it is probably cheaper than good grape juice. But what is the difference between these wines and a fine Cabernet? About thirty bucks a bottle. So what’s the point? It’s all in the taste. Much of that very subtle. But more than the price it is the value of the communion experience. Chuck is served at a party by the bottle, when it used to be by the jug. Chateau Laffite is savored for the price of the experience. You get what you pay for.

The point is this, if you expect Chuck at church, all you will ever know is Three Buck Chuck, if you are willing to invest your time and money into the unspeakable riches of Christ, His life experiences will greatly influence the quality of your days, well beyond their monetary or time commitment.

So how is your Individual Retirement Account invested? Is it invested in safe, high reward, worldly investments? Stuff that will one day be burned up as hay and grass. How about your Eternal Community Account? Even if you are the rare person who tithes their money, chances are you have never made this time-money connection, or deposit, to the work of the Lord. In this Eternal savings investment, you are not the center, the focus, it is your time invested in others through love that is what it’s all about.

Compared to other Biblically clean, North American ruminates, the bison is not only the largest, but is highly community oriented. Naturally they congregate in herds of up to sixty animals. These community groups again can be part of larger bodies, which at one time before we decimated the herds for monetary gain, numbered well into the thousands.

Yet whether we acknowledge it or not, the buffalo’s life on the grasslands of North America were the most efficient use of these vast natural resources. It is just that our culture has never, nor never will acquiesce to the fact that God did it best. In the religion of our native people we see, the witness of Psalm Nineteen, not because it was supreme to the specific revelation of the Bible, but because that was the only revelation that they knew. Replacing that common revelation with the passive religion of materialism serves no redemptive purpose and is therefore unproductive.

The genre of American evangelicalism is that we are just passing through to a better place. Just like driving from Seattle to Minnesota. “We are just passing through, no need to stop, except to relieve ourselves, buy some souvenirs, gas up and catch some sleep, we are bound for heaven, or at least Minnesota, or Seattle. Praise the Lord, the sooner we get there, the sooner we can go home. Well that may be true on a road trip, but it is not true in life, wishful thinking aside. We also miss some cool places, because they are not accessible from our highway to heaven interstate rest area.

This passing through mindset, puts the world in such a place that eventually “May Day for Marriage,” is a requirement, for without the active commitment of the whole church community, the world really is going rapidly to hell. The question is really, will it just be another event in Safeco Field, or whether it will be the start of a more committed response of the church community to be more than spectators in this life experience? We are not called to be just passing through, we are called to live our lives with commitment to the values for which we live. The American Bison perhaps exemplifies the life of God’s people more than we can now appreciate. They were almost exterminated for hides and their tongues.

Seeds for Prayer

Wonder Springs Adventures Limited was formed quite easily with a short time in the offices of the Secretary of State in Olympia. I also had the time to briefly visit the office that oversees all forms of securities issuance. We will be issuing common stock under provisions of a SCOR offering, which will incorporate many of the provisions I have sought over the years. It is just a matter of getting the paper work put together and approved. This offering will allow us to raise one million dollars every twelve months, and will allow us to advertise for funds and to pay brokerage commissions among other things. More to follow as time permits.

One of the things I have thought about, is this is a new model beyond “Give and God bless you.” In a way it demands a portion of your financial commitment if you are going to be involved at all. A

portion of your IRA so to speak. This investment however looks toward the reward of the promised land, instead of the passing through territory. Please pray for wisdom and the people and resources to move rapidly forward.

In editing this week's message it seems as the text to speech provision of my laptop is not working. It seems at this time to be a hardware issue, please pray for the where with all to get it working again.