



Chronicles of Diversity

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Contact

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Beyond the Complacency

Last week we described how we like to make our homes along the world's oldest river system, the Complacency. The "C" and its associated streams the Wealth, the Religion, the Knowledge, and the Choice give us a sense of security in this world. So much so, that we spend virtually all our resources developing and maintaining our river front estates.

However, while I alluded to the possibility, I never quite made the point, that in an instant the Complacency can become the Calamity. Such destructive forces can also occur along the other rivers. The Wealth can become the Poverty, the Religion can become the Faith, the Knowledge can become the Unfathomable, and the Choice becomes the Inferior.

In those quick moments we are transported to a life in which all our security, is either burned up or challenged severely. We have been transported from our pleasant estate to the edge of

a wilderness flooding torrent. Sometimes even on an island in the middle of the same. But I have also learned, that for the true Christian, these troubles come in a different form and have different consequences than for the rest of the world. While these trials surely shake our sense of security, but they also help us to focus upon Jesus Christ who is the source of all our security.

Many years ago, I took a class in wilderness survival taught by a former Air Force Survival Instructor. The first question he asked us was, "What one common thing unites all persons, no matter their background when faced with a true survival situation?"

The answer that shocked us all was quite simple, "They prayed!"

Everyone Prayed. The religious people prayed. The agnostics got religion and prayed. Even the atheists, for that time, found God and prayed.



That of course leads to a corollary question. "What common thing unites all persons who did not survive?" The answer of course is only God knows, because they did not survive to fill out the survival questionnaire.

Last week, I also made the point that our desert wilderness experiences are really the way we truly grow as people. When the flood is over and the "C" returns to the Complacency, we realize that we truly learned something from the experience. Something of life changing importance, something of eternal significance.

There are some evangelical Bible teachers that say that this life is the only training ground for eternity, and what we learn in this life about God and His nature determines our eternal position in Heaven. I probably would not adopt the finality of the heaven position part, but there is definitely a close parallel between, what you did, with what you got, and what you will get.

Most people seek temporal security in this life, at the expense of every other personality attribute. A few seem to temp God, fate, and life by doing what we now call "Extreme." What I have witnessed in my brief experience with these extreme enthusiasts, is that they all have a strong Complacency background in their life. In other words, they have lived there, and got the shirt. Most grew up in extreme estates on the C drainage, and are just looking for some true excitement in their lives. They are even willing to by choice risk death to find it.

"Do I have to risk death to find life?"

Linking all this together is the fact that the presumption we are dealing with is that it is all about me. My river, my estate, my choice, my control, my security, my god, its me.

What the true question should be, "Do I have to risk life, to overcome my fear of death?"

"Are the C streams, life, or a living."

For most, they are a living and as such have little eternal life value.

In all this we are really trying to cope with a truth of reality beyond our horizon. Do we have to cope with those circumstances on our own, or do we turn them over to God. Again most would

say, that I would like to cope with my own future. However, in order to do this successfully? we spend the present today trying to manage for future security.

However, if we turn the future over to God God is to provide the future security then we can possibly truly live in the present. In such a world there are enough present challenges to perceive that we are a different, more mature person today than we were yesterday.

So let us take an inventory of our life until today. This inventory is to be based on the wisdom and skills we have acquired as they relate to either life on the Complacency or the Calamity, the Wealth or the Poverty, the Choice or the Inferior, and the Religion or the Faith.

My inventory is definitely biased both in skills and emphasis on the Complacency rather than the Calamity, and I assume yours is also. But what I also found out is that if this life is a wilderness pilgrimage university for eternity, those Complacency skills fit more with the vision of Heaven I have been given in all my religious teaching, than do my Calamity skills. Come to think of it, there is nothing I have been taught by anyone, anywhere, that would counteract the fact that I should be concerned with doing anything other than trying to bring Heaven to earth on my Complacency estate.

Well, there are those couple of evangelical preachers. But as they often do, they are bent heavy toward the revelation, very weak on the application, and the reasoning, well it is virtually nonexistent. Alas, we have been tossed into the raging flood of the Calamity with nothing but an artificial swimming pool floating device, made in China. Where shall we turn for guidance.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

Talk about a wilderness, how about that for starters. And there is lots of water too, once you bring land out of the waters you are going to have rivers also. The whole creation account is really about changing chaos into a garden. I suppose in my limited scope, I could cope with turning a landed wilderness into a garden also. Thoughts that come

to mind are how about the moon, or Mars, or how about some planet in a far off galaxy. That would be cool, and would definitely use all my desert wilderness experiences from this world, and infinitely more. It would sure be a kick for an adopted son of the eternal living God.

The Bible of course is a written revelation of God for this fallen, sinful world. In its every page it points specifically toward, or in implied context towards Jesus Christ, who alone makes my entrance into eternity secure. In that context, it also gives me an insight that both the Complacency and the Calamity drainage basins have a place in that eternity, it is just my purpose to use each day as it comes, and learn its daily lesson. It is God's grace that gives me those lessons, and prepares me for each of their eternal blessings. Just because I perceive the situation as a calamity does not mean that it is not a true blessing that adds to my eternal security. I just have to be cognizant not to become complacent in that blessing.

Right now, my daily wilderness consists of how I am to operate in the faith that is asking for several million dollars to develop some highly organized wilderness training venues. I have recently completed a first cut on a PowerPoint presentation. I am truthfully amazed at how all the diverse pieces fit together to bring about unity of purpose. It is also much more doctrinally Christian than most of my work. Of course, it could be toned down to fit a more secular audience, but right at this time my desire is to make it even more Christian extreme.

I know how to spend the money. I know how to manage the projects. I even know how to raise the money in a worldly way. I even have the vision to manage it financially once it is funded. But as of yet I don't have the vision on how God would want me to raise the money, His way, in the time frame that I feel is available. So as of this writing the funding is going to require a sound line of credit that we can repay through generated revenues and equity as time passes. But that is really just stating the limits of my personality, not of God's resources or His goodness.

In my perspective it is going to take a miracle. This miracle seems much easier to me than the many coincident happenings that surrounded my cardiovascular gift a couple of years ago. The problem I have is that it is going to have to come in God's way and His timing. And with all my wilderness training, Patience, is at best, the name of my donkey, and I always want something to happen now. Orthodox Protestant Christianity teaches however, that all of God's goodness towards me and His church happens by His grace alone. He even gives me the faith required to believe that this will happen.

But I struggle to live each day in the fullest and let God control that future. With that in mind, Monday night I had not a clue what I would write about in this week's Chronicles. Since my mother's passing the stuffed animals I had as a kid have moved from a box in the basement of her house to a dresser in my bedroom. Since then they have become sort of my garden of creation experience and I have given them all names. Anyway, as I retired that evening perplexed about not having a clue as what to write about this week, I told them all that they needed to pray for a topic for this week's Chronicles. At 5 AM Tuesday morning I awoke with the concept clearly in my mind of moving beyond the Complacency River.

Do stuffed animals pray? They are probably as heavily invested in this as I am, because the alternative to the dresser could be a few more decades in a box in the basement and then possibly an unknown future in a thrift store. Probably the Biblical concept of 1 Corinthians 1:27 is really the truth: But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty.

They prayed as far as I can understand, and probably know better than I how this Wonder Springs Rendezvous is going to be funded. However, we all need to be reminded of that Biblical principle each and every day, because without that Biblical wisdom most of what happens in this world would not make any sense at all.

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Our last six Chronicles of Diversity articles:

Metis Economics: Urbane Urban; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2005pdffiles/metisurbaneurban4 27 5.pdf>

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