



Chronicles of Diversity

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Contact

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On Your Head

Last week we introduced you to two mutually exclusive paradigms on how you choose to live your life. We interpreted these medications in the Native American concept of two medicines each of us take, to help us cope with the wilderness and the deserts of this life.

We also pointed out that these are primarily religious decisions. Therefore, we have medicine that seems right to us in our own eyes at the time, and we have the medicine that doesn't taste as good in the present but in the long run, makes us better people. This occurs not only in the eyes of the world, whether we like it or not, but more importantly in the eyes of God.

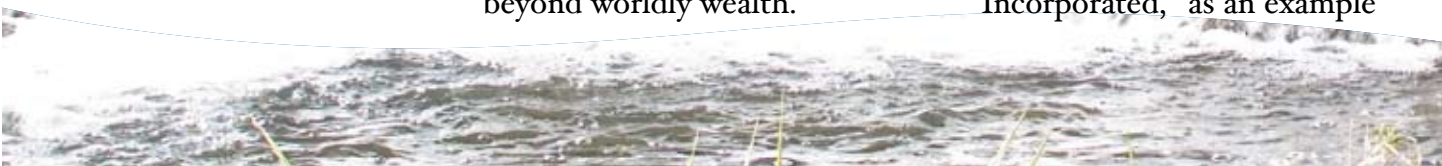
Directions on the World's Medicine says, "Take this my way and I will make you rich, then you will be able to do good things."

God's Medicine says, "Take this my way and you can do good things, and then I will bless you beyond worldly wealth."

We also pointed out that you can also do God's work in your own strength for a time, and then you begin to reap the consequences. From my perspective this is the greatest fault with Protestant Evangelicalism around the world, and the consequences for the most part are yet to come.

Without getting into any specific prophetic teaching, we will see an individual application of 2 Thessalonians 2:3,4 upon specific Christian ministries that are now empowered by their leaders who have taken the power given to Christ alone into their own hands. In other words, they have become a false Christ antichrist in the eyes of God, and a little Christ in their own eyes.

This concept also is being fulfilled in minor ways today and has been active throughout human history. Last week we used "The Gideon Traveling Deliverance Ministries Incorporated," as an example



of God's calling done by taking the world's wilderness medicine.

We can also see this in the Bush Administration's Iraq planning and policies. "God gave the call and we carried out the hard work as best we could, with what we knew at the time, and what we are learning every day." It might play on television, but we also see that our initial understanding of the problem was naïve at best, probably just down right stupid. We are now bringing down on our heads the consequences of our simplemindedness, and have really no choice but to stay the course and pray. However, true prayer was needed at the onset, instead of simplistic optimism.

Our decisions by our choices to take the world's medicine to do our personal work, or even, or especially God's work, in our own strength brings repercussions upon our own head. This concept of bringing the consequences of our own chosen action upon our own head is repeated at least seventeen times in the Bible.

However, the whole context of the Bible is about being obedient to God's word alone, and sometimes we teach ourselves, or let others teach us, that in this specific situation, "God helps, those who help themselves." Contrary to popular worldly opinion, this is not a Bible passage, but an advertising slogan that first appeared on the bottom of the worldly medicine bottle.

To further enforce my statements of judgment coming to the church and many ministries, 1 Peter 4:17 is the prime verse in this regard: For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

Interesting, in the direct passages that concern bringing judgment upon our own head, God chooses human instruments many times to bring about that judgment, and to remind the recipient that this is because of your unrepentant sins, that God is bringing this about.

There is a side effect of taking the world's medicine also. That is an incredible thirst for stuff and money. And the amazing thing about this thirst is that it is never satisfied, and the

more you have the more you want and crave. This addiction can even drive you to do illegal activities to acquire more, seemingly without regard for the consequences or the ramifications.

I am in Spokane at the present time. The goal of this trip was to finish off the rental house in Reardan to get it ready for renters. I didn't think it would take that long, and it shouldn't, but as of yet I have not gotten to the work, for I have been involved in figuring out how to treat a specific case of this world's disease in some of my former relatives in marriage, concerning my mother's estate.

When I got to Eastern Washington, before I could go out to Reardan I needed to run a few errands, to buy some food and the like. As always, when I got finished it was later than I hoped, so I decided to take a couple of things I had brought with me to the storage place. Since some of that storage stuff had been moved out or employed in worthwhile causes, I began to reorganize and consolidate.

That didn't take long and when I had finished, I realized that there were only slightly more than thirty boxes of my mother's stuff I had yet to go through, plus a couple of large packing boxes that contained what she considered her valuables. Also in those crates were the only things I had desired as part of my inheritance.

I figured it would take about three trips with my truck, plus a few hours going through the big crates. So I loaded up my truck and began the process. After all was complete, to my amazement, and to the best of my recollection, only the things that she had told me over the years since my father had died, that she wanted to make sure I got, were missing. That, considering the total amount of stuff we had to move is mind blowing to me.

Looking at the list I have since put together, it probably could be put into five boxes. Those five boxes would contain however, more value than all the rest of the boxes of her things combined, and essentially the only stuff I planned on keeping from both my parents estates. Interesting enough my step sister admitted to having seen at least the sterling silver, when she and her dad had repacked all of my mother's things for us to pick up.

Furthermore, when they were married, under terms of the arrangement that the two put together to manage their affairs, none of this was, or could be considered in anyway community property, and theft of even one of these items could be considered grand larceny. This also calls into question the proper and legal handling of all my mother's other property and finances during her almost five years when she was in the nursing home with Alzheimer's.

Considering my mother's wishes and doing the right and legal thing, I am now in the process of getting a lawyer to write up a letter to send saying, give back the stuff we know you had, that is listed below, that everyone on my side of the family knows my mother would never sell, or give away. One of the greatest miracles I would experience in my life would take place if that return would happen, especially if it was carried out with any sense of repentance.

If that does not occur, over time we will probably see a process unfold similar to the Biblical discussions of a person's acts coming down on their own head. Personally, from her vantage point in heaven, I think my mother would want me to see this out, and let the consequences fall where they may. From my perspective, I have to accomplish all of this, including the potential legal and physical consequences, by God working through His legal representation in this world, and not to take matters into my own hands.

This brings up the question when your estate is probably two to five times larger than someone else's, why would you risk all that, for some trinkets that you could easily buy yourself if you wanted them, and also duplicate, or triplicate, or more, stuff you may already have?

All this just points out that this life is a wilderness journey, and the world seems to say, by some manner of reasoning beyond my comprehension, dying with more toys and stuff than another in some way gives you the keys to eternity. People in some way believe, that the keys to your Lincoln also fit in heaven's gate.

As an usher in church when I am not on the road, I find it very disturbing, when a well dressed person makes a point to get up and

come over to you to drop their dollar in the offering basket. Actually, it is very sad, but at the time I have a difficult time seeing it. For that dollar represents, their commitment to God and His people. That dollar also represents, even though they are there in church for an hour and a half on Sunday morning, the mind and heart are probably miles away.

For some reason they have determined that the world's medicine, or their own created medicine, is better than God's when it comes to this life's pilgrimage.

I had lunch yesterday with a good friend from my high school and college days. Until recently I had not seen him since he got married probably thirty years ago. A month or so ago I found out that he had managed the development of an outdoor education center for school kids in Eastern Washington, very similar to what I am envisioning happening in Montana for adults. The major difference is that in gearing the program for adults you need to provide more toys and simplify the curriculum.

As we were talking about financing the project, he commented that the national average for church giving in America is about three percent. We didn't get into whether that was gross or net, because we both are old enough to know that if people actually tithed, there would be a great excess of funds for all the projects the church now has, and many of the dreams which Christians are now seeking funds.

I commented that from personal experience and other empirical data, not with just our salary, but all our gifts, the scale tips rapidly into the eternal sphere of God's blessing, at about twenty percent. I don't teach anything on giving very much, because if you look at examples of men and women God has used greatly throughout history, they have used most of their finances for God's work taking for their personal use, only those funds required to maintain a very modest lifestyle. Such teaching does not sit well with modern congregations however, because the concept is completely foreign to contemporary Christians, except for a very small minority on the foreign mission field.

So does God judge the Christian who only gives from their excess? If they are a true Christian, the answer is no in the eternal sense. However, it is quite clear that he does withhold the eternal

blessing of our temporal time, talent, and even our money.

Where many Christians go astray is that they have been taught that God can be manipulated to bless you by your giving. That of course many of us have come to understand only works if you are the head of the ministry doing this type of teaching. To paraphrase my friend's and my discussion, "If you simplify the message enough, and give out a toy, they will give." At the expense of the local church, were God designed it to be given.

Wonder Springs is not a ministry that I expect, nor do I actively seek your offerings. Our programs are designed to be funded with investments. We only are seeking a small portion of the funds you now have in your stocks, bonds and other investments, some of those in which you seek a high rate of return so you can retire early and do the Lord's work, or become a vegetable. Not only that, I am not seeking investors who desire to become carrots or tomatoes. Investors in the Wonder Springs community are expected to either be involved or committed. You are either a chicken or the pig in the ham and egg breakfast.

Why am I so adamant about this? Simply because we I know we I need enough input in our my life, with fresh ideas, or other ways of looking at things, that we can keep ourselves from bringing a lot of worldly stuff down on our own heads. We all need to choose to put restraints on our natural propensity to fall into sin, especially when we think we are doing a good thing.

There is also a good thing I would like to accomplish. When all your worldly investments crash, and the price of energy continues to rise, and when real estate is no longer your hope of financial freedom, then and only then will you be in a position to truly understand that God is faithful to His children, no matter what calamity you brought down on your own head.

As this head saga has unfolded over the last week, many of the discussions have centered around dysfunctional families. The consensus is, that they are us. The hope I have, is that the church, the family of God, changes from the prime example of this, into the only example of what a true family is meant to be. The only hope we have is to choose to take God's medicine daily, and live expectantly through any side affects His medicine may contain. Then we shall see His healing of our miserable lives in this world, and begin to give us an inkling of what His eternal future holds.

It is that eternal hope that changes the present. How God does that I haven't a clue, but I have experienced a taste of God's goodness in this life, and I want more, not only for myself, but also for you and your families.

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