

THE HAVEN NEWSLETTER

Power, Evil and Wish Fulfillment on display?

In Romans 1:16-32 the Apostle Paul tells us two important things about the Gospel of Jesus. First it is the “power of God” and secondly it reveals the “righteousness of God”. Both are important to the case that Paul is making – can it change somebody? Can it change anybody? Both are real questions to this day. For many the hope beyond hope is that something can change the one we love, the one we fear, the one that stares back from the mirror. For others the notion of change or being changed is offensive. It implies that there is something wrong in us or others. This slaps our pride and we react in anger to the very notion of change. This is the classic Popeye defense – “I yam what I yam”! Some others just see it as a silly notion that human beings can somehow transcend their evolutionary boundaries and metamorphasize into something perfect. There is even a more horrific view, widely displayed in the Marxist/critical theory crowd – that through proper manipulation and control, and perhaps through extremely violent measures – that the “new man” can be made and the communist/progressive utopia can finally be realized here and now. I can’t address all of these views in this short rant, but let’s address a couple of them.

Why should anyone take Paul seriously that the Gospel can change people? He writes about it here in Romans, and in his letter to the Corinthians and other places. In First Corinthians 6, he talks about the recipients as former idolaters, drunks, homosexuals, swindlers and so on. This inconvenient fact is splitting our country and churches even as I write this. Paul is actually stating that

there are people in the Corinthian church, not a very strong church at that, who used to be something and are now something else. This seems to be the very definition of change. It seems to speak loudly to the idea that one is not stuck in the rut of one’s life, but can be something wonderfully different. But is this an insult as seen above? If there is proof that one can change or be changed, then clearly it is not the case the way you are is the way you will always be! Take the “drunks” for an example. That was me. That wasn’t a sometimes me – that was me pretty much every chance I got. I had two DUIs before my senior year in high school. I lost my license for a year. And the worst of it was, I drove drunk so many other times and didn’t get caught. The last time I ever got drunk, my car was parked sideways across the yard when I woke up. I have no memory of getting home that night. A complete blackout. What has always terrified me (and as well made me so thankful to the Lord!) was that I could have run over entire families, and wouldn’t even have known it. Every once in a while I read a story about someone doing just that in some place somewhere, and I am both angry and so grateful. I am angry at the foolishness and despicable behavior of someone who has destroyed perhaps entire families. I am grateful because I was literally just like that. When I worked in the Jefferson Co. Sheriff’s office, I met numerous people over the years that had done that very thing. None of them had intended to kill anyone, but their recklessness had brought that very thing about. Again I am so thankful that I never did that. I can’t imagine living with that on my conscience. But what if change is just a lie? What if it is all a fraud? Was the drunk “Born” that way? Does he/she

have a genetic flaw that determined the outcome? Many think so. Behavioral determinists believe that our environment literally determines who and what we are. Genetic determinists (favorite position of the New Atheist crowd) believe that our genes determine everything about us. Change is by definition impossible if our lives are determined by either side of the nature/nurture analysis. What about the complaint that it is even evil to try and convince someone to be different? If we are determined, then it is cruel beyond belief to push someone to do something that is by definition impossible. This is why the fight in the church/culture is so vitriolic concerning homosexuality, transgenderism and all related topics. If one is born a homosexual or a bi or one is a woman trapped in a man’s body, and it is their genes that have determined this, then it is beyond evil to call people like that to change or in Christian terms – repent. Interesting note here, again when I was a deputy there were many pedophiles in our jail. For three years I talked to so many of them and virtually every one of them said that this is the way God had made them and once they were out they would go right back to doing that again. I don’t think I ever left my young children in the yard alone after that. So years later when I started seeing homosexual activists, at least the religious ones, arguing that this is the way God had made them, well the flashbacks were not pleasant. If God made you a fish, then to use Aristotle’s thinking, you have the form and function and essence of a fish. A fish is what it is, and it has its telos or design/purpose and that is fine. So if one was born a homosexual human being, does the analogy work for them as well?

Homosexual activists cite studies arguing that gender and sexual identity are separate from biology and are determined by our genes, or by our background or by whatever. In case you didn't notice, there is a contradiction in the above claim. Are humans determined by biology or is gender/sexual identity separate from biology? Other questions loom here = other homosexual activists argue from studies that gender/sexual identity is fluid – that is one can feel one gender in the morning and something else by second breakfast! (to wax hobbitly for a moment). So what is it? So much confusion. Wait its worse. Other homosexual activists are terrified if there was to be a discovery of the “gay” gene. Why? Because much like expecting parents are aborting down syndrome babies, or babies with other discovered diseases, or just aborting them because they are girls (see “It’s a girl” on the net!), the fear is that prospective parents will kill the babies with the gay gene off in utero in massive numbers. So much confusion – are there answers? Judging by the reaction to a just published massive study by two John Hopkins doctors, one can only answer NO. The study released looked at over 200 different studies by scholars across the political gamete and came to the conclusion that there was literally no scientific proof of any genetic connection to homosexuality. Even though the study concluded that this does not necessarily mean that there is no connection – there is just no proof despite the assertions of activists for years. Well the screaming and howling across the net and culture was predictable. The name calling was just what one expected. “Bigots”, “right wing zealots”, even

the worst of all – “Christians”! Despite the fact that neither of them fit the definitions for those terms. If you don't like the message shoot the messenger. Let's go back to the Apostle again. He says the Gospel – that Jesus died for our sins, and was buried for three days and then rose again physically from the dead, that believing in this set of historical events has the power of God to change our lives. I know many ex drunks, revilers, pagans, homosexuals, and they live to tell their story of the very change that the Gospel brought to their lives. I know that the power of the Gospel changed my life dramatically. I was a drunk and a stoner – God changed that. There are thankfully other things God has been changing for all the years I have followed the Lord. There is a miraculous story I can tell you about how God changed my anger to love for my abusive stepfather. But that is for another rant. To those who read this and are angry because you are one of the people I mentioned above, or are near to one, then I offer you this – someday I hope and pray that will want something different than what is going on right now – and you will accept the Lord's offer to show His power in your life. I wasn't seeking God – in fact like Paul himself I was running away from Him – yet His mercy said that's enough of that= and he grabbed me and started a whole new program running. There really is hope and change – but in God's power and mercy.

To those who don't like the way I am now - you should have seen what I was before...ugh. With some of us the job is a bit bigger than with others ok?

Coming Events

August 8 – December 12 – Teaching Intro to Philosophy at Early College Colorado, Parker

August 16 – September 10 – Mormon Temple opening in Ft. Collins

September 6 – Every Tuesday night is Bible Study night at our house. The Book of First John

September 10 – Denver Psychic Fair

September 11 – Horizon Christian Fellowship, Littleton CO – A Clash of Worldviews

September 25 – Cowboy Church at Crossroads, Penrose, CO – Is the God of the Bible the same as the god of Islam?

September 30 – I teach at Nebraska Christian School in Central City all day.

October 2 – Monroe Evangelical Free Church, Phillips, NE – Is the God of the Bible the same as the god of Islam?

October 8 – Colorado Springs Psychic Fair

December 3 – HAVEN MINISTRY CHRISTMAS PARTY – If you are anywhere close – you are invited. 2-8 p.m. at the Honsbergers!

As always, there will be many additional dates so check the website to see and please to pray for our ministry opportunities!

Prayer Requests

We thank the Lord for the gracious giving that He has given us through so many of you. As always we are in need of raising new support – We still need to bring in over \$2000 per month. We seem to be stuck there. There are thousands of people who get this newsletter – please pray and consider whether you can become part of the ministry by supporting our outreaches to the lost.

1) We continue to thank the Lord for His goodness. Please continue to pray for Terri. Terri is doing better after all the surgeries this past year, but she is still in a lot of pain from other issues. Now she has to have her knee fixed surgically as sometime this summer she tore her meniscus! Pray that our Father's mercy will be upon her at all times. Scott and Savannah and baby Conrad are doing so well! They are walking with the Lord and enjoying parenthood! Shawn and Kelly, Tegan, Apple have moved to the Bay area in California and are doing well and the girls are growing so fast.. Andy is still happy working, taking keyboard lessons and cheering for all the Husker games! He can't wait to go to a Husker game on Oct 1st! Gabe and Shania and their brand new baby Kaylee are leaving Hawaii in a few months and will be in California. Pray for them as Gabe is seriously considering a career change! Joey is working and taking classes from Metro University, but still needs to return to the Lord!!! Pray for his repentance. Rose and Austin are doing well and CeCe and Bella are also growing so much. They are moving to Spokane soon so pray for their move. The move has been delayed by legal action because of CeCe. Please pray this gets cleared up. Johanna and Kevin and Kirra are doing ok in their apartment near us. Please pray that she comes back to her faith as well. Jon is currently not speaking with us so we don't know what to tell you! Pray that our gracious Father will extend mercy to Jon, as he needs to meet his Savior! Pray for all our kids to honor the Lord with all that they have!

2) My mom is in Houston and happy there. She still has to deal with cancer but there are good facilities down there. Things have turned cold with my dad again. Thanks so much for praying for this situation. Pray for my brothers and their families that they would all know and follow the Lord. Pray for my sis too!

3) Please pray for some friends and co-workers who have serious health issues. Pray for many who have pressing chronic issues such as Sherri C, Rose R, Liz H, Sheila H, Joanna V, Charlene E, Jason G, Zach M, Duane E, Noah G and others. Please pray for our supporter Trish who has a major illness that will eventually take her home. Pray for her unsaved husband Bruce as well. Also pray for other members of our family who are sick and also need the Lord. Pray for Doug and Rebecca Groothuis – Rebecca has moments of lucidity in the midst of dementia. Pray for Doug in his life and ministry at Denver Seminary and for both of them during this hard, hard time. Pray for our dear friend Wayne who is struggling with both cancer and congestive heart failure, but seems to be doing ok at the moment. We also thank the Lord that our dear friend and mentor Dr. Gordon Lewis has gone to be with his savior! He is sorely missed. The Lord used him dramatically to prepare me for ministry and often guide me in ministry. Pray for his wife Willa and the rest of the family.

4) Pray for the miracle of repentance and reconciliation in the marriages or now ex-marriages of Debra, Mike, Cheryl, Leon, Greg, Tyler, Glen, Karina, Janelle, and way too many others.

5) Pray for the salvation for the Muslims, Gnostics, Mormons, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, as well as for Sister Who, the Japanese Buddhists, Muslims and many others. Please pray for the Mormons we talked to in Manti this past June. Pray also for Terrell, a young Jehovah's Witness that Rita and I talked to. Continue to pray for a young atheist student of mine name James and other atheists from the community college that I am meeting with. Pray for LDS and Community of Christ people we talked to recently. Pray for the PR man for the Hare Krishna's that I spent two hours at a conference a few years ago. Pray also for the cultist we talked to at the ISCA conference. Pray for the Hindu family and for others that we talked to at the psychic fair and goddess fair. Pray for the Urantia readers and Share International members that we talked at the same events. Please pray for the many people we talked in the Philippines this summer, including Alex (Russian Muslim turned Hindu!!!) and we talked to so many different people at the Parliament of World Religions in Oct of last year. Pray for the Muslims, Buddhists, Moonies, Mormons, Urantia readers and so many others that we were blessed to share the Gospel with. Pray for Miguel – one of the Urantia readers we met at the Parliament whom has not met with me yet but is still willing to! Pray for the upcoming psychic fairs and other events coming up soon.

6) Pray for the Haven staff. Pray for their supporting efforts. Pray for their ministry and for all of us as we go to different events. Pray for the Lord's grace and mercy to mark everything we do. The staff continues to grow with new associates and interns.

7) Please pray for our many friends and their children who are serving with our military. The reality of militant Islam is that we are now in what many think is another chapter of a very old war. This sadly is getting much worse lately. Hardly a day goes by without Muslims killing innocents somewhere in the world. Pray for soldiers like Carlos and Miguel and Matt and Josh and Nick, Heath and our son Scott. Pray for the Marines like our son Gabe and Matt. Pray for Chang and many others who are serving the country right now. We thank the Lord for all of them and so many others who serve us.

8) Special prayer requests – We had some awesome conversations in Israel this past month. Please especially pray for Charles and Amanda and their daughter AnnaEi. We talked to them in a cemetery (yes you read that right!) for almost two hours. Then they had us over to their place for dinner and we spent five hours with them! We talked about our families and many other things, but we got the opportunity to share the Gospel of Yeshua with them! Usually the one thing all Jewish people agree on is that Jesus is not the Messiah and that Christians hate Jews and caused the Shoah (Holocaust) and so on. So we definitely believe our Father was granting a special time to be with them. We also talked to some orthodox Rabbis and others and had good talks with them as well. Thanks so much for your support and prayers so that we could meet with all these folks! Pray lots!

Big Prayer Request – We are still praying and exploring avenues of bringing some of our Filipina/o students here as interns. We have talked to the attorneys and get nowhere. This is all so frustrating. With so many people streaming across the border illegally, Pray please that this will be opened up.

FROM:

HAVEN MINISTRIES

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Aurora, CO 80016

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September 2016

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NON PROPHET SECTION

So many heretics – So little time...

This will be a catch all snippet this time. With the PCUSA and UM and ELCA denominations blessing gay marriage and casting aspersions upon those who don't – we are now rescued from our moral swamp with the news that now sex between single people is also blessed of God! Pastor Bromleigh McClenaghan has come out and blessed sex between all sorts of unmarried (to each other) people. Her "new" vision is deemed as powerful and liberating by all sorts of open minded people. Church leaders are of course castigated for not "addressing" the issue – (this is code for addressing the issue by giving actual Biblical guidelines and refusing to compromise on God's word!)

Isn't it great that her "new" liberating view will be embraced so thoroughly by the world? Isn't it great that no mention of the R word (repentance) will be brought up? Why I'm sure her church will be filled with goats, err I mean "searchers" who will hear exactly what they want to hear. Laodicea we are thine...

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