

The Absolutely Urgent Necessity to Persuade

*"We cast down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against God and bring every thought captive to the obedience of Christ."
(2 Corinthians 10:5)*

It is an underlying, though implicit, assumption of our time that the foundations which ensured the multitudes of blessings our society has enjoyed up to now, *will* continue refreshing and refurbishing our civilization's driving force into the future. This expectation applies not only to our deliberations over *earth*-focused governance, but also to the state of our hearts and minds with respect to the Kingdom of God. These challenges are interconnected. **This faulty view** assumes that the successful principles from the past can spring from out of either anywhere or nowhere, when in fact they can only be expected to arise from that kind of source which has both the rational potential (wisdom) and energizing power (the Holy Spirit) to inspire within us the moral, rational, and spiritual principles that are necessary for living together in harmonious community. The reason is that the *human* exchanges required to achieve this social goal are highly-complex.

One of the firmest laws of science in the realm of physics is the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics which holds that all *physical* entities and the interactions between them are cooling off, wearing out, and/or becoming increasingly random when limited to their own resources. Yet even so, this propensity also applies to civilizations, societies, and individuals. Note the following social observations:

*"We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion...Our nation was made only for a moral and religious people. It is totally inadequate to the governance of another."*¹

*"What reason do we have to suppose that our civilization, in contrast to civilizations which have preceded it, will endure? The person who has not faced this question is hardly alive. That many different ways of life have flourished and have then declined is beyond contradiction. Consequently, there is no high probability that the fate of our civilization will be different — unless.... The precise character of this 'unless' is of such importance as to attract and to hold our best thinking...It is our most urgent question."*²

*"Civilization is hideously fragile, you know that; and there's not much between us and the horrors beneath, just about a coat of varnish, wouldn't you say?"*³

*"Where did the doing without God end but in the undoing of man through the anger of God?"*⁴

Our nation in recent decades has been divided *politically* almost exactly 50/50 percent. Yet in our day, the means of publicly seeking desired outcomes in social governance is rapidly shifting away from changing people's minds to fixating on strategic manipulation. With the exception of just a few commentators on radio and television, I fear that many conservative spokespersons either cannot or will not articulate the intellectual foundations which undergird conservatism. Others weaken the same message by distancing themselves from any necessary connection to our Maker and Redeemer.⁵

¹ President John Adams, to the Massachusetts Militia on October 11, 1798, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Adams/99-02-02-3102>

² Elton Trueblood. The Company of the Committed. (Harper and Brothers, 1961), p. 2

³ C.P. Snow. A Coat of Varnish. (Scribner's, 1979).

⁴ Augustine, The City of God. (Image, 1958), p. 543.

⁵ Russel Kirk. The Roots of American Order. (Regnery Gateway, 1991), pp. 462,3. Referring to Orestes Brownson, Kirk wrote, "Justice requires...the authority of religious truth...Without authority vested somewhere, without moral principles that may be consulted confidently, justice cannot long endure anywhere. Yet modern liberalism and democracy are contemptuous of the whole concept of moral authority."

The primary context behind this essay concerns the upcoming U.S. Presidential election between Joe Biden and Donald Trump in November. Although the schism distinguishing the sympathies between these candidates are just as sharp and narrow as any other races in recent decades, several circumstances stand out now as utterly unique, including first of all our ongoing experience of a persistent pandemic from the Coronavirus. Relevant to the potential outcome of this outbreak with respect to the election is that Biden's campaign is blaming the virus's economic impact on Trump's early decision to substantially shut down businesses for the purpose of staving off its spread.

As if this were not enough however, our society is also wallowing in a deepening mire of cultural dissolution, the *moral* decay of which, amazingly, is merely a *symptom* of its' *intellectual* disintegration. This crisis began in reaction to a torturous murder of compliant George Floyd (a black person) by four policemen who apprehended him for a misdemeanor. What has followed has by no means been limited to *peaceful* protests against *one* particular incident of police brutality, but also at a material level, entailed overwhelming destruction of multiplied blocks of property over numerous cities across our land. At a personal level, numerous innocent lives have been traumatized, some to the point of murder, while police too are routinely taunted even as some of them likewise have been murdered. At the same time numerous businesses have been irredeemably destroyed. Finally, at an intellectual level, as one voice put it, "*We are witnessing the suicide of civilization.*"⁶ To offer simply one glaring example of the resulting insanity, it is proposed not merely by a *fringe* minority, but by a substantial portion of our voting population, that police forces be altogether banished. Yet such a suggestion is palpably senseless. One has only to witness the rioting on TV in the *absence* of opposition that has the capacity to stop it, to vividly establish that neighborhoods are being overtaken by thugs.

The downhill slide of culture illustrated above is what the Apostle Paul predicted in Romans 1:18f. The flip side of this intellectual coin is stated in Proverbs 9:10 which declares, "*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.*" Yet to return to St. Paul, he sought to instill the practical means for recovering people who, by their neglect of God, currently recline in a bed of nonsense. 2 Corinthians 10:5 suggests that solely appealing to manipulative strategies cannot restore society to sanity. Wisdom of a kind that leads to harmony on Earth, grounds its transforming power on reconciliation with the Maker and Redeemer of creation (Romans 12:2). I am not writing this to advocate proof texting every argument with biblical passages, but rather to, in the name of Christ, speak truth wherever it can be found, even as we confront and undermine falsehood. Society is impotent to change for the better unless confidence can be restored by the conviction that conservatism, as a whole, more fully harmonizes with reality than does leftist liberalism. This transformation, I further argue, demands more primarily still, another Great Awakening in wholehearted return to the Triune God of the Bible.

It is not within the scope of this essay to bolster my ideas with specific facts here, though I have composed numerous other articles which address that purpose.⁷ My **first proposal** instead is for secularist **assumptions to be confronted whenever they commit logical fallacies**. For example, notice the Left's chronic commission of the *double-standard fallacy* in terms of 1) morality, by exempting themselves from their own standards, while imposing the same imperatives onto others, 2) tolerance, by their demanding tolerance by others while at the same time refusing to tolerate the latter's views, and 3) science, by touting their own commitment to science, while they firstly refuse, for example, to yield

⁶ James Burnham. "*Liberalism...is the ideology of Western suicide.*" (https://www.realclearhistory.com/articles/2020/07/08/the_assault_on_civilization_498524.html).

⁷ I encourage you to peruse my articles of the last twelve months at my blogsite: www.offensivechristianityontheoffensive.com

to genetic and blood-type indicators proving that the fetus is an autonomous person independent of the mother, and secondly, ignoring the DNA and anatomical factors of Transgender persons and their bearing on gender identity, specifically in regard to ensuring safe shower facilities for every person.

Second, **highlight the critical connection** between the largely successful free society we now enjoy, and the vision our founding Fathers laid out in our Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Further still, give notice that these documents alone have the potential to enhance liberty for all in the face of the biblical truism that ALL people are sinners. In addition, highlight the intellectual incongruity that the liberties we ALL enjoy will be advanced in any way by the anarchist challenge confronting us.

Third, **illuminate the sharp contrast in visions** between the two competing parties by highlighting the failure of Democrats to defend our own citizens, whatever their views or skin color. We are in a life/death battle in regard to our nation's future, similar to Moses' statement at the end of his life:

"I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life that you and your offspring may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him." (Deuteronomy 30:19-20)

Though Leftists tend to mock such appeals to the Bible, that ploy overlooks the flaws of their own case. To cite two examples, (1) atheism and indeed anti-theism⁸ in every form, is utterly impotent to account for the very existence of the universe from out of nothing at the zero-volume beginning⁹ in the Big Bang. (2) Materialism is in utter contradiction with itself in its assertion that free-will in the ontological¹⁰ sense is illusory even as its proponents both exempt themselves by both insisting that that view is true and also that their audiences are obligated to act on it. On the other hand, Genesis 1:1 easily reconciles with the creation of the universe out of nothing material, while the unassailable¹¹ experiential reality of human free-will harmonizes with the biblical doctrine that we are created in the image of God the creator who brought the material order into existence by his word (Hebrews 11:3).¹²

Given the *intellectual* deterioration of our culture in the present,¹³ it is foolish to imagine that the cultural indicators of the Fall of 2016 which ushered Donald Trump into his first term as President will, due to a vastly different prevailing value-system in 2020, issue in a similar outcome this coming Fall. The trajectory of the former, based as it was on recognizable commitment to the U.S. Constitution and grounded on an adherence to traditional morality, including a moral obligation to both elevate and obey truth (each imperfectly), is defiantly rejected by today's societal power-holders.¹⁴ Consequently there is not the slightest potential of the present Leftist social trajectory creating a new society that is secure, free, and fair to all. While the God of the Bible declares that His moral character exudes both impartiality toward people (Romans 2:11) and loving redemption (1 John 4:10) to all who receive His

⁸ "Theism" denotes the belief in the God of the Bible who by His transcendence created the universe out of nothing and by His immanence personally seeks to relate with His human creatures through His revealed will in the Bible.

⁹ See my paper, "Was the Big Bang the Big Beginning?" at my website, www.christianityontheoffense.com

¹⁰ By this word I distinguish between Martin Luther's view in his essay, "The Bondage of the Will" (https://archive.org/stream/martinlutheronth00luthuoft/martinlutheronth00luthuoft_djvu.txt).

¹¹ See my paper, "The Case for the Soul" at my website, Op.cit. (9).

¹² For further scientific and historical evidences that challenge atheism, see my paper, "God's Prints are Everywhere," at my website, Op.cit. 9.

¹³ John M Ellis. The breakdown of Higher Education. (Encounter, 2020). He writes, "*Making politics of any kind central to [university] academic life must be damaging because the habits of mind of academic teachers are in most ways the exact opposite of those of political activists. First of all, **political motives will always stunt intellectual curiosity**. In any worthwhile college education, students must have the opportunity to think afresh and to follow wherever the facts or arguments lead. But that freedom of thought is constrained when its conclusion is fixed in advance by a political agenda*" (p. 39, boldface mine).

¹⁴ Op.cit. (10).

Son (John 1:12), the Left by dark contrast re-defines tolerance in a manner that is intended solely to advance the self-interest of its proponents. For example, it logically follows that if the concept of morality can be nullified on the assertion of God's non-existence, then unrestrained sexual activities become socially permitted,¹⁵ while fears of judgment beyond the grave are effectively banished.

Yet Jesus would never settle for casting out demons (Luke 11:24-26) since any empty soul is effectively a spiritual vacuum into which an increasing number of demons may enter. Whether or not readers believe in the existence of a demonic realm (which I do accept) is actually *rationally* irrelevant since the rational human soul demands ideas and perceptions of some sort. Taking note of my subtitle (2 Corinthians 10:4), it is clear that the Apostle Paul urges a transformation of people's thinking in light of the truth of Christ. Consequently, consistent with biblical doctrine and undergirded with supportive scientific, historical, and experiential facts,¹⁶ it is urgent that we advance at least the following convictions:

1. The existence of God as Creator of the cosmos out of nothing material.
2. God's character entails transcendence, omniscience, omnipotence, moral character, truth-demanding, and redeeming love.
3. The character of human beings includes the following traits: perceptual faculties which accurately ascertain reality, intelligence, private and social moral responsibility both, the capacity to love at several levels, and innate curiosity and creativity.
4. This same aspect of human character is on the other hand negatively impacted because of our defiance of God's rightful central place in each and every one of our lives.

The above list is NOT exhaustive. Yet it stands as an essential beginning point in our search for a social order that creates room both for social harmony and individual freedom. The choice is not between the perfect and the imperfect, but instead entails having the capacity to discern which of the choices is effective and which has been demonstrably not effective. No serious conservative ever claims that our history as a nation is without flaws, while by contrast, the alternative that the Left advocates has demonstrably been proven an abject failure. At bottom there is simply no intellectual excuse for swallowing Leftists claims that it has the capacity to create a utopia. To the contrary, Karl Marx's beliefs have issued in the murder of over a hundred million people by the tyrannical leaderships of every "socialist" regime.¹⁷ To fail to discern which of these two visions is more effective is to disqualify oneself as a thinking human being. The recovery of humanity from such appalling nonsense is our most urgent goal. Such a strategy must begin with the acknowledgment of what is true even as it seeks to release from intellectual perversity every mind under bondage to the brainwashing of Leftism.

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¹⁵ "I asked [Aloysia], 'Without God and immortal life? All things are lawful then, they can do what they like?'" Fyodor Dostoyevsky. The Brothers Karamazov. Signet Classic, 1999), p. 557.

¹⁶ Op.cit. (10). "100 Years of Communism and 100 Million Dead: The Bolshevik plague that began in Russia was the greatest catastrophe in human history." <https://www.wsj.com/articles/100-years-of-communism-and-100-million-dead-1510011810>