

WISHFUL THINKING

This article picks up where the last one, “The Land of make Believe” left off. We live in a world of people that don’t want to face the facts, that don’t see things as they really are. They live in a land of make believe. They don’t want to be honest and truthful about the world and mankind. This is called wishful thinking. Wishful thinking is the formation of beliefs and making decisions according to what might be pleasing to imagine instead of by appealing to evidence or rationality. Usually wishful thinking is always positive in nature and not negative. You see things that aren’t real. You believe something that has no basis in reality. You hope in something that all evidence points to the contrary.

This world is flooded with wishful thinking. The only people that are not living in a land of make believe are saved people that have been born again of God’s Spirit. Not only must you be saved, but you must believe the Bible, the whole thing, to live in the real world, otherwise the Lord will let you wander around in darkness and he’ll let you deceive yourself. The Bible is a book that tells it like it is: it esteems man as desperately wicked and evil from his youth, and says that man in his best state is altogether vanity. Oh my God, how could you say that? I didn’t the Scriptures did which are written by God! Read Jeremiah 17:9, Psalm 39:5. But is it not true?

Wishful thinking stems from the imaginations of your evil heart. You reject what God plainly said in his book and you believe things and hold to things that are contrary to God’s word, which is truth. Did you know that is what Jesus believed? He believed God’s word is truth (John 17:17).

I just want to examine some things that are going on in the world and in our country that manifests the wishful thinking of prideful, God-hating rebels – that is what they are. Now listen, the only difference between me and the world is this: I applied the blood of Jesus Christ to my soul and God saved me. I’m no better than anybody else. I’m a sinner like the rest of you, but I have been saved and forgiven of all my sin by the blood of the Lamb of God, which took away the sin of the world. I believe the gospel, and I called upon the name of the Lord and he saved me! And he will save you if you will too!

You might think that is harsh, talking about humans as prideful, God-hating rebels, but let me just quote some scripture. Here is what God says about anybody, white, black, blue, red, who rejects his word and refuses to hear it.

“This evil people, which refuse to hear my words, which walk in the imagination of their heart, and walk after other gods, to serve them, and to worship them, shall even be as this girdle, which is good for nothing.” – Jeremiah 13:10

He says you are evil because you refuse to hear his words! He says you are evil if you follow your heart. The dumbest thing you could do is follow your heart. You are evil! The living God said that, not me! He said you are good for nothing if you refuse to hear his words and live the way you want to live. But there’s more.

The LORD God of heaven and earth also said this:

“The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the LORD; and what wisdom is in them?” – Jeremiah 8:9

Do you see that? If you reject the word of the LORD you have no wisdom in you at all. You are not wise at all if you reject God’s word. What do you think the Lord thinks of the public education system in America? What do you think the Lord thinks of Colleges and Universities? There is no wisdom there at all. You want wisdom? The Bible says the fear of the LORD that is wisdom and to depart from evil is understanding (Job 28:28). If you reject God’s word, the Bible, the Holy Scriptures, you are evil and you have absolutely no wisdom in you at all.

Now listen, pick up a King James Bible and read it. You know what the prophets preached? I am not making this up, read Jeremiah 25:4-5. He says the LORD sent the prophets and here is what they said, “Turn ye again now every one from his evil way, and from the evil of your doings...” The general message of all the prophets was this, You are evil, you are doing evil, stop doing evil, you all need to turn again from the evil and walk in my ways and obey what I say. That is the general overall message of the prophets.

It was never prosperity, it was never peace – why not peace? Because there is no peace saith my God to the wicked (Isaiah 57:21). You can’t expect peace when you are doing evil. You’re out of your mind if you think that. That is wishful thinking. The false prophets always preached peace, peace, when there was no peace. And this leads me to the wishful thinking that mankind can bring in peace.

Perhaps the biggest error in thinking is the belief that we can have peace on earth without God. Listen, every politician wants to have peace on earth without God. Now some might want to include their god as they work together to bring peace on earth. But I can guarantee you, they are not including the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Why not? Because God said there will be no peace until the Prince of Peace comes back and sets up his kingdom, which is not a democracy.

Politicians and many people that reject the Bible hope for and believe that we can have peace on planet earth without God. This is wickedness. They believe if democracy is brought to the Middle East and around the world, we can have peace. No I’m sorry that won’t work. They believe if we just educate everybody, we can have peace. No that won’t work either. As Ruckman says, “Education without salvation is damnation” and he is right. You know what education does? You know what a college education will give you? Absolutely nothing but debt.

My last semester at college I was taking a social psychology class and they were asking seniors what they have learned at college. I raised my hand and said, “College has taught me two things: Everything is pretty much theory, and we don’t know anything as we ought to know.” The professor said I was right. What a waste of time. But I thank the Lord because the first time I ever heard the gospel was at college. Thank God for those that are willing to preach the truth! You won’t find truth in college or education, you’ll only find it in that Book.

Can you believe people actually think democracy, and “being tolerant”, and education can fix this mess? What does history tell us? Nothing will work, man is the problem. Amen! Man in his fallen state is an utter failure and good for nothing. He is evil at heart. The thoughts of his heart is only evil continually. That is the reality. Why do people think we can bring in the kingdom? Because they reject the truth of God’s word, they reject history, they reject what is in front of their eyes – they reject reality. Man is the problem! The only hope is that human nature is changed and that is what God has in mind. He will restore any man back into the image of God if they trust in his Son Jesus Christ.

Everyone says we can have peace if we do this and we can have peace if we do that, but it never works. These people never include the Lord Jesus Christ in this. Why not? They want God out of their lives completely because they love evil more than good, they want to be their own god. That’s why.

They also believe if they are good people and do good deeds, God would accept them. Clearly they have never read the Bible, or they reject what they read in the Bible because nothing could be further from the truth. If it wasn’t for the shed blood of Jesus Christ all of mankind would end up in the lake of fire burning for ever. That is the only reason why men can make peace with God and be reconciled to him, the blood, the blood, the blood of Jesus. When you put faith in that blood and believe on Jesus Christ, that blood is applied and you are covered!

Man doesn’t like to hear that. Man is so filled with pride and full of himself he thinks he is something when God says at his best state he is altogether vanity and that he counts the nations as less than vanity. People don’t like hearing that. Too bad, God said it and its true.

Man in his wishful thinking believes that a loving God would never sentence anybody to hell. O really? How do they come this conclusion? They reject the Bible or they change it or allegorize it or spiritualize it and say, “well the Bible really means...”, “or the correct interpretation is...” all that nonsense. God does send people to hell, absolutely. All the evil and suffering God allows to happen on earth, and all the evil that God allowed to happen to his Son at the hands of sinful man, you’re telling me God won’t send a man to hell to be punished for ever? He will, he certainly will, the Bible says so. If you are not saved, get saved! Don’t go to hell. Why will you die when you don’t have to? God has made a way out for you. Why not take it? Don’t be so foolish. Call upon the name of the LORD and ask him to save you! Don’t wait!

There is so much wishful thinking that goes on among the saved and unsaved today it is ridiculous. The honest to God reason for it is because they reject the truth that God has given them in the Bible. Again, it all comes down to that book and what you do with it. People can’t stand that Book because it puts man in his proper place and exalts the Glorious Creator.

Have you ever thought about all of the judgments that we read about in Holy Scripture? Every judgment in the Bible is because they reject God’s word. Whether they don’t live according to it, or reject it, or pick and choose from it, or change it, or not believe it, it is always because they reject God’s word. Why do people reject it? There are only two

reasons: Sin and Unbelief. Those are the two. Everything will fall under those two categories. They love their sin or they don't believe what God said or both.

Listen, if you call upon the Lord and believe that Christ died for your sins and rose from the dead with your whole heart God will save you. He is merciful. Come to him now before it is too late. Meet him in his mercy, don't meet him in his wrath, his wrath is unbearable.

He will save you and his Spirit will come into you and dwell with you for ever. He will confirm the words of that Book in your heart. He'll testify that you are now a son of God. He will lead you and guide you into all truth.

“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” – John 1:12-13

“He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true”
– John 3:33