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PRESENTS

Frankly Speaking Notes...

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WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED FROM PSYCHOLOGY

At almost every turn these days we see psychology at work. A cataclysmic event occurs on the national scene and a psychologist is consulted to see “what it means?” Someone commits a crime and a psychologist is asked why it was done.

When I was a youngster in school an ammunition plant in the area had an explosion. Not a single psychologist showed up to “counsel the kids.” After WW II a man who had served in the war was shot and killed by his father-in-law with a 12-gauge shotgun. I don’t remember ever seeing a psychiatrist in the days that followed.

Today when something happens in a community, and it may not even be at the school or involve the school, “counselors” are brought in to talk with the students about it. What is said to them is a guess because we are never told why the necessity of it. A student is killed in a shooting or an auto accident (off campus) and the next day a host of “counselors” are brought in to “counsel with the students.”

Even some of our churches today now have “counselors” on staff.

To the best of my ability I have tried to figure out what we have learned from all the involvement of psychology through the years.

WE HAVE LEARNED THAT WHENEVER BAD THINGS HAPPENS IT IS CONNECTED TO OUR PAST.

In the Star Telegram there was a story a few months ago about a young woman who has been charged with the beating death of her

three-year-old daughter. The boyfriend actually beat the child to death but the mother saw it and did not call authorities. Because of that she was also charged with murder. The story in the paper indicated she might not be responsible because she was also “molested” as a child. It is a first move toward an insanity defense.

Because psychology has come into play so much in our present day in this society, young people learn early how to dodge responsibility. If they are charged with something they claim they were neglected or abused as a child. In other words, “it really isn’t my fault.” Sometimes even the parents get into the act by siding with their children.

They ignore what the Bible says about personal responsibility because it is not their guidebook. “For if a man thinketh himself to be something when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. But let each man prove his own work, and then shall he have his glorying in regard of himself alone, and not of his neighbor. For each man shall bear his own burden.” (Galatians 6:3-5)

WE HAVE LEARNED THAT THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS RIGHT AND WRONG.

“There is no strict standard,” they tell us. “What is right is what YOU THINK IS RIGHT,” they say. Since many psychologists, perhaps most, do not believe in God, they do not accept His word as authoritative in any way.

For example, in the Bible God says, “I hate divorce (putting away).” (Malachi 2:16) Then Jesus said, “Moses for your hardness of heart suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it hath not been so.” (Matthew 19:8) That simply means it was not God’s design, from the beginning of time, that men divorce their wives.

However, the psychologist says, “It is a personal decision. Some people are just not compatible and if you find that is the case, divorce your mate and find one who is more compatible.” This attitude, which has crept into society and into the church, has given rise to a lot of different “opinions” on the subject. If a person talks to a preacher and

he does not agree they can live with whomever they are “with” at the time, they simply go to another preacher who agrees with them.

I recently heard of a preacher that evidently had a very promiscuous mother-in-law. She had been married 17 times and he had recently converted her. He thought it was all right for her to get married again now.

WE HAVE LEARNED THAT WE CANNOT PREACH WITHOUT ADVANCED DEGREES.

A man with a simple outlook on life and total faith in the Word of God and its author is not sophisticated enough, educated enough to understand the nuances of human behavior. A man (or woman, they make no distinction) must be HIGHLY EDUCATED to be able to communicate effectively with his audience.

A young man on a lectureship several years ago, a fresh PhD, said effectively the same thing in his speech. I was so uncomfortable I could hardly stand it. In the speech he ignored the men of limited education who forged through difficulties he would never see, to bring the saving power of the gospel to generations before him. In fact there were two men on the podium at the time, one of whom with less than grade school education, who had been instrumental in bringing thousands to Christ over the years.

I was so proud of the moderator who, when he came to the microphone, praised the men who had endured hardships, without the benefit of much formal education. He gave praise to them had brought us to where we were at the time.

How many people have you known that accepted the same philosophy, desiring to gain that higher education that lost their faith in the process? I can name several who were preachers of great ability who lost their faith in pursuit of that goal.

All we have to do is look at the Bible. It was the “**the common people heard him gladly.**” (Mark 12.37) Sure, kings and governors heard him of Him. Agrippa heard Paul’s “defense” and Paul also preached the gospel to him but no record of his ever doing anything

about it. (Acts 25-26) Felix the Governor also heard Paul to the point that he trembled, yet told Paul perhaps “at a more convenient season.” (Acts 24:25) As far as we know Felix never had that “convenient season.” So from the beginning till now, it isn’t the sophisticated and wealthy that accept Jesus. They depend too much on their education and wealth for that.

WE HAVE LEARNED THAT WE CANNOT SURVIVE TRAUMA AND UPHEAVAL WITHOUT HELP FROM THEM.

Today every time there is trauma of any kind, anywhere, under any and all circumstances, counseling is recommended. A few years ago in California a running gun battle occurred between police and a suspect. The suspect was killed about two blocks from a high school. The next day there arrived at the school a cadre of counselors to “get the students over the trauma.” Such stories could be repeated ad infinitum.

A psychologist on Fox News recently talked about the miners killed in the mine explosion in Virginia. She made what I thought was an outlandish statement. She said, “Every person who loses a parent is completely devastated by the loss.”

Now folks, I have conducted a few funerals in my time and I have seen a lot of children that were not “completely devastated” by the loss of their parents. I remember when my parents died and we buried them the same day in that little roadside cemetery in Ripley County Missouri. I don’t remember being “completely devastated.” Do people feel loss? Of course we do. But hardly devastated!

Most people, especially Christians, know that death is a part of the human process. They expect it and are somewhat prepared to deal with it. It may come at an unexpected time but is a normal process nonetheless. To feel the loss and sorrow and mourn for a period of time is expected. But to say “all” are “completely devastated” is nonsense.

Nobody in this world lives forever in this world. We all die. (Hebrews 9:27) The psychological community thinks that people cannot think

on their own and made decisions without input from someone who thinks they are smarter than are we.

The moral standards of our nation are disappearing as fast as a block of ice in the Arizona desert. For several hundred years we got by without the psychological community. Lets get back to independence and self-sufficiency and put this psychological stuff where it belongs, out of sight.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Smithson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

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