

Preacher's Pen points

“A Higher Authority”



David Brooks, in a recent NY Times column gave the following hard-hitting assessment of the spirit of our times: “*Americans of the 21st century are more likely to be divorced from any sense of a creedal order, ignorant of the moral traditions that have come down to us through the ages and detached from the sense that we all owe obligations to a higher authority*”. I would add my hearty “amen” to Brook’s remarks.

Post-Modernism

After a century of modernism, our society now reels from the effects of post-modern thinking. In short, there has been a shift from the idea that science will answer all our questions to the idea that there are no answers to our questions or that all answers are equally valid! Such a mindset has three profound social consequences.

- 1) There is a loss of respect for God as creator and our accountability to Him. The efforts to “remove God” from public life are mere symptoms of an underlying unwillingness to acknowledge that we were made to know and obey Him.
- 2) There is a pervasive ignorance of the moral absolutes that issue from the authority of God and His word.
- 3) We see people with a value system that is not based on anything other than personal whim and popular social opinion. Like it was in the times of the Judges, every man does what is right in his own eyes (Judges 21:25).

Simply put, Americans in general have lost touch with the historic principles that caused them to honor God, define morality, and control themselves!

The Gospel is Still the Answer!

It has never been more important for the church to guide our society through the moral chaos of relativism and post-modernism. God uses each of us to communicate the messages that our friends and neighbors desperately need.

God is the creator of all!

Our society needs to know that the theory of evolution is logically bankrupt and that the only reasonable answer to our origin is still Genesis 1:27: “*And God created man in His own image*”.

His word is the absolute standard of truth!

Our society needs to know that “*it is not in man that walks to direct his steps*” (Jer. 10:23). Instead, we need to understand that God’s purpose and character, not human opinion, define right and wrong. As Jesus said to the Father, “*Your word is truth!*” (Jn. 17:17).

Everyone needs personal faith in God’s directions!

As long as people reject the first two principles, the third will surely follow—a life of uncertainty, confusion, and misdirection. Instead we need to help people see that faith in God will bring moral clarity, personal well being, and eternal salvation (Deut. 5:29).

Share the gospel with others!

One of the most important things you can do for your country right now is to stress these principles with everyone you know! Our country will not be safe or sound again until our people again “sense that we all owe obligations to a higher authority”.
—Johnny Felker