

Dear Friends in Christ,

Over the next several months, we will attempt to solve all the world's problems with this newsletter. Alright - I know most of you only read the first sentence anyways, so maybe now I've got your attention.

Of course we can't solve all the world's problems. Jesus Christ has done that on the cross and continues to do that through the preaching of His Word, and He never gets tired of fixing the world's problems. But what we can do is track how we got here and why, and by doing so, we will have a better understanding of this world that Jesus has commanded us to preach the Gospel to.

This month we'll cover nihilism - the philosophy that nothing has meaning. It's really not a philosophy; philosophy means the love of wisdom (it's the Greek words philo (Philadelphia) plus sophia); nihilism is an anti-philosophy. Nihilism doesn't love anything because love doesn't have meaning for them. It's a depressing process of thought, and it really leaves people in the ditch.

It's important to understand that the logical conclusion of today's world's thinking is nihilism. Many people aren't there yet, but unfortunately many people are. What set us on this path? It starts with the shift of science in the 17th and 18th Centuries, and finds its fruit in the ideas of Charles Darwin (1809-1882).

Scientific theory started out with a Christian base. Galileo (1564-1642), Francis Bacon (1561-1626), and Isaac Newton (1643-1727) were all Christians (Newton did have some problematic views, but He held the Bible to be the truth about the universe) who set up science on the premise that God had created the universe through His Word, and by doing so, the world has a natural order. It is not random, and everything is not left up to chance.

This is radically different from what Darwin came up with. His concept was that all biological life evolved from simpler forms by a process called survival of the fittest. People still can't demonstrate how humanity evolved from something else, but I guess that's neither here nor there. Who cares if science is scientific?

People took Darwin's idea of the survival of the fittest and applied it to everything in life. Without God, man was in need of a new underlying principle to the universe, and so we gave Darwin's idea a shot. The results were evil. The Nazis used survival of the fittest to justify the Holocaust. Hitler said that Christianity's notion of love for all mankind should be replaced by the ethic of strength over weakness.

After two World Wars, the world was horrified, but without Christianity, the world couldn't explain why. If life is just an equation of chance and time, or if it truly is all about strength overcoming the weak, who's to say that war crimes are crimes?

Without the Word of God as our foundation, which teaches us that humans are not evolved monkeys but are created in the image of God, we will fall into nihilism. So stand firm in God's Word. If you read 4 chapters a day, you can get through the whole Bible in a year. Come to church, where you learn that life has meaning because Jesus Christ gives it meaning.

Next month we'll talk about the world's answer to nihilism - existentialism. It'll leave you happier and more pleasant to be around, but just as godless.

In Christ,
Pastor