

Voices of Authentic Faith

The Virgin Birth and the Resurrection

- *Without these two events we are left with stories of the ministry of a bastard itinerant preacher who called Himself God and made empty claims about giving eternal life without any evidence that He had the power to do so. With them we have a powerful and personal God Who still lives, Who still does miracles and Who is the source of salvation and eternal life. C. S. Lewis*
- *Where orthodoxy is optional, it will sooner or later be proscribed* Fr. Richard John Neuhaus

Life

- *The individual comes into the world with a natural right of his own. Bodily life...carries with it the right to its own preservation. It is in the strictest sense an “innate” right, one which we have passively received and which pre-exists our will. The life of the body, like life in general, is both a means to an end and an end in itself. The underlying right of natural life is the safeguarding of nature against intentional injury, violation and killing. Detrich Bonhoeffer*

Death

- *Where death is (believed) the last thing (ultimate), fear of death is combined with defiance. Where death is the last thing, earthly life is all or nothing. Boastful reliance on earthly eternities goes side by side with a frivolous playing with life. Wherever it is recognized that the power of death has been broken... by the miracle of the resurrection, one takes of life what it offers, not all or nothing but good and evil, the important and the unimportant, joy and sorrow; one neither clings convulsively to life nor casts it frivolously away. One is content with the allotted span... Detrich Bonhoeffer*
- *If I knew I was going to die tomorrow, I would plant a tree today. Martin Luther*

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Pain and Suffering

- *The human spirit will not even begin to try to surrender self-will as long as all seems to be well with it.....But pain insists upon being attended to. **God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains:** it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world. A bad man, happy, is a man without the least inkling that his actions do not “answer,” that they are not in accord with the laws of the universe. C. S. Lewis*

Prayer

- *The fundamental law in prayer is this: Prayer is given and ordained for the purpose of glorifying God. Prayer is the appointed way of giving Jesus an opportunity to exercise His supernatural power of salvation. And in so doing He desires to make use of us. If we will make use of prayer, not to wrest from God advantages for ourselves or our dear ones, or to escape from tribulations and difficulties, but to call down upon ourselves and others those things which will glorify the name of God, then we shall see the strongest and boldest promises of the Bible about prayer fulfilled also in our weak, little prayer life. Then we shall see such answers to prayer as we had never thought were possible. O. Hallesby*
- *Prayer is a more powerful way God allows us to cause things to happen. Prayers are not always answered, not because it is a weaker way, but because it is stronger. God, therefore, has reserved the right to approve or not. “It is not unreasonable for a headmaster to say, ‘such and such things you may do according to the fixed rules of this school. But such and such other things are too dangerous to be left to general rules. If you want to do them you must come and make a request and talk over the whole matter with me in my study. And then, we’ll see.’” C. S. Lewis*

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Social Justice and Good Works

- *While good works alone may produce benefit, they do not produce authentic Christianity...In the end, authentic faith, not human goodness, will produce the greatest well-being of a society. Change of behavior does not precede our reconciliation to God and become the cause of God's favor. It follows our coming into relationship with God and is its effect! Authentic faith always produces good works. Real Christianity – William Wilberforce*
- *The essence of the gospel does not lie in the solution of human problems, and the solution of human problems cannot be the essential task of the church. Detrich Bonhoeffer*
- *..the church is not primarily a political actor, a social transformer, or an aggressive interest group. If it acts primarily as one of these, it is identified and treated as one more contentious worldly group. Furthermore, it loses its own integrity or reason for being. The church must attend to its own core vision (the event of Jesus as the Christ). Robert Benne*

Vocation

- *A Christian cobbler should make good shoes, not just shoes with little crosses on them. M. Luther*
- *...The application of Christian principles (behavior), say to trade unionism or education, must come from Christian trade unionists and Christian schoolmasters: just as Christian literature comes from Christian novelists and dramatists – not from the bench of bishops getting together and trying to write plays and novels in their spare time. C. S. Lewis*

Equality

- *Equality is for me in the same position as clothes. It is a result of the Fall and the remedy for it. Artificial equality is necessary in the life of the State, but in the Church we strip off this disguise, we recover our real inequalities, and are thereby refreshed and quickened. C. S. Lewis*