

Letter 401

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2015-10-06

Dear Dan,

The semi-colon is an irritant to some writers, and an enigma to this one. I haven't really figured out when it ought to be used, due to my lack of formal instruction in the art of writing, so I have sort of made up my own criteria, "feeling" my way through the maze of punctuation protocols that I never learned in the college of my choice which I never attended.

Here is a report of a rather heated debate concerning the use of the semicolon:

When the Times of London reported in 1837 on two University of Paris law profs dueling with swords, the dispute wasn't over the fine points of the Napoleonic Code. It was over the point-virgule: the semicolon.

"The one who contended that the passage in question ought to be concluded by a semicolon was wounded in the arm," noted the Times.

"His adversary maintained that it should be a colon."

(Slate Magazine: http://www.slate.com/articles/arts/culturebox/2008/06/_html).

I have been thinking for some time now about how the semi-colon appears to be a combination of the comma, and the period. At the same time the Lord was interjecting His thoughts on how there is an occurrence of each, in two separate passages of Scripture, where a comma appears in the first, and a period occurs in the second.

Here is the first passage:

Isaiah 61:1-2a

*"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me,
Because the Lord has anointed Me
To preach good tidings to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives,
And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, (**comma**)*

Here is the second passage:

Luke 4:17-19

*And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah.
And when He had opened the book,
He found the place where it was written:*

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;
To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.” (period)*

Jesus stopped reading at the point in Isaiah where a comma appears in the English translation, and where the Holy Spirit later turned it into a period in the Luke passage. Taken together, they make a semi-colon (;).

“So what?”, one might ask.

Here’s what. When Jesus made the statement quoting Isaiah, He added a bit of His own commentary:

*“**Today*** this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”*

When Jesus was born, a time-clock in Heaven, similar to a chess clock, was stopped, while at the same time a **new time-clock** was activated with the name;

“... THE ACCEPTABLE YEAR OF THE LORD...”
(See Luke 4:19),

so that the “**great joy**” spoken of in Luke 2:10 can be brought to bear on the Earth for a period of time unknown to all save God. That period of time ends at the Rapture. The Rapture will mark the end of the “acceptable year” side of the chess-clock, and activate the other side.

That is the side that says:

“... THE DAY OF VENGEANCE ...”
(See Isaiah 61:2b)

The Rapture will “catch up” to Heaven all that is represented by the period at the top of the semi-colon, leaving only the comma. Then, all that is represented by the comma will again be activated, and history will move forward within that particular chronology of Scripture, referred to by Jesus as “the end”.

*The writer of Hebrews makes reference to this Word spoken of by Jesus. See Hebrews 3:7-15.

Blessings...
R. C. Theophilus