

Letter 772
Two "P"s From The Same Evil Pod
 2019-03-21

Dear **Jesus**,

Below is something I wrote recently on the Divine Council Forum, which I would like to report to You in this Letter.

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Tuesday, 19 March 2019, 10AM.

(TWO "P"s FROM THE SAME EVIL POD)

I haven't watched the video yet. But, I was very aware of the (American) Prosperity gospel when it first came through in the 1970's and into the 1980's. As I was thinking about this the other day, the Lord Holy Spirit reminded me of "another gospel", which immediately preceded this one, and which was the primary cause of the rise of the Prosperity gospel.

That movement was the Poverty Doctrine. I was raised with this Doctrine as part of my Church upbringing.

The main positions of the Poverty Doctrine were these:

1. Money was evil.
2. If you had any money, you either had to give it to the Church, or somehow pretend you didn't have it, because it was evil.
3. It was sin to have extra food in the cupboard. That showed you had extra money.
4. You had to drive a Used Car (the older the better), because driving a New Car was not a good testimony. It showed that you were successful.
5. Seeing movies or going to plays and theatrical performances was evil.
- 5a. (EXCEPTION - watching TV at home was OK, especially sports).
6. It was a sin for women to wear nice clothes, jewelry, makeup, and any other fashionable items. It showed you had too much money to spend.
- 6a. (EXCEPTION: men had to wear a suit and tie to church, as long as they weren't new.)
7. It was a sin to eat at restaurants in general, and it was a gross sin to eat at an expensive restaurant. That was a waste of money.
8. It was a sin to consume any kind of alcohol, or use tobacco.
- 8a. (NO EXCEPTIONS - not even for communion. Only unfermented grape juice could be used).
9. The more threadbare your daughter's dresses were, and the more holes your son's jeans had in them, the Holier your household was.
10. It was a sin, and a very poor testimony, to have gone to college, or even be self taught, or to be interested in any kind of science or other intellectual pursuit. But it was OK to go hunting or fishing.

The list goes on.

I know about this because until I was 13/14, this is how I grew up.

But then the Jesus People Movement emerged, and along with their honest, straightforward reading of Scripture, pretty much blew the Poverty Doctrine to hell and gone, from whence it came. They read the Bible for what it actually says: "the LOVE of money is a root of all evil".

But that sudden turn away from Poverty (which also coincided with the Reagan Administration) left a Power Vacuum, which then became filled with the Prosperity Gospel. Those who had been taught to be poor all their lives, now had an opportunity to earn wealth. But the Prosperity Doctrine became warped, and turned just as evil as the Poverty Doctrine.

Here are some things that Scripture says about wealth:

Ecclesiastes 5:19

As for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth,
and given him power to eat of it,
to receive his heritage and rejoice in his labor—this is the gift of God.

Proverbs 30:8b-9

Give me neither poverty nor riches—

Feed me with the food allotted to me;

Lest I be full and deny You,
And say, "Who is the Lord?"
Or lest I be poor and steal,
And profane the name of my God.

(This verse I believe is what establishes the validity of the Middle Class.)

James 4:13-17

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that." But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

There is another verse which I cannot remember at this time.

It speaks of the Rich Man providing aid and assistance to the King, and that we should not criticize either. (I think this verse is also attributed to King Solomon.)

As for me, I have been given the liberty to buy Lottery tickets, which I do on a regular basis. (I also have investments in the Stock Market, which I actively trade, and for which I actually get direct assistance from the Holy Spirit so that I suffer no losses. If I had been caught doing this "back then", I would have received a very harsh criticism, if not outright ex-communication).

Finally, here is another part of my own testimony concerning money - A Few Dollars Less.

Blessings...
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Blessings...

R. C. Theophilus