

PROGRESSIVISM

Proverbs 22:28; 24:21-22

INTRODUCTION

- “*Evangelical Christianity is the greatest threat to human existence today. It must be laid waste.*”
- This statement was made recently, not by an Islamic terrorist, or a communist dictator, but by Curtis Freeman, a “progressive Baptist” and professor at Duke Divinity School
- Today, those who hold to Biblical Christianity are regarded as an obstacle and threat to the advancement of humanity by an increasing number of people in positions of power
- We are drawing close to the time prophesied by the Lord Jesus, when he said, “the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.” (John 16:2)
- As Christianity is rapidly being abandoned in Western nations, it is being replaced by completely different system of belief known as *progressivism*
- Progressivism is the political philosophy that seeks to improve the human condition through social reform
- It believes that man can, by means of science, technology and political leadership, usher in a perfect world
- The world has undergone many revolutions in many different nations throughout history
- Today, we are in the midst of another revolution, not isolated to one nation, but a *global* revolution

- The old order of Biblical morality, personal liberties, private ownership, self-determination, etc, are quickly being stripped away, and replaced with a globalist technocratic autocracy that promises paradise, but ultimately makes slaves of us all
- There is a proper and right type of progress that we should pursue:
 - ✓ Individually, there should be progress in spiritual growth (Proverbs 4:18; 2 Peter 3:18)
 - ✓ Corporately in the church, there should be progress in spiritual maturity (Ephesians 4:11-15)
- But the “progress” of the progressives is not an advancement *towards* God, but *away* from him, engendering the grossest evils imaginable, and leading only to destruction, death and damnation

I. THE INSTABLE FOUNDATION OF PROGRESSIVISM

- A. The spirit behind progressivism is as old as the devil himself
 1. The spirit of this world is antichrist – hating God and rejecting his rule (1 Samuel 8:7; Psalm 2:1-3; Luke 19:14; John 15:18; Romans 1:25)
 2. Throughout history, man has continually attempted to create a society based upon rebellion against God and his laws
 3. The antediluvian world was progressivism realised to its fullest extent – universal wickedness, evil, corruption and violence (Genesis 6)

4. Nimrod oversaw the construction of the tower of Babel in defiance of God's command, and in an effort to survive any future flood God might send (Genesis 11)
 5. Nimrod's paleo-progressivism was not merely a political philosophy, but a *religious* system which overspread the earth, and continues unto this day
 6. This *Babylon* is depicted in Revelation 17 as a great whore who sits upon many waters (nations), commits fornication with the kings of the earth, and makes them drunk with the wine of her fornication, while she is drunken with the blood of the saints, and reigns over the kings of the earth
 7. "The ancient Babylon is better understood here as the archetypal head of all entrenched worldly resistance to God. Babylon is a trans-historical reality including idolatrous kingdoms as diverse as Sodom, Gomorrah, Egypt, Babylon, Tyre, Nineveh, and Rome. Babylon is an eschatological symbol of satanic deception and power; it is a divine mystery that can never be wholly reducible to empirical earthly institutions. It may be said that Babylon represents the total culture of the world apart from God, while the divine system is depicted by the New Jerusalem." (Alan Johnson)
- B. The modern progressivism began with the Enlightenment
1. The Enlightenment of the 17th Century elevated *reason* as the chief means by which humans may understand the universe and improve their condition
 2. God was then either subordinated under man's rationality or dispensed with altogether

3. Man's chief end was no longer the glory of God, but became the pursuit of knowledge, freedom, and happiness
4. This progressivism of the Enlightenment spawned the French Revolution, the rise and fall of Napoleon, the 1848 revolutions, the Franco-Prussian War, World War I, the Bolshevik Revolution, Nazism, World War II
5. Since the beginning of the 20th century, progressivism has killed hundreds of millions of people, through wars, genocides, executions, famines and abortions

C. The foundation of progressivism is the exaltation of man

1. It is based on a faulty anthropology
 - a. The Scripture states that man began as perfect and fell from that state (Ecclesiastes 7:29)
 - b. Progressivism says that man evolved from lower life forms, that "early man" was primitive and has evolved to being civilised over time
2. No longer constrained by Divine laws, progressivism has unleashed all manner of evil concepts and practices, such as eugenics, abortion, euthanasia

II. THE INHUMAN OPERATION OF PROGRESSIVISM

A. Destruction of the past

1. Like previous revolutions, today's progressives wish to remove all traces of the former order, especially those parts of the culture that acknowledge God

2. “Those who control the present, control the past and those who control the past control the future” (George Orwell)

B. The overthrow of Biblical morality

1. The sanctity of life, marriage, the family unit, gender roles, honesty, justice, etc, must be destroyed
2. Such Christian graces as compassion, empathy, mercy, hospitality, patience and love are eradicated under atheistic progressivism, debasing men to animal instincts of “natural selection”, and the “survival of the fittest”

C. The indoctrinating of children

1. Progressives seek to capture the new generation of youth by using state education to fill their minds with progressive dogma
2. They despise home-schooling and seek to make it illegal
3. They exploit the generation gap, and turn children against their parents (2 Timothy 3:1-3; Proverbs 30:11)
4. They use children as propagandists for their revolution
 - a. This modern world idolises youth and despises old age (1 Kings 12:8)
 - b. They promote the “purity” and innocence” of children, but the Scripture says that “foolishness is bound in the heart of a child” (Proverbs 22:15), and childish things must be put away (1 Corinthians 13:11)

- D. Depopulation
- E. Using art and popular culture to condition the masses
- F. The use of science and technology to corrupt humanity

- 1. Progressive scientists, unrestrained by bioethics, are meddling with the very fundamental components of humanity
- 2. Modern day establishment science, including the peer review process, is heavily biased and not objective

III. THE INFERNAL TERMINATION OF PROGRESSIVISM

- A. There are two philosophical views of history and time: cyclical and linear
 - 1. Cyclical – pagan mythologies, eastern religions
 - 2. Linear – Biblical Christianity, Islam, atheistic enlightenment philosophies such as humanism, liberalism, communism, socialism, progressivism
- 3. Under the linear view, there is a progression of events, and an ultimate destination that will finally be reached
- 4. Christians understand that God is working out his program in the world, which will culminate in the Millennial reign of Jesus Christ, and a new heaven and earth (Revelation 20-22)
- 5. The progressives also believe in a coming utopia, but without God, and which can only be reached through man's efforts to establish it

- B. The end of progressivism, along with all other antichrist ideologies, is hell
 - 1. Just as Satan sold Eve the lie that she could be as a god by disobeying God, so he has deluded the modern world to think they can achieve peace and happiness independently of God
 - 2. The way of progressivism *seems* right to them, “but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Proverbs 14:12)
 - 3. Just as God judged the progressives in Noah’s day, and at the tower of Babel, so he will pour out his wrath upon the modern-day progressives
 - 4. “The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.” (Psalm 9:17)
 - 5. In Daniel 2, the kingdoms of this world are represented by an image of various metals, supported by a weak foundation of iron mixed with clay
 - 6. In due time, the stone, representing Christ’s kingdom, will utterly break these worldly kingdoms and grind them to powder
 - 7. During the tribulation period, God will inflict the most unspeakable plagues upon the unrepentant rebels
 - 8. Then, at the Second Coming of Christ, he will smite the nations, and tread the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God (Revelation 14:20; 19:15; Psalm 2:9)
 - 9. Christ will sit on his judgment throne and cast those progressive nations into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41)

CONCLUSION

1. The spirit of progressivism is the spirit of Babylon
2. It is “the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience” (Ephesians 2:2)
3. As we see the very foundations of our once relatively stable and equitable society crumble, we ask with David, “If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?” (Psalm 11:3)
4. The answer is provided in the verses that follow: the LORD remains on his throne, he beholds the wicked and will judge them for their evil, but his love and favour is upon the upright (Psalm 11:4-7)
5. There are only two foundations upon which we may build our lives: the shifting sands of this present world; or the immovable rock of Jesus Christ (Matthew 7:24-27)
6. What is the foundation of your life?
7. While we understand that evil will increase as the end of the age draws near (2 Timothy 3:13), we must not be defeatist
8. We are called to fight for righteousness till our dying breath
9. And as we do this, pray “that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith” (2 Thessalonians 3:2)