

Evolution vs. Creation

Lesson Three

Technology and Socialism: The New Soteriology

3/12/2006

- Opening discussion questions:
 - Chuck Colson quote: the belief that we can save ourselves through science
 - how can we understand science and technology from a moral perspective?
 - where do people put their trust today?
- Science has become the new religion in America
 - if science is the source of all truth, science must also be the solution to every problem
 - since the doctrine of evolution has stripped all meaning from life, the only “hope” that remains is technological and sociological progress
 - “Bayer: Science for a Better Life”
 - “WebMD: Better Information. Better Health.”
- The quest for immortality now lies in the hands of science
 - *medical technology*: advances in medicine will make it possible to cure many diseases
 - *cloning technology*: people may someday use clones for the purpose of growing replacement parts that match perfectly
 - *genetic technology*: as we unravel the genetic code, it will soon be possible to identify and “switch off” the aging gene
 - *computer technology*: since people are just complex computers, in the future we should have the ability to “download” consciousness to a computer that never dies
 - *nanotechnology*: people are paying tens of thousands of dollars to have their heads cryogenically frozen in the hope that someday microscopic machines will be able to repair their damaged tissues (cloning technology provides the new body)
 - *psychology*: the explanation for deviant behavior lies deep in the unconscious and is strongly influenced by environment (ergo, right environment, right behavior)
- If the quest for immortality is in the hands of science, then the quest for social order is in the hands of the state
 - state education: how are we doing?
 - ignorance of history (doomed to repeat mistakes)
 - illiteracy (can’t even read & write)
 - lost ability for critical thinking, so state does the thinking for you
 - emphasis on self-esteem rather than achievement
 - role of entertainment in the downward spiral
 - mindless entertainment dulls the painful throb of existentialism
 - constant exposure to evil dulls one’s conscience
 - infotainment tells you *what* to think and how to *feel*

- law and liberty: why do we need more laws?
 - laws provide social boundaries
 - an inherently immoral society cannot govern itself
- crime and punishment: for some reason, prison doesn't seem to bring about a change in behavior (recidivism)
- socialism: the nanny state
 - people are no longer self-reliant (e.g., savings rate now less than zero)
 - epidemic of divorce – the court becomes part of the family
 - redefinition of gender roles & the traditional family
 - if people aren't willing to take care of themselves, who will?
 - in the politically correct world, economic inequality is the last great injustice
 - rich people don't deserve to keep their money and property
 - poor people deserve something they didn't work for
 - these dual attitudes spell the doom of a free market economy – there is no longer an incentive for people to work
 - poverty is cured by the redistribution of wealth
 - government (tax and give)
 - private sector (ambulance chasing lawyers)
- the problem in all of these areas is that underlying spiritual problems are not being addressed – spiritual problems can only be solved with a spiritual solution
- What does the Bible have to say about reliance on technology?
 - Ex 14:15 – destruction of Pharaoh's horses and chariots (cf. Ps 76:6)
 - Deut 20:1 – don't be afraid of horses and chariots
 - Josh 11:1-6 – don't be afraid of horses and chariots
 - Judg 7 – Gideon's army
 - 2 Sam 24 – David takes a census
 - Ps 33:17-22 – the horse cannot save; the Lord is our strength and shield
 - Prov 3:5-6 – don't rely on your own understanding
 - Prov 11:28 – don't trust in riches
 - Prov 14:12 – there is a way that seems right to a man
 - Prov 21:31 – the horse is made ready but victory is with the Lord
 - Ecc 9:11 – race not to the swift or battle to the strong
 - Is 31:1 – woe to those who rely on chariots rather than God
 - Zeph 1:14-18 – silver and gold will not save you
 - 1 Tim 6:17 – don't put your hope in wealth
- What does the Bible have to say about reliance on the state?
 - Deut 4:9-10 – teach your children and grandchildren
 - Deut 11:19 – teach these things at all times
 - Prov 1:8 – listen to the teaching of your mother and father
 - Prov 14:23 – hard work leads to profit, talk leads to poverty
 - Prov 22:6 – train a child in the way he should go

- Prov 22:15 – discipline your children
- Prov 27:23-27 – pay attention to your flocks
- Matt 6:19-21 – don't store up treasures on earth
- Rom 13:1-7 – obey the civil magistrate; he is there for your protection
- Eph 4:28 – stop stealing and get to work; share with those in need
- Eph 6:4 – bring up your children in the training and instruction of the Lord
- 1 Thess 2:11 – as a father deals with his children
- 2 Thess 3:10 – if a man won't work, let him starve
- 1 Tim 5:3-4, 8, 16 – care for the members of your own family
- 1 Pet 2:13-17 – respect and submit to your rulers