

“Cancel Culture”

Joe Slater

How would you like to be remembered only for the worst things you ever did? It doesn't matter that you changed your mind and your behavior later. Who cares if you did good things too? We'll just bypass all that and erase you from existence!

The current “Cancel Culture” craze has gone from the sublime to the ridiculous. From Elmer Fudd to famous historical figures, vilification and removal from public view have become the order of the day. Is this really the way to deal with things we find offensive?

I'm thankful God doesn't subscribe to Cancel Culture. If He did, we would know nothing of people like Noah (remember, he got drunk and exposed himself shamefully). Abraham would be written off as nothing but a deceiver (Pharaoh didn't appreciate it when Abraham said Sarah was his sister). Who can forget David's adultery and murder? Should we remove his psalms from our Bible? And then there's Peter, who denied three times that he even knew Jesus!

One of many great things about the Bible is that it portrays its heroes “warts and all.” We ought to understand Noah's drunkenness, Abraham's deceit, David's adultery and murder, and Peter's panic. We ought to learn from these things, as well as from those men's great demonstrations of faith. Wisdom would dictate the same course for historical figures with less than stellar behaviors.

I hope you never find out about the evil things I've done and said. You might want to cancel me! As to hitting the panic button over Elmer Fudd's use of a gun to hunt that wascally wabbit, I'll leave you to use your boundless wisdom to work that out!

OUR CHOICES

Decisions have tremendous implications for our lives. I read of a young man who was planning a medical career. One evening he had to decide whether to study or attend a ball game. He attended the game, and the next day made a low grade on the test. That low grade kept him out of medical school and made it necessary for him to change his plans for the future.

What seems to be an innocent choice may be fraught with grave consequences. Lot made what seemed to be an innocent choice. Strife arose between his herdsmen and those of his kinsman, Abram. To avoid even more serious problems, Abram thought it best for them to separate. He gave Lot the privilege of choosing whatever land he desired. Lot chose the plain of Jordan and journeyed east. He “*pitched his tent toward Sodom*” (Genesis 13:12). What appeared an innocent choice led to disaster. In Sodom his righteous soul was vexed, and he lost a part of his family. Even in fleeing, the tragedy continued. Lot's wife looked back and became a pillar of salt. Afterward his daughters, contaminated by the immorality of that wicked place, made their father drunk and conceived children by him. Moses, in Genesis 18-19, shows us the real ugliness of this innocent but unwise decision.

But there are better examples in God's book. “*By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to share ill treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season*” (Hebrews 11:24, 25). Moses chose God and His people, and became God's great leader and lawgiver. As long as the world stands, his influence for good will abide.

May God bless us in our decisions. These are very important to the worth of our own lives and the lives of those around us. Undergirded by good moral principles and with our attention focused on things eternal, we can make decisions which are sound and good.

--Glen Walton (Amarillo, TX) via *Old Paths*

God Is Judge

“And the heavens declare His righteousness, for God Himself is judge” (Psalm 50:6 NASB).

I have served on several juries (nothing big thankfully). Still, having to make a judgment based on evidence, body language, and even the skill of the prosecutor and defender is not easy. It is difficult since the defendant's real motive is unknown. It is a most serious process to decide if a person is guilty or not guilty.

God is called the righteous Judge in II Timothy 4:8. The psalmist tells us that God knows our thoughts; He knows what we are going to say before we say it, He knows where we go, all our actions are seen by Him, and even darkness cannot hide us from Him (Psalm 139).

When God passes judgment, it is perfect. He knows what was done, what was the attitude, and why. The wool cannot be pulled over His eyes, and persuasive speech will not fool Him.

The guilty one will be punished, and no innocent one will suffer unjustly. God's judgments are perfect. We are not left in the dark, for God has revealed the standards by which judgment is measured. The standards are in the Word and shown by Jesus as He dwelt among mankind.

The standards begin with believing in God, having a submissive obedient attitude, loving God totally, loving our neighbor with a self-sacrificing zeal that seeks their good, and bringing glory to God by our lives as we strive to follow His commandments.

--Ed Wittlif (Denver, CO)