

View

New Quarter Begins
Today

Where No Politician Has Ever Gone

BY W. FRANK WALTON

"Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.' Then Pilate said to him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world — to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.' Pilate said to him, 'What is truth?'" (John 18:36-38 ESV).

Pilate, the Roman governing politician, was flummoxed in trying to figure out the seditious charges against Jesus. Christ did not come as a political ruler, as the Jews had hoped and the Romans feared. Jesus came as a spiritual king to rule the hearts of men, by the force of eternal truth, and to enter into healing men's souls. Here, no mere politician can ever enter.

Lee Atwater was a brilliant, tough political campaign manager for the Republican Party during the 1980's. In 1990, Atwater was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor. Just before he died at age 40, he had a religious conversion and sent several apologies to political opponents that had unfairly attacked.

Atwater apologized to a South Carolina Senate opponent: "my illness has taught me something about the nature of humanity, love, brotherhood and relationships that I never understood, and probably never would have." He then wrote in Life Magazine, "My illness helped me to see that what was missing in society is what was missing in me: a little heart, a lot of brotherhood. The 80s were about acquiring... I know. I acquired more wealth, power, and prestige than most. But you can acquire all you want and still feel empty. What power wouldn't I trade for a little more time with my family? It took a deadly illness to put me eye to eye with that truth, but it is a truth that the country, caught up in its ruthless ambitions and moral decay, can learn... I don't know who will lead us...but they must be made to speak to this spiritual vacuum at the heart of American society, this tumor of the soul."

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Christians, in a democratic republic, certainly have a right, unavailable in the first century, to speak up for what is morally upright, as salt and light for God (Matt 5:13-16). Christians should vote for candidates whose values and proposals are most consistent with Biblical principles (Rom 13:1-4, Prov 14:34). (Yet, realize you will not find one who agrees with you on every point.)

However, there is no college course in political science that can heal the "tumor of the soul." Politics uses human wisdom, from various sources including the Bible, to pragmatically deal with civil affairs. What heals the immortal soul is not adjudicated by human wisdom in the political forum as public policy.

To heal the sinful "tumor of the soul," man needs transcendent truth from the Creator of souls. C. S. Lewis observed, "God made the human machine to run on Himself." Each individual's soul is saved or lost by whether or not he or she listens to the truth of Jesus and

accepts it by obedient faith (Heb 5:9). This cannot be imposed by politicians or secular government, but only by personal moral suasion.

Society, as it was in the first century, is changed within, one person at a time, as a spiritual byproduct of the leavening power of the gospel. The truth of Jesus makes a better society simply by making better, moral people in converting them to "King Jesus" (Acts 17:7). This is not a government program. This is the mission of Christ's church, to know Him and make Him known (1 Tim 3:15, Eph 3:10). The kingdom of heaven will outlast all the kingdoms of men (Dan 2:44). Jesus rules the soul where no politician can enter (1 Pet 3:15).

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Think About It

A Cappella Music

While some of our schools and younger preachers are touting instruments in worship, there is a national trend going on to return to a cappella music in worship. Here is some of what is happening.

- John Price, a leading Baptist minister, has excluded instruments from his church's worship and has written a book, *Old Light on New Worship*, in which he calls churches to reconsider what they are doing in worship.
- The Southern Baptist Church's leadership has urged all of its congregations to wean themselves away from instruments at their Sunday evening services.
- One of the biggest attractions in Branson, MO, right now is "Six," six brothers singing strictly a cappella.
- The June 5, 2008 issue of *U.S. News and World Report* devotes a page to the phenomenon on college campuses of a cappella music, which has become a huge hit. There are now more than 1,200 a cappella groups on campuses nationwide.

VIA THE SEARCH LIGHT

Do Barbers Exist?

A man went to a barbershop to have his hair cut and his beard trimmed.



As the barber began to work, they talked about various subjects. When they eventually touched on the subject of God, the barber said: "I don't believe that God exists." "Why do you say that?" asked the

customer.

"Well, you just have to go out in the street to realize that God doesn't exist. Tell me, if God exists, would there be so many sick people? Would there be abandoned children? If God existed, there would be neither suffering nor pain. I can't imagine loving a God who would allow all of these things."

The customer thought for a moment, but didn't respond because he didn't want to start an argument. The barber finished his job and the

customer left the shop. Just after he left the barbershop, he saw a man in the street with long, stringy, dirty hair and an untrimmed beard.

The customer turned back and entered the barber shop again and he said to the barber: "You know what? Barbers do not exist."

"How can you say that?" asked the surprised barber. "I am here, and I am a barber. And I just cut your hair!"

"No!" the customer exclaimed.

"Barbers don't exist because if they did, there would be no people with dirty long hair and untrimmed beards, like that man outside."

"Well, barbers DO exist but people do not come to me."

"Exactly!" affirmed the customer. "That's the point! God DOES exist, but people don't go to Him and do not look for Him."

Remember this, too: "Some people can't find God for the same reason the thief can't find a policeman."

DP

If you don't know where you are going, how will you know when you get there?

BY DUARDE GAMBLE

For man to be counted, be numbered, i.e; in this world, on this planet, bound to, and limited by time and the elements of this atmosphere, this *terra firma*: He must consider the truth of his existence. And further, to reason! That there must be a Greater Power than man can muster to create the whole of the objects that do exist, and living matter.

For a human being, responsible for self and endowed with self-sustaining intellect to elevate himself above the animal and plant life, he must consider from whence he came and where he will go, and to reasonably believe that he has the ability if he chooses to direct his own destiny, i. e; Believe! Believe in God; believe in self; believe in people; which by definition gives faith and hope; without which the spirit dies; or conversely exist day by day by instinct, which in essence is merely self-preservation, devoid of hope or faith in a tomorrow.

An on-going self appraisal must conclude that once you adjust your attitude to accept a truth, i.e; the fact that it is possible to study and search and find how to live a full and rewarding life and further, after finding this truth, to discipline and teach yourself to want to do

those things which will enable you to live a full and rewarding life.

Now one of the characteristics you must possess either acquired or endowed is that you

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must be your own person, and by that I mean each one of us is unique; and you must have the courage to let that uniqueness flourish. You may be laughed at and jostled all over the playing field, but please know that this is only proof that you are making a difference. And be

aware of how boring and demeaning it is to merely follow the crowd, or be identified only with what's "in for the season."

There needs to be a BALANCE in our life. Realizing that we are mortal which literally limits the area of our existence; however through God's revelation, the Bible, we can reach out and touch and be touched by the divine. For man to be at peace, with maximum productivity, he must develop the potential within to blend his mortal being with that divine Spirit.