

*From Where I Sit . . .*

## **“WHAT IF CHRIST HAD NOT COME”**

There are many obvious answers to this question: We wouldn't have redemption – or the church. We would still be living under the Law of Moses. These are “theological” answers, and they are indeed very important for us, however I want us to think very practically about this question. What a difference his coming has made in MY life!!!

Instead of having the America that you and I know, **at best** this would be a nation no more than Israel itself is today—and more likely an altogether anti-godly nation. It was the rise of religion in Christ, not Israel, that brought the attitude of freedom of religious expression to our shores. People who had been persecuted for centuries for religious beliefs came here for this freedom. I wish today's dissenters who are so determined to silence the religious voice in our country would remember that truth. It was the very religious foundation which they oppose that made this the great nation that it is and that has provided these people with the opportunity to express opposing views. Anti-godly nations tend to get rid of distractors through assassination (not of character, but of the very life itself)

If Christ had not come what kind of world would this world be? Certainly we would not have the chart or compass that helps us measure our sense of fundamental values. We would see some shocking changes, and believe me it's bad enough even with the Christian influence. Without these values serving as the conscience of a “moral majority” within our country look at some basic concepts that would be open to man's own inclinations:

Good homes are the fences that God has put around the nation. The concept of marriage, monogamy, faithfulness to our spouse all come from God. Christ has given us this standard by which to look at the divorce dilemma: “***From the beginning it hath not been so.***”

The standard of loving ones' neighbor even as we love ourselves. The very concept that I am my brother's keeper and that I should do unto others as I would have them do unto me are principles the Lord taught, not man.

Our measuring stick for moral purity would be nonexistent. Every man would do what was right in his own eyes. Situation ethicists already believe this is the way to go. It has fed open infidelity, homosexuality, sexually transmitted diseases, and even survival of the “fittest” which allows for elimination of weak links in humanity. Ethnic purging fed Hitler, and has reoccurred in several countries since his time. People without God are not very nice to each other.

We would not understand mercy and grace. Indeed these belong in the first paragraph as theological concepts, but they also belong in the very down to earth practical side as well. Jesus taught us how to be merciful; how to forgive seventy times 7; how to give expecting nothing in return. He taught us to love even the unlovely and the unlovable. Man's natural instincts don't do this very well.

In short, I would not be a very nice person if Jesus had not influenced the world I live in and if He had not changed my life personally : Who I married; How we raised our children; How we entertained ourselves; What my priorities and commitments are. If we didn't have Jesus, we'd be just as the people of Israel were: An embarrassment to God; Living after the flesh; Polygamous in marriage; Idolatrous in heart. It's too frightening to think of. “***Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift***” (2 Corinthians 9:15).

**. . . . Terry Broome**

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