Faith Matters



Daily Devotions: Rootless Religion

AUGUST 02ND 2013 BY BETH FARRAH

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Submitted by Beth Farrah, SMT Writer

These things you have done and I kept silence; you thought that I was just like you. PSALM 50:21

I read of a Christian leader who was boarding a small commuter plane for a short flight out of Nashville. Moments after he settled in, a flight attendant's voice came on the loudspeaker and said, "When the pilot steps onto the plane, I want you to clap for him. He just found out his fiancée is expecting twins." When the captain appeared, the passengers erupted into a raucous ovation. He said that he sat there thinking, *I can't believe it*. We're applauding immorality.

This is in a country where reliable research tells us that nearly 85 percent profess to have some kind of religious convictions, and 90 percent believe there is a God. But it's also a country where a solid majority personalizes religion with little regard for the need to submit themselves to any kind of accountability or authority. In essence, everyone does what is right in their eyes (see Judges 17:6).

We've become a nation made up of very small humans playing a big, big God. As a result, many people treat religion more like a hobby. It's a free-flowing, do-as-you-please, spiritual smorgasbord where they pick and choose what they want, when they want it. A little dab of truth here, a little dab there, but never too much truth, as someone has said,

"God created man in His own image; then man returned the favor."

It is time for us as Christians to clean up our own house and heart, to let the Bible's truth become not just our standard for belief but also our standard of behavior, both personally and in our homes and families. Then we must take it a step further, calling those around us to the good news of Jesus Christ and exhorting those who know Him to internalize, apply and proclaim His life-giving message of hope, truth, and light.

The future of your family and our nation depends on it.

Try to define a practical step you could take to influence your sphere for Christ. What is one need you could embrace as your spiritual calling? What is another aspect of your life that needs to be "cleaned up"?

Humble yourselves before the face of God, and ask Him for the spiritual reformation of your family and our country during your time of prayer.

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