

T.E.A.M. VOICE

Issue #1-2024

HAPPY NEW YEAR



What Does God Care Most About?

What does God most care about?

The answer is: good and evil, i.e., how we human beings treat each other.

Here are some proofs from the Bible, the book that gave us God:

1. The reason the Bible gives for why God brought the flood that destroyed the world (saving only Noah and his family) is that humans were evil. Virtually every ancient society had a flood story.
2. In every flood story, the gods saved an individual and a mate. The only reason God saved Noah was that he was “a righteous man in his generations.” Again, the sole concern in the Bible’s flood story is moral.
3. God is repeatedly described as a moral being. One example: “The Lord your God is... mighty and awesome, not partial and takes no bribe, executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and loves the stranger, providing them with food and clothing” (Deuteronomy).
4. The fundamental human division in the Hebrew Bible is not between Jew and non-Jew but between good and bad people. That is why the Hebrew Bible describes so many non-Jews as good — in addition to Noah, the daughter of Pharaoh; Jethro, a Midianite priest; Caleb (whose ethnicity is not Hebrew but Kennizite); Rahab, the Canaanite prostitute who hid the Hebrew spies; and Ruth the Moabite (who becomes the ancestor of the Messiah) — and so often criticizes the Jews for their bad

behavior. No holy work is so critical of the people of that holy work's religion as the Hebrew Bible is of the Hebrews. Again, that is because God is preoccupied with moral differences, not with differences of ethnicity or even of religion. As Viktor Frankl wrote in his seminal book, "Man's Search for Meaning," there are only two races: the decent and the indecent.

5. The Hebrew Bible — and therefore God — is also preoccupied with moral treatment of animals. Most people do not realize that treatment of animals is included in the Ten Commandments. Not only must one's animals be allowed to rest every week on the Sabbath, but there are also laws in the Torah (the Five Books of Moses) that prohibit muzzling animals while they work in the fields, so that they are free to eat while they work; yoking animals of two different species (and therefore having different gaits and sizes) to the same plow; and eating the limb of a living animal.

6. While slavery was not outright banned, 3,000 years ago the Torah prohibited returning a slave to his master and kidnapping people to sell them as slaves, that alone should have made Bible-believer's abolitionists, and sentenced a master who murdered his slave to death (that is what the punishment — "avenged" — most likely meant).

7. The Prophets (the Hebrew word means "spokesmen" — God's spokesmen) were preoccupied with moral behavior.

8. God is repeatedly depicted as more concerned with moral behavior than with anything else: "God has told you, O humans, what is good and what the Lord demands of you: Only to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God" (Micah). "Hate evil and love good and establish justice" (Amos). "Those of you who love God must hate evil" (Psalms).

If Rabbis, priests, and ministers are to be true to the Bible, they need to emphasize that what God demands most from their co-religionists is good behavior. That is not only obvious from the Hebrew Bible, but from the New Testament as well. Yes, the New Testament teaches that there is no salvation without right faith (i.e., faith in Christ). But there is no right faith without right behavior. As James put it, "Faith without works is dead." And as Jesus, quoted in Matthew, put it, "In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."

Goodness will not survive the death of Judeo-Christian values. Just look at the moral chaos in large parts of secular America today. The most secular institutions of our society — the universities — have become moral and intellectual wastelands.

God without concern with goodness leads to evil. And so does concern with goodness without God.

Edited from Dennis Prager's column posted on Townhall.com. 9/19/23

Always looking up,
George Tamburino (NY)

PRIDE

These are (mostly) excerpts from CS Lewis book Mere Christianity.

The vice I am talking about is pride or self-conceit and the virtue opposite that in Christian morals is called humility. The essential vice, the utmost evil, is pride. Unchastity, anger, greed, drunkenness, etc., are mere flea bites in comparison. It was through pride that the devil became the devil. Pride leads to every other vice. It is the complete anti God state of mind.

In fact, if you want to find out how proud you are the easiest way is to ask yourself, ‘How much do I dislike it when other people snub me, or refuse to take any notice of me, or patronize me, or show off?’ Each person's pride is in competition with everyone else's pride. Pride is essentially competitive. It is competitive by its very nature. Pride gets no pleasure out of having something, only out of having more of it than the next man. We say that people are proud of being rich, or clever, or good looking, but they are not. They are proud of being richer, or cleverer, or better looking than others.

It is the comparison that makes you proud, the pleasure of being above the rest. Greed may drive men into competition if there is not enough to go around but the proud man, even when he has got more than he can possibly use, will try to get still more just to assert his power. Greed will certainly make a man want money, for the sake of a better house, better holidays, better things to eat and drink. But only up to a point. What is it that makes a man with a salary that will give him all the luxuries that any man can really enjoy want to get more? It is pride, the wish to get richer than some other rich man, and still more the wish for power for of course power is what pride really enjoys.

Pride has been the chief cause of misery in every nation and every family since the world began. Pride also means enmity (the state of feeling or being hostile to someone or something) and not only between man and man, but enmity against God.

With God you come up against something that is in every respect immeasurably superior to yourself. Unless you know God as that, and therefore know yourself as nothing in comparison, you do not know God at all. A proud man is always looking down on people and if you are looking down all the time you cannot see something that is above you.

- 1. Proverbs 8:13 NASB The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; Pride, arrogance, the evil way, And the perverted mouth, I hate.*
- 2. Proverbs 11:2 NASB When pride comes, then comes dishonor; But with the humble there is wisdom.*
- 3. Proverbs 16:18 NASB Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before stumbling.*
- 4. Proverbs 21:24 NASB “Proud,” “Arrogant,” “Scoffer,” are his names, One who acts with insolent pride.*
- 5. Proverbs 29:23 NASB A person's pride will bring him low, But a humble spirit will obtain honor.*

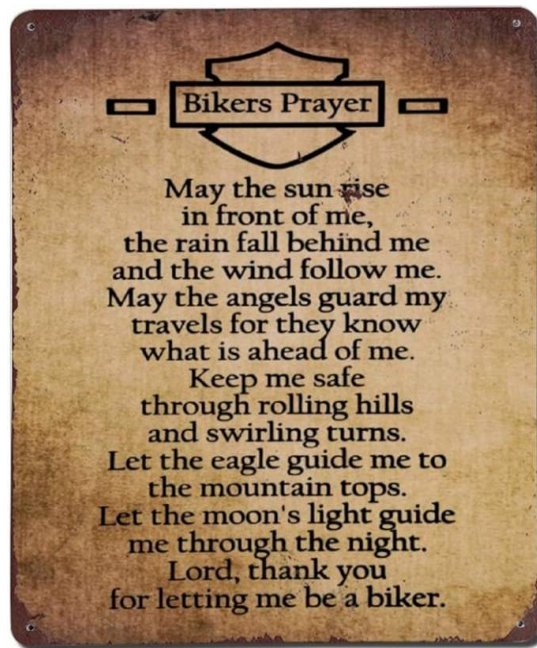
On the other hand, pleasure in being praised is not pride. The child who was patted on the back for doing a lesson well, the woman whose beauty is praised by her lover, the saved soul to whom Christ says well done, are pleased and ought to be. For here the pleasure lies not in what you are but in the fact that you have pleased someone you rightly wanted to please. The trouble begins when you pass from thinking good, I have pleased them, to thinking, what a fine person I must be to have done it.

If you think you are not proud, you might be very proud indeed.

Always looking up,
George Tamburino (NY)

EDITORS NOTE

We have started a new year, it is now 2024. YEAH! New opportunities, new hope. We can leave all the bad stuff of last year behind us and start fresh. What a great feeling. Every year Tom and I make new years resolutions. Both of us always say we are going to lose weight and get fit. Part of my resolution is to pray and read the Bible every day. Most days everyone is so busy that they don't take time out for these things and behold, it's a new year again. God washes away our sins and provides us an opportunity for a new beginning as soon as we ask him into our heart. It doesn't have to be a new year. We can start right now where we're at. Isaiah 43:19 (KJV) "Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert." Nothing is too hard for the Lord. Just give him an opportunity.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Covered Bridge Benefit Ride

Quentin Dubose, Leukemia & Riley Shepherd, Accident



May 4, 2024 in Preble County

Eaton 1st Church-
Nazarene

201 E, Lexington Rd.
Eaton OH

**AMA
Sanctioned
Event**



**Door
Prizes**

Sponsored by:

"The Believers T.E.A.M." of Dayton, Ohio

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January 2024 Voice Newsletter Report December 30, 2023

Years of Service for December

None to Report

January Birthdays

Jeanne	McClincy	1/8
Robert	Wolf Sr.	1/9
Bradley	Cole	1/19
Deb	Bier	1/19
Ralph	Bainbridge	1/23
Fiona Wehmeyer	Modricker	1/23
Joan	Philpott	1/26
Robert	Wolf Jr.	1/26

January Anniversaries

Raymond	Stanzak	1/10
Ernest and Brenda	Collins	1/25

New members for December

None to Report

God Bless

Respectfully Submitted By:

Michael Fields

National Membership Secretary

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Thank you Billie Cole
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