

The Bulwark

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HOW “RETRO” IS “RETRO”?

There is nothing glamorous or remotely special about ordering lunch while speaking to a box situation in a sign or on top of a pole. We’ve all done that. While doing so a few weeks ago, after placing the order I pulled forward, powered down the window and at roughly the same time the young attendant slid open the serving window at the restaurant. He heard the music I was listening and started bopping his head to the music I had on in the car. I handed him the money for the food, he handed over the bag containing the food while still swiveling his head like a lazy-susan. In place of “thank you” he gave me a compliment (I think), “wow, man you’re so retro...what station are you listening to?” I told him and then went on my way, thinking that in the parlance of the day it’s “hip” to be “retro”.

Imagine that that, being called “retro”? All because I was listening to an old blues song on the radio. I have been listening to “blues masters” since I was teen-ager. Now in some reverse universe, I am actually “jiggy wit’ it” (if that is still a thing) and apparently I even know it. The word “retro” basically carries the definition of pertaining to the past; vintage, old school. Never really thought about it, but I guess I am “retro”, however, I never got the memo informing me it was now in vogue to be looking to the past.

When it comes to matters dealing with one’s relationship with God, it would behoove all to be “retro”. Sadly, it seems as the vast majority of people have opted not to be “retro”, but rather to be found embracing things that are quite contrary to what is seen in the Scriptures. Spiritually speaking one must be looking backward’ back to the ancient pathway. “Stand by the ways and see and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; and you shall find rest for your soul. But they said, ‘we will not walk in it’” (Jeremiah 6:16)

In the first century it was understood that there was THE WAY. A singular pathway. A pathway that had been blazed by Jesus (see Hebrews 12:2). He is THE CHRIST. As such He openly acknowledged that He

is THE WAY, THE TRUTH and THE LIFE. Those that followed Him in the first century were walking step by step on the pathway that He blazed. It only stands to reason that if we truly want to realize the goal that we will follow the singular pathway that He left. Which can only be found in the New Testament. It is plain and simple and can be easily followed. It is a pattern and plan which was taught, defended and practiced by the members of the church in the first century. We would do well to follow step by step as well. Spiritually “retro”.



Peter, in his second epistle writes, “*And so we have the prophetic word made sure, to which you do well to pay attention as a to a lamp shining in a dark place.*” (1:19) Couple that with what Jesus pointed out in the Sermon on the Mount, “*For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it.*” (Matthew 7:14) All of which harkens back to Jeremiah 6:16 and

even to Joshua 1:7-8 where the children of Israel were challenged to neither turn to the left or to the right, but to stay the course. For only then would they find success.

Paul, wrote powerfully direct in all his epistles, but perhaps more so to the Galatians. He opens up with his thoughts to them centered on the need to not depart from the proven path. Embracing concepts and directives set up by others. “*I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you, and want to distort the gospel of Christ.*” (1:6-7) Take some time and read over verses six through twelve of Galatians chapter one and embrace fully what Paul is setting forth.

“*Whoever speaks, let him speak as it were the utterances of God...*” (1Peter 4:11) Indeed, we today, spiritually speaking look back in order to press ever forward : our eyes locked in on Christ. If that means being “retro”, then “retro” it is... (wbe)