

January 2022

Dear :

What would make our work futile and, consequently, your investment in our work a matter of poor stewardship?

The answer, I submit, is in our knowledge of the Trinity, and this month I want to explain how that knowledge relates to our upcoming legislative work and why your investment in that work is a good one.

I know my answer might sound crazy, but the Apostle Paul tells us that it is in “the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ” that we will find “hidden **all** the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Colossians 2:1-2).

Why Does this Obtuse Answer Provide the Right Test?

To understand how the verse in Colossians relates to the question I asked, it must be read in conjunction with what the Apostle Paul told believers in the sensuous cesspool of Corinth, a description befitting our whole country.

First, he says, “**no other foundation** can anyone lay than that which is laid, **which is Jesus Christ**” (1 Corinthians 3:11). Then he says, “each one’s work . . . will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is” (v. 13). Finally, he says that work not rightly built on that foundation will be “burned up;” it will have no enduring value in God’s sight.

This is what the foregoing necessarily means: If FACT’s work does not represent a right and true application of the true wisdom and knowledge that can only be derived from a right understanding of what is communicated to us in the Triune nature of God, then its work is futile. That means your investment in our work is futile.

My Messed-Up Worldview and the “Value Test” It Produced

Most of my life I limited the application of these verses to the issue of salvation, but this was the result of a dualistic, compartmentalized worldview. Understanding who God is, in His Triune nature, is the foundation upon which we are to *understand everything*.

Sadly, when it comes to getting good laws enacted, framing laws to pass constitutional muster, and defending them before the U.S. Supreme Court a compartmentalized, dualistic worldview will tend to ask, “What will work? What will help me ‘win’?”

God has helped me see that resident in this methodology is a belief that the disposition of the law in question is the purpose for which one labors in the field of politics, law, and government. However, God would call that belief the futile wisdom of the world.

Why a “Winning” Philosophy is Futile

First, according to Habakkuk 2:13-14, God wants the earth to be “filled with the knowledge of the glory of God,” so the prophet also tells us that nation-building and even our labor for necessities (“fire,” it says) are futile if not done for that purpose.

Second, *God’s purpose* can only be brought to pass as God creates for Himself a people who have come to “the knowledge of the glory of God” (2 Corinthians 4:6) and proceed to “fill and subdue the earth” (Genesis 1:28). *The only reason Jesus Christ took on human flesh, died, and was raised again was to create “one new man” (Ephesians 2:15) for Himself (Titus 2:14), without spot, wrinkle, or blemish (Ephesians 5:27,) with whom He would forever share the new heavens and earth (Ephesians 1:10, Revelation 21:2).*

What Does Building the Right Way Look Like?

I submit it looks like the Marital Contract Recording Act, Senate Bill 562/House Bill 233. That is what we will be working on during the legislative session that starts this month.

I have enclosed the “messaging memo” we will give to legislators. You can see the foundation on which it rests. It essentially asks legislators, the majority of whom profess to be Christians, “What do you believe about God?” We will appeal to their conscience before God (2 Corinthians 4:2)

Will this approach to legislators “work” politically to get the bill enacted? I don’t know, but if God chooses instead to use our work on the bill to build up or edify His Church

(Ephesians 4:12) and expose the wicked (Ephesians 5:11), then our work will endure.

Why I Shared This

The Apostle Paul said that without a right knowledge of who God has revealed Himself to be and what that means for **all** that He has done – *from original creation to re-creation* – then others can “deceive” us “with persuasive words” (Colossians 2:4).

I can be deceived into thinking that a “political victory” means FACT has done something of eternal value.

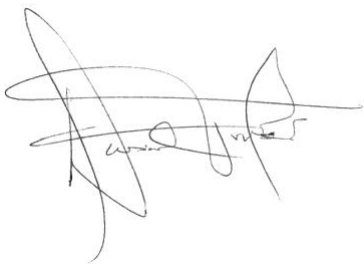
And I can use persuasive words about those victories to deceive you into thinking that your investment in our work is of eternal value.

Operating FACT like that is just a variation of the “what works” worldview – what do people want that raises money.

Thank you for your faithful and, hopefully, ongoing investment in our work. *We depend on God to bring to us those like you whose goal is to invest in the eternal within the sphere of law and government, not just what works in the present politically charged moment.*

Together, let us press forward to build in the spheres of law and government on a foundation that will ensure our partnership is not futile.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Fowler', with a large, sweeping flourish above the name.

David Fowler

P.S. Would you use the enclosed Legislator Messaging Memo to contact your state Representative and Senator to urge him or her to support Senate Bill 562/House Bill 233? You can find your legislators contact information at www.capitol.tn.gov. Go to the right side of the page and click on “Find My Legislators.” Your voice will be important.

