The Fellowship Room

Words of Wisdom by John T Polk II For WECO FM 101.3 and The Fellowship Room

All Scriptures and comments are based on the New King James Version, unless otherwise noted.

5-30-2016 An Annual Memorial

Memorial Day started as Decoration Day for the graves of those who died in the War Between The States. It became a federal holiday in 1971. Remembering the war dead each year should remind us how precious is our national Freedom. Have you noticed, there is no "memorial day" for enemies? David reminded Israel:

O enemy, destructions are finished forever! And you have destroyed cities; Even their memory has perished (Psalm 9:6).

It has become devoted to baseball games, racing, grilling, and traveling. For Christians, the Lord's Supper is to "proclaim the Lord's death till He comes" (1 Corinthians 11:26) every "first day of the week" (Acts 20:7), which keeps it fresh! We don't decorate Christ's grave, we celebrate His victory, and ours:

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world (1 John 5:4).

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5-31-2016 Animal Rights or Humans Wrong?

A righteous man regards the life of his animal, But the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel (**Proverbs 12:10**).

God wants us to be kind to our working animals.

You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain (**Deuteronomy 25:4**).

John Deere tractors may run on ethanol (or corn!). But:

God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them (**Genesis 1:27**).

Humans, not animals, are made in the image of God. Jesus said God feeds birds, then asked,

"Of how much more value are you than the birds?" (Luke 12:24).

Though a gorilla protected the child who fell into his Cincinnati Zoo enclosure, the child's safety and life was worth more than the gorilla's!

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6-01-2016 Uprooting Slavery Roots

The fourth commandment of the Law of Moses said:

And remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day (**Deuteronomy 5:15**).

Though slavery to the Egyptians was in their past, God never told His people to hate, loathe and despise the Egyptians. Rather, He gave Israelites a day of rest that they were not able to have in Egypt. They were to remember their blessing after their slavery. Contrast that with today's wallowing in slavery of the past as though it were still happening! "Roots" of past slavery should be uprooted, and people should be taught to appreciate where they are now.

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6-02-2016

Roots of Prejudice

Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear. I charge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels that you observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality (1 Timothy 5:20-21).

"Prejudice" means "judging beforehand," and "partiality" means "leaning towards." Paul told Timothy to not make up his mind about sinners before hearing what they did. But identifying sins was clear from the Word of God (1 Timothy 1:5-11). "Hate" comes in all skin colors. White people who hate black people, black people who hate white people, Jews hate Germans, Muslims who hate Catholics, are all "prejudiced" and treat others with "partiality." All need Jesus,

[Who] might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity (**Ephesians 2:16**).

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6-03-2016 Hatred Without a Cause

[David said,] They have also surrounded me with words of hatred, And fought against me without a cause (Psalm 109:3).

"Without a cause" means "uncalled for, not needed." This very verse described Jesus (John 15:25), whose message was,

"This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12).

But some then, as some today, spread the "Roots" of hate. Solomon said,

Whoever hides hatred has lying lips, And whoever spreads slander is a fool (Proverbs 10:18).

No one is following Christ who cannot pray to God,

Forgive us our sins, For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us (Luke 11:4).

Root out racism, of every color, by bringing all hearts to Jesus

... In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins (Colossians 1:14).

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