

What Does the Resurrection Mean to Me, Personally?

A city slicker moved to the country. He met a country girl and he wanted to win her

heart. He gave her a ring out of a Cracker Jack box that was studded with colored glass. They looked like red Rubies, blue Emeralds, and green Sapphire stones. He told her the big center diamond was real.

Of course she did not believe it. She rejected the diamond with these words, "Why would anyone set a real diamond among fake jewels?"

Good question!

Why do Christians, who are trying to win the heart of the world, set the diamond of the resurrection amidst a fake setting of Easter bunnies, Easter eggs, Easter hams, Easter lilies, and hot cross buns, then put it on a movable date determined by the moon, and then call the celebration after a pagan goddess of fertility and fornication? No wonder some find it hard to believe!!!

You know the True story.

Jesus was crucified.

The disciples were sad, but He arose.

The women were told by the angels, "Why seek the living among the dead? He is not here. He has risen as He said."

The disciples did not believe.

He appeared unto Mary. She was told, "Why weep ye? Go tell My disciples." But the disciples did not believe.

Peter saw Him. Some did not believe.

He appeared unto the ten and commissioned them to wait in Jerusalem. **Luke 24**

Thomas was absent and he would not believe. Later, Jesus appeared to all the apostles, and Thomas believed. **John 20:22 ff**

Jesus appeared unto them again and rebuked them for their unbelief of not believing the women. He commissioned them again. **Mark 16**

He then appeared again in Galilee. Still some doubted. He commissioned them again. **Matthew 28**

Today, unbelief is still common.

The women saw an empty tomb and were spoken to by angels; but could not prove it.

Mary saw Him; but could not prove it.

Peter saw Him; but could not prove it.

The Apostles saw Him; but could not prove it.

The men on the road to Emmaus saw Him; but could not prove it.

500 brethren saw Him at once; but could not prove it.

Did it happen? I do not like the song, "You ask me how I know He lives, He lives within my heart." That's subjective.

It boils down to these objective truths:

- ✦ The empty tomb.
- ✦ The grave clothes were empty.
- ✦ The testimony of witnesses who gave their lives as martyrs.
- ✦ The Church is here.
- ✦ The Word is a testimony.
- ✦ The conversion of Saul of Tarsus.

Spring only hints of it. (There is hope of a tree that when it dies, it shall live again. A seed must fall and die or it cannot bring forth fruit.) **Job 14:7, John 12:24**

Did it happen? Does it make any difference? Why must we have a resurrection? Can't we just have His good moral teaching and His great example? Why is all this dead, buried, and risen stuff necessary anyway?

Who needs an exemplary liar? Who needs a moral code from a deceiver? Who needs a teacher whose basic doctrine brings strife and arguments? Not me.

But what if He did arise? That changes things. I believe He did arise. So what does the resurrection mean to me personally?

× **It assures me that my convictions are true**, for He is risen as He said, and all He said will come to pass. It is pure silliness to believe in a God and not believe He could rise from the dead.

× **It means I am forgiven of my sins** and my conscience is right in being pure. "If He is not risen, I am yet in my sins." His resurrection proves the acceptance of His payment. "It is finished" means "paid in full"...and I have peace with God.

× **It confirms my confidence of my own resurrection from the dead.**

I Corinthians 15:23, "But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming."

Romans 8:11, "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."

× **It gives me the hope of seeing my Christian family and friends again.**

I Corinthians 15:18 "Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished." (If Christ is not raised.)

× **It confirms my life has meaning and purpose.**

I Corinthians 15:29-32, "29 Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? why are they then baptized for the dead? 30 And why stand we in jeopardy every hour? 31 I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily. 32 If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, **what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die.**"

× **It assures me that I am enabled with the power to live a victorious life.**

Ephesians 1:19-20, "19 And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, 20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set *him* at his own right hand in the heavenly *places*,"

× **It assures me I can give what I want because my treasure is in Heaven.** Remember the Rich Young Ruler?

Mark 10:21, "Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and **give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven:** and come, take up the cross, and follow me."

× **It guarantees me my hospitality will be rewarded at the resurrection of the just.**

Luke 14:13-14, "13 But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: 14 And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for **thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.**"

× **It guarantees me an incorruptible inheritance.**

I Peter 1:3-4, "3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 To **an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled**, and that **fadeth not away, reserved in heaven** for you,"

× **It is an assurance that my life creed is valid.** Life is stronger than death, Good is stronger than evil, Truth is greater than error, Love is stronger than hatred and God is mightier than Satan..... and that is good news.

× **It comforts me to know that what I did not have in material things, nor what I may gain in a physical world, does not matter in eternity** since I will wake in a spiritual world, and my physical body will be changed to a spiritual body. That makes things in life a lot less important to me now because I can live as a pilgrim or sojourner heading home. Who fights over a snowflake? This world's goods are "fool's gold".

× **It convinces me that all He said is true.** The resurrection of the just and the unjust. Some will rise to everlasting life, and some to damnation. The ungodly will be dealt with, but the meek will win and the pure in heart shall see God.

× **It means I've been commissioned to make disciples of all that I meet.** My task is before me. In each appearance He commissioned each who saw Him.

➤ Mary was to go tell.

➤ The women were to go tell.

➤ Peter was told to feed His sheep, His lambs.

➤ Disciples were to start in Jerusalem and go make disciples, teach, baptize, and teach to observe all things.

➤ Even Paul was a chosen vessel to men.

I, too, must tell it.

Conclusion

Whether Jesus arose makes all the difference to me.
 Because He lives, I shall live.
 I have **hope** when I am dying.
 I have **confidence** when I stumble.
 I have a **Savior** who forgives my sin.
 I have a **Mediator** when I pray.
 I have **peace** that passes understanding.
 I have a **joy** unspeakable and full of glory.
 I have **power** to live victoriously.
 I have a **commission** to fulfill.
 I have **assurance** of seeing my saved loved ones again.
 I have a **faith** that is unshakable.
 I have **hope** that all will be made right.
 I have a **reason** to believe He will come again, just as He said.

If you do not believe He lives, you have no:

- ◆ Hope
- ◆ Confidence
- ◆ Savior
- ◆ Mediator
- ◆ Peace with God
- ◆ Lasting joy
- ◆ Power to be an overcomer
- ◆ Meaning in life

And you live and will die in doubt.

You can never say with Job, "I know that my redeemer liveth and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth, and though after my skin, worms destroy my flesh, yet in my flesh shall I see God, whom I shall see for myself and not another."

Forget the bunnies, eggs, lilies, hot cross buns, and the lies that Satan has added to the story. Just stick with the facts and believe the Gospel. **1 Corinthians 15:1-4**, "1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that **Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures**"



A Note from a Student

'Dear Dr. Faull,
 Thank you so much for your call of encouragement last week. You demonstrated what "Christ-likeness" is all about. I'm very glad to know that **John 13:35** is in your Bible. God's blessings continue to flow through you. Your tapes, "The Eternal Struggle" are fantastic and cannot believe I will ever stop listening to them. I can't say it better than **Ephesians 1:16**.

(Still) In His Service'

Dear Brother Faull,

I would like for you to discuss the imprecatory Psalms. They seem contrary to the teaching and the spirit of Christianity.

It seems that the Old Testament is inferior to the New Testament, as there is a cry for vengeance by the writer of the Psalms.

Please address this subject.

Answer:

So that my reader may see what my querist is speaking of, let's look at a few of these statements from the Psalms.

It may be better to speak of imprecatory statements in the Psalms than imprecatory Psalms, for such statements appear in many Psalms. (This sermon is available on tape or CD, which can be ordered at Summit.)

Here are some of many imprecatory statements.

- ↳ **Psalms 35:5-6**
- ↳ **II Samuel 24:16**
- ↳ **Psalms 55:15,23**
- ↳ **Psalms 58:6-11**
- ↳ **Psalms 69:22-28**
- ↳ **Psalms 109:4-20**
- ↳ **Psalms 139:19-22**
- ↳ **Psalms 137:8-9**

What are we to keep in mind about these verses?

FIRST

Remember, mostly, David wrote these and they are not like him in his person, for he in life was a very forgiving man.

Did he not forgive Saul, Shimei, Mephibosheth? This forgiving nature of David was seen in his behavior toward personal enemies, but his prayer here was the prayer of a man who wanted judgement against God's enemies. What did David do to the man whom lifted his hand against God's anointed King Saul? He had him killed.

SECOND

Some of these are prophecies that the inspired Prophet David predicted as a prophet of what would happen to the enemies of Israel.

Psalms 55:15-23

Psalms 35:5-6 58:6-11

THIRD

Some of these are the words of Jesus that were foretold in the mouth of the prophet. The Psalm in which they appear are Messianic. That is, they are predicting what would be done to Jesus and what would happen to those who rejected the Messiah when He came.

Psalms 69 or **Psalms 109:1-4**

FOURTH

One must remember these Psalms were spoken by God's King in a theocracy. God was King and David was the anointed on earth. He was the servant and what they did against him was actually against God. He is telling what men whom commit treason against God is worthy of for their rebellion.

FIFTH

Some of them, David just turned the end of the wicked over into the hands of the God of justice rather than he himself having to deal with it as King.

SIXTH

They are pleas to God to administer justice on evil doers for he wants a God of justice not to forget that those who reject God are worthy of death. **Psalms 139:19-22**

SEVENTH

Do not forget that in the midst of the prayer for their doom, is a prayer for the one he is praying against. **Psalms 109:4-5**

EIGHTH

Do not forget that even in the Old Testament there are statements demanding forgiveness and help to personal enemies. **Leviticus 19:18, Exodus 23:4-5, Psalms 24:17**

NINTH

These were for public prayer and praise for the worship of God. They were hyperbole seeking to teach the attitude of the desire for the avenging and justice against the enemies of God. **Psalms 6:6, Psalms 79:12**

TENTH

They were written to show God's people that they could trust and expect God to defend His people. **Psalms 55:23**

ELEVENTH

Some of these Psalms are quoted in the New Testament. **Psalms 69:22-23**
Romans 11:9-10
Psalms 69:9
Romans 15:3

Peter quoted **Psalms 69:25** and **Psalms 109:9** when Judas' successor was chosen. **Acts 1:20.**

TWELFTH

Do not forget that in the New Testament there are imprecatory statements.

- ◆ **I Corinthians 16:22** - accursed....devoted to destruction.
- ◆ **Galatians 1:8-9, 5:12**
- ◆ **II Timothy 4:14**
- ◆ **Revelation 6:10**

In light of these thoughts, and someone wiser could do a better review on this, the imprecatory statements in the Psalms are neither ungodly, unchristian, nor even inferior thinking.

We need to see God in this light.

- a. God's enemies are our enemies and we need to count them as such.
- b. God will eventually avenge His people.
- c. God is a God of Justice, and we can expect that He will execute His enemies.
- d. We may, in godly indignation, look forward to the day that those who resist God's Will, ways, and works, will suffer the wrath of God's justice.

Dear Brother Faull,

Jesus fulfills the Law.

Matthew 5:17-19, 17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. **18** For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. **19** Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

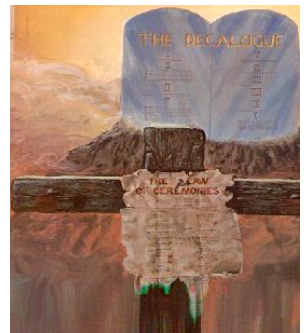
I believe that Jesus fulfilled the Law by completing His life and not breaking a single Commandment. He is the only one who has ever lived who did not break the Law. We are to try our best to keep these commandments.

God knows that we are human and weak, thus He extends His grace to us through Jesus Christ, that He took our sin upon Himself to give us eternal life not through works but through grace.

Do we have any agreement here? Translation can clarify or lead us down the wrong path to understanding.

Answer:

We are saved by faith in what Jesus, the sinless one, did on the cross. It is not that He was sinless that saved us but that He was sinless so He could be the Lamb of God



that would take away the sins of the world by giving His life.

The wages of sin is death. He paid it. He said so when He died. The King James Version says, "It is finished" but the word means, "it is paid in full".

If He had not died, there would have been no salvation but had He not fulfilled the Law perfectly, He could not have been the sacrifice.

The passage you refer to about nailing the Law to the cross is beautiful. Back then, if you were my brother and you owed a debt, it was made public. I come along and I have the where-withal to pay it, so I redeem you. I pay the debt. The man, who was paid the debt, folded the notice of debt and smeared the ink that testified against you and drove a nail through the notice. My payment of the debt allowed me to publicly declare that the debt was paid in full.

Now, I could not pay your debt for sin because I am bankrupt too, because I am a sinner. Jesus could pay the wages of sin. He paid it with His own body on the tree. He abolished the Law of Moses in His flesh.

See **Ephesians 2:15-16**

The Law could not save for we have all sinned and God took 1500 years to prove that by the Law, no man can be justified. It took the blood of an innocent victim to pay the cost of sin. The blood of bulls and goats cannot take away sin, but the blood of the sinless Lamb of God could. See **Hebrews 10:1-10**

The God-Man had a body and the offering of the body of Jesus Christ saved us. Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sins.

So, the Old Covenant was removed. Jesus established a New Covenant in His own blood. **He taketh away the first that He may establish the second.** We are saved, not according to the Law that He gave when they came out of Egypt, for He found fault with man because man cannot keep it. Jesus is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. **If the first covenant would have been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. When you speak of a new covenant, it makes the first old.** See **Hebrews 8:6-13**

By the Law shall no flesh be justified. We are not saved by keeping it, for we cannot. Peter says, "Neither we or our fathers were able to bear it." It is weak because of our flesh. So the debt was paid by someone who could pay it and if by faith we will accept His payment, then we can be free of the debt. By the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified. We are saved by our faith in Him who paid the debt. It is not faith only, for faith without works is dead and we are not saved by a dead faith. We live by faith in the Son of God who loved us and gave Himself for us.

If you and I are enemies and you find yourself in an unfamiliar restaurant and thought you had money to pay the bill and did not, you must pay or wash dishes. But I am there and offer to pay. You insist that you will not let me pay the debt. If you do not let me pay, then you will have to wash dishes. If a man will not accept the payment of Jesus on the cross, then he must pay the penalty of death himself.

Now before Christ died, if you taught people not to obey the Law, you would have been denying the current covenant. Jesus told the lawyer to obey the Law and He would live. Of course, the young man had tried but failed due to his greed.

Jesus did not come to destroy the Law, but fill it full or fulfill it. He fulfilled the covenant. There were two curses in the Law.

1. **Cursed is he who does not continue in all things written in the Law.**
Everyone was cursed, but Jesus.
2. **Cursed is he who hangs on a tree.**
Jesus was hung on a tree and thus became a curse for us, as He did not die for His sins, for He did not have any. He allowed Himself to become a curse for us.

He fulfilled the Law. Payment was made. He made a New Covenant and if we tell people they have to keep the old one, we have fallen from grace and return to salvation by Law keeping. Read the book of Galatians to see why we are not obligated to keep the Law.

Jesus did not come to destroy the Law, but fill it full. When a man is engaged to a girl and makes a covenant with her to marry, does he destroy the covenant or fulfill it when he marries her? Obviously, he did not destroy the engagement; he fulfilled it.

Likewise, Jesus did not destroy the Law but fulfilled it. The one Gospel said, "Till heaven and earth will pass away, not one jot or tittle will fail." The other Gospel makes it plain as to what He meant. It says, "**It would be easier for Heaven and earth to pass away than it not be fulfilled.**"

I think you can see the clearness of what He is teaching. Heaven and earth could pass away before the Law failed to be fulfilled. Well, Jesus said in **Luke 24**, "These are the words which I spake unto you while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled." It was fulfilled for His word is true. See **Luke 24:27, 44-49**

So now we are under grace. Grace is not a sin permit or a license to sin. "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, **Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;** Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." **Titus 2:11-14**

So grace says "no" to sin and "yes" to godliness.

The Spirit was given by obedience to the truth of the Gospel, not by the works of the Law. **Galatians 3:1-2** makes that very clear.

So, "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. **But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid. For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.**" **Galatians 2:16-18, 21**

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." **Galatians 5:1**

"Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace." **Galatians 5:4**

In short, **we are not saved by the Grace of Christ AND the Law of Moses.** We want to be found in Him not having our own righteousness, which is of the Law, but the righteousness which is through the faith of Christ; the righteousness which is of God by faith. **Philippians 3:9**

We are not saved by the works of the Law but by the obedience of faith. Christ and His apostles have given us new principles to live by. Some are like the ones in the first covenant. Some He has removed in His New Covenant. They are not like those in the old. **Hebrews 8**

Some of the laws in the USA are like those in England, but the authority is not the same. We do not murder. Not because what was said to Moses at Mt. Sinai, but because it is revealed in the Scriptures to those under the New Covenant.

If I made a will in 1980 and repeat some of the things in a new will in 1990, the authority is because of what I wrote in 1990, not what I wrote in 1980. **A new will, or testament, does away with the old will.** The conference in **Acts 15** showed the apostles understood that the whole Law was not binding on the Gentiles.

The Sabbath, for example, is not bound on us. It was a sign between God and Israel, not the world. **Exodus 31:17** It was not repeated in **Acts 15** because it is not for the Gentiles!



Some Quotes I've Been Reading....

Texas Christian University Plans Unique Housing

This fall, Texas Christian University, which is associated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), will designate some on-campus apartments for homosexual, bisexual, transgender students and their supporters. The new DiversCity Q community will be one of the Living Learning Communities, which according to the TCU Student Affairs Web site, are "designed to give students the chance to become part of a unique experience with programs and facilities to support the interests of the community members." Other LLC's will cater to students interested in such topics as the environment, foreign languages, fine arts or Christianity.

Does this not remind you of Josiah and Asa's reformation of when they did what was right? To not remove them is wrong.

I Kings 15:12, "And he took away the sodomites out of the land, and removed all the idols that his fathers had made."

II Kings 23:7, "And he brake down the houses of the sodomites, that were by the house of the LORD, where the women wove hangings for the grove."

What Thomas Jefferson said in 1802 seems so very true today. You need to send these to your 'politicians' to implore them to do the right thing for our country, instead of their own interests. It seems that our elected officials are acting in their own interests, instead of the ideals that made this country great.

President Thomas Jefferson in some cases could be called a prophet. It's amazing that this man could say these things so many years ago that have come to fruition in the 21st Century. The last quote is a very serious warning that was not heeded.

"A government big enough to give you everything you want, is strong enough to take everything you have."

"The democracy will cease to exist when you take away from those who are willing to work and give to those who would not."

"It is incumbent upon every generation to pay its own debts as it goes. A principle which, if acted on, would save one-half the wars of the world."

"I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them."

"My reading of history convinces me that most bad government results from too much government."

"No free man shall ever be debarred the use of arms."

"The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government."

"The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants."

"To compel a man to subsidize with his taxes the propagation of ideas which he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical."

"I believe that banking institutions are more dangerous to our liberties than standing armies. If the American people ever allow private banks to control the issue of their currency, first by inflation, then by deflation, the banks and corporations that will grow up around the banks will deprive the people of all property until their children wake-up homeless on the continent their fathers conquered."

--Thomas Jefferson, 3rd president of US (1743 - 1826).
In a letter to the Secretary of the Treasury
Albert Gallatin (1802)

"Mr. Barack Obama wants to uphold an abortion policy that has a disproportionate impact on blacks. The Alan Guttmacher Institute, a non-profit organization focused on sexual and reproductive health research, finds that 13 percent of the U.S. population is black, but 37 percent of all abortions are performed on black women and teens: Blacks are 4.8 times as likely as whites to have an abortion. A vote for Mr. Obama is, in effect, a vote that permits the disproportionate elimination of blacks in America."

--The Washington Times, November 2, 2008, p B8

"In the 1930's, it was the intellectuals who pooh-poohed the dangers from the rise of Adolph Hitler and urged Western disarmament. It would be no feat to fill a big book with all the things on which intellectuals were grossly mistaken, just in the 20th century – far more so than ordinary people. History fully vindicates the late William F. Buckley's view that he would rather be ruled by people represented by the first 100 names in the Boston phone book than by the faculty of Harvard."

How many intellectuals managed to be so wrong, so often? By thinking that because they are knowledgeable – or even expert – within some narrow band out of the vast spectrum of human concerns, they are wise guides to the masses and to the rulers of the nation."

But the ignorance of Ph.D.'s is still ignorant and high-IQ groupthink is still groupthink, which is the antithesis of real thinking."

--Thomas Sowell, Washington Times, November 16, 2008, pB5

The following is excerpted from 'Will There Be an Activist Pastor to the Next President,' Virtueonline.org, November 16, 2008:

"A conservative Christian Activist says it's a sad omen for the Obama administration and the United States that Barack Obama has been seeking guidance from the Episcopal Church's first openly homosexual bishop."

The Times of London reports that the president-elect sought out New Hampshire homosexual bishop Gene Robinson for advice three times during his presidential campaign."

Robinson, whose ordination in the Episcopal Church has caused a deep rift within the Anglican Communion, was reportedly sought out by Obama to discuss what it feels like to be 'first'. Robinson notes in their three private conversations, Obama voiced his support for 'equal civil rights' for homosexuals and described the election as a 'religious experience'."

Peter LaBarbera, president of Americans for Truth About Homosexuality, believes Obama's consultations with Robinson show the true tenor of his upcoming administration. It looks like Billy Graham has been replaced by a gay bishop."

"Some Christians believe that it shows a lack of faith to arm oneself even in the face of immanent danger. To be armed is to not trust God as one's protector, or so I'm told. I certainly trust God as my provider, yet I work. I trust God as my healer, yet I go to the doctor. The same holds true for protection. I look to the Lord ultimately to protect me and my family, yet there may be a time when arming myself for their protection is the prudent thing to do. It may be a matter of simply deterring wickedness, or more actively preventing the rape or murder of one's loved ones. My understanding of Matthew 5:39 and Luke 6:29 is that they have to do with retaliation regarding an insult or litigation pertaining to one's personal goods. To apply the verse to a life-threatening assault is to dismiss the context, as well as contradict the many other verses and examples throughout the Bible that would deny pacifism."

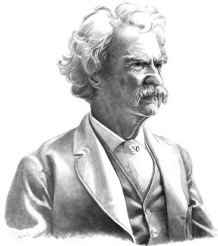
--The Berean Call – February 2009

"According to for Zion's Sake Ministries the violence is nothing new in Orissa, India, where India's Communist Party estimates that more than 500 Christians have been killed by Hindu mobs in Orissa since late August, 12 times more than official government claims of only 40 homicides."

But now the stakes are even higher – and pastors have a bounty on their heads, the ministry says.

Faiz Rahman, chairman of Good News India, said Hindu militants are targeting Christian leaders. The ministry says the Christian Post reported that 'The going price to kill a pastor is \$25.00.'

PROFOUND STATEMENTS



"If you don't read the newspaper you are uninformed, if you do read the newspaper you are misinformed."

--Mark Twain

"Suppose you were an idiot. And suppose you were a member of Congress. But then I repeat myself"

-- Mark Twain

"No man's life, liberty, or property is safe while the legislature is in session."

-- Mark Twain (1866)

"The only difference between a tax man and a taxidermist is that the taxidermist leaves the skin."

-- Mark Twain

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DIVORCE STATISTICS... BEWARE



When you hear that one out of two marriages in America end in divorce, be aware of these facts:

1. They are comparing new divorces in a year to how many people got married in a year. This is absurd!

That is like saying there were 50,000 Fords wrecked this year and 100,000 new Fords were made so one half of all Fords are wrecked.

No, the 50,000 wrecked Fords are from 100 years of Ford production. Simply because there may be 100,000 new marriages and 50,000 divorces does not follow that half of all marriages end in divorce. This ignores the 50 plus years of prior marriages included in the statistics.

2. It also ignores the fact that George Barna's poll says two-thirds of everyone who got married never got a divorce.

3. It is also argued that professed Christians divorce just as much as non-Christians. This ignores that more professed Christians get married than unbelievers. So the idea that professed Christians have as high a divorce rate as non-Christians, is not true because 19% more professed believers marry than non-believers.

4. One other thing you must keep in mind. Divorced people may have married three or four times. Think of Elizabeth Taylor and other Hollywood stars. She has had 8 marriages, 7 divorces, and widowed once. You can imagine how people such as she would throw off any comparison in how long marriages last and the statistics of the strength of the American marriage relationship.

Statistics do not lie but statisticians do. Figures do not lie but liars figure.

Learn two things from this:

1. Do not be afraid to marry – most marriages last.
2. Do not let the fact that it seems everyone else is getting a divorce makes your divorce any less sinful.

God hates divorce but He does not hate those who are divorced. His desire is that marriage be one man and one woman for life.

There is forgiveness in Christ for those of us who have failed to succeed at our marriages!