**Round Top Church Christian Fellowship**

**Sermon**

***Lights in the World***

**Philippians 2:14-18**

*Pastor ~ Matthew Diehl*

March 13th In the Year of Our Lord - (Anno Domini A.D.) 2022

(Unless otherwise noted, NAS is quoted – New American Standard Bible)

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Now, with all I am about to say. . . I see that God gave us “adults” free-will-choice. My great concern is that children are manipulated to do evil things. . .thinking they are good.

Equipping the Philippian church with the clarity of knowledge of the mission of God as Jesus Christ in the previous verses, Paul encourages them to. . .

14 **Do** all things without grumbling or disputing;

 15 so that you will prove yourselves to be

blameless and innocent,

children of God above reproach

in the midst of a **crooked** and **perverse** generation,

among whom you appear as lights in the world,

16 holding fast the word of life,

so that in the day of Christ

I will have reason to glory because

I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.

 17 But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering

 upon the sacrifice and service of your faith,

I rejoice and share my joy with you all.

 18 You too, I urge you,

 rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me.

In verse 15, we see that Paul identifies the fallen world of which the Philippian Believers are surrounded to be crooked and perverse.

Crooked (Greek = skolios) means to take the truth and curve/twist it to a lie. The word perverse (Greek = diastrepho) amplifies the word crooked in that the truth is twisted to plot against the salvation plans of God. Obviously, the 1st century pagan Greek and Roman world did not have a monopoly on crookedness and perversion. For this is the account of fallen humanity from Adam. We can say the same thing about our generation who presents the good in the Word of God as bad and the moral bad they do and lead others to do . . . as good.

**Isaiah 5:20** Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

**Tell Others You Know Who Do Not Know the Truth.**

God’s words, penned by Paul, are relative in our time. We are all most likely familiar with the new law in Florida that forbids the teaching of gay orientation to grades K through 3. The way I read this law is that there will be a silence on the subject. So, the evil people who attack this law are upset because curriculum will be silent on the subject. Evil is upset at the silence.

Many evil people have attacked the good of protecting children and have twisted the truth into how children will be harmed by the law of silence. The only way a child in grades K to 3 would be aware of this issue is if the parent or guardian is manipulating them.

**Comparison**

We are concerned for the war crimes in the Ukraine victimizing women and children committed at the command of Vladimir Putin and, at the same time, we need to be just as alarmed by the gay community and their leaders targeting children to be their sexual play toys. Just in case someone has been asleep over the past few decades. . . the Democrat party leads the way in targeting children with propaganda to enslave them into sexual servitude. Yes, and we know that the current occupant of the Oval Office leads their evil way of life. I have listened to his minions and surrogates this past week attack the new Florida law as violating a child’s civil rights. This is revolting-evil and approaches the licentious of the Roman Emperor Caligula.

**How Long Have Children Been Targeted?**

**Where did the Targeting of Children begin?**

**The A-theist A-moral Code**

For years now, we have seen many church communities across America where church leaders and their national overlords walk away from the biblical moral code. In fact, many of these used-to-be-Christian churches have been ‘taken over’ by political action groups, so they masquerade as a Christian Church. The children who are taken to these churches by their parents are confused and at risk of being turned into manipulated objects of the leaders.

Parents, teachers, school administrators and school boards wonder what has gone wrong. Early in the 20th century, the academic atheistic secularist has worked hard to remove any biblical moral code from public life, school house and the family. Children are left with a nothingness, an empty nihilism. It is not enough to simply teach children there is only the secular law of the land under which to live. Without a belief in a loving God that has a meaning, purpose and direction for their life. . . children grow-up to be angry and bitter. We must not forget that these secularist politicians also removed the father from children through welfare by paying single mothers to stay single. Look at Chicago, Detroit, East St. Louis, East L.A. and the list goes on. The secularist has done their job well. All of these cities have the highest crime, illegitimate childbirth and welfare rates in the country.

The problem is that the atheist refuses to realize that the human condition is genetically wired, programed, to believe in God, to have a relationship with God, to transpond with God, again, to believe in God.

**Genesis 1:26-27**

**26** Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

 **27** God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

**God created us in His image in order for us to have a relationship with Him.**

Years ago, National Geographic did a world-wide study concentrating on people in religious communities incorporating many world religions. The conclusion was that a specific part of the brain increased with measurable activity when these people meditated or prayed. Other studies have also shown similar results. So, the conclusion is that even if you do not want a child to become a Christian, by cutting spiritual stimulation to the brain, for which the brain is wired, you are creating an unnatural person. Children grow-up in a spiritual vacuum replaced by violent acts viewed on media platforms from T.V. to video (DVD) games. Then, add to this *spiritual-brain-starvation* a reduction of a moral code and you have chaos. Wow, does it take a rocket scientist to figure this out? And . . . we ring the bell again by asking the question . . . Why does America have the highest prison population in the world?

**Luke 17:1** He said to His disciples, "It is inevitable that stumbling blocks come, but woe to him through whom they come! 2 "It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea, than that he would cause one of these little ones to stumble.

Secularists do not seek any belief at all, a spiritual nihilism. How do we know this? They tell the world what their goals are. Secularists are basically atheists and proud of their proclaimed worldview. They have a high sense of moral pride in themselves and seek to disqualify Christianity and, at the same time, taunt themselves as superior moral people. They point to the amoral brutality of the state church during the Dark Ages and call that Christianity. This is their attempt to discredit people of faith. The truth is that Biblical Christianity was not represented by the Dark Age state church. Their crimes against humanity were not directed by God but by fallen evil men in pursuit of their own self-indulgent life who claimed to be acting for God.

So, the atheists . . . by claiming freedom from God, they are claiming to be their own god and pursue their self-indulgent lifestyle. They are just like the Dark Age state church. They claim they can be just as moral as any Christian. But whose morality do they define? Obviously their own. Atheists do not want to humble themselves to God’s morality. If they did, they could not worship themselves and pursue their lust. God has identified these rebellious people. In Isaiah 5:20 “Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter”! (KJV).

**Humanity on its own cannot be left to decide what morality is.**

**Ecclesiastes 7:29** “See, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes.”

**1John 1:8** If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**Ecclesiastes 7:20** Indeed, there is not a righteous man on earth who continually does good and who never sins.

**Psalm 143:2** And do not enter into judgment with Your servant, For in Your sight no man living is righteous.

**1Kings 8:46** "When they sin against You (for there is no man who does not sin) and You are angry with them and deliver them to an enemy, so that they take them away captive to the land of the enemy, far off or near;

For an example: If you allow for homosexuals and lesbians to have free-reign access to children, how can the person who allows them access and the person that victimizes children be a moral person? They cannot be. Because God, our creator, establishes what is good. Being good is protecting children. We quote Jesus again in **Luke 17:1** He said to His disciples, "It is inevitable that stumbling blocks come, but woe to him through whom they come! 2 "It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea, than that he would cause one of these little ones to stumble. (Matthew 18:6, Mark 9:42)

Coupled with insufficient news coverage and the public not paying attention to note when a well-known homosexual man, Milo Yiannopoulos, openly stated the goals of the gay community is that they want legal access to children. See “The Stream” website on February 20, 2017. ‘Controversial Comments Reveal Hypocrisy Within LGBT Community’. Or the website Huffpost.com “This is not the first time Milo has spoken of the joys of pedophilia.” (02/20/2017). This wanting access to children became a glaring reality in the Boy Scouts who have been sued multiple times and forced by court order to sell assets to pay the victims. The plan for gay men to be alone in the woods under a puptent with little boys was exactly the access Yiannopoulos revealed.

All of this planned victimization of children is the problem for the secularist/atheist. Since they reject the existence of a moral code from God, children can be sought for sex. I mean, without any moral code based upon God, why would children be off-limits? No God = No God moral code. Atheists claim they have a morality, but then, when they define their own moral standard, it is amoral to God’s standard. This is evident in their pursuit of cultivating children for exploitation in the public schools. This is why atheists are so upset about the new Florida law H.B. 1577 “Parental Rights in Education.” Atheists renamed the bill “Don’t say Gay”. This bill states that parents will be notified of specified information about their child; requires such procedures to reinforce fundamental right of parents to make decisions regarding upbringing and control of their children.

We can see those opponents of the Florida bill coming forward across the county screaming, because this bill gives parents more say about their child’s education and not leave it to the others who desire to teach their evil atheistic religion which includes sexual indoctrination into child debauchery.

 “A-theism” leaves a person with an “A-moral” life. Their A-moral code leaves people lawless and children in peril. The fallen nature of people dictates they must have a life-moral-code that is authored by the Being more knowledgeable, loving and concerned for everyone’s well-being.

**Our loving God desires for us to protect children and not allow them to become licentious offerings to the secular man-gods of hedonism.**

History proves that people are fatal in their attempts to govern themselves.

We see the product of atheistic policies throughout public life. Children are left in a spiritual vacuum. The secularists expect compliance to their rules without a child’s spiritual-heart engaged. The secularists/atheists are dead set on gutting any semblance of spirituality from public life. Man cannot be governed this way. We know that the secularist/atheist seeks to remove the historical record of God’s Bible from America.

However, since the founding, elected officials have taken an oath with their hand on God’s Bible. This is a huge spiritual statement. At least, there is a picture of intent. Oaths taken with a person’s hand on the Bible states that there is a Supreme Being who has a code by which they will live. At least that is the way I see things. I know that many have taken the oath, and their words are shallow, if not fake. God’s moral code provides an environment for our basic securities for property, reputation, the safety and well-being of our children and our very lives. We refer back to George Washington’s closing address.

“Let it be simply asked – Where is the security for property, for reputation, for life, if the sense of religious obligation desert the oaths, which are the instruments of investigation in courts of justice? And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in the exclusion of religious principle. (American Daily Advertiser, September 19, 1796)

 The founding Fathers of America knew how to govern. It is clear that the American Republic was designed for people who are of the Judeo-Christian worldview. When this worldview is abandoned, America will not exist any longer. Currently, I see that there is still a large number of Godly people in America.

Sure, it is acknowledged that the Founders did not get all things right. Considering the fallen lot of humanity, they got things going in a right direction. Specifically, they did lay the groundwork for the Constitution to be amended and mature towards the process of freedom. And thank God that over time additional amendments to the Constitution have shown this maturing of freedom in America. America was designed to grow in freedom by retaining the moral foundations of “religion” as George Washington stated in his closing address. In the context of Washington’s words. . . he meant Christianity.

With all that has happened in American history, the one element of public life that was to sustain civility was religion according to Washington. With this observed, it is obvious the Founders did not want the state to establish a religion based upon their knowledge of European affairs of the state church. And, at the same time, government was not to interfere with the free exercise of religion.

However, in the face of the “establishment” clause in the 1st Amendment . . . some states under their atheistic political leaders seek to legislate amoral behavior affecting the wellbeing of children based upon their atheistic “religion”. Yes, atheism is a religion. I see religion to be a belief system that creates personal principals, attitudes and worldviews making definitions and explanations about our existence in how to live life. Therefore, a person’s religion is actualized in the way they live their life. Religion is not confined to well-known beliefs such as Christianity or Judaism. Yes, atheism is a religion. People who are atheist, like any other religion, make their own judgements, life-determinations and values that guide their attitude and relationships with other people. Atheists choose not to acknowledge any God to guide them because they believe that God does not exist. Atheists write their own code of conduct and call themselves moral.

**Atheists “establish” their religion and religious code for themselves and compel others to adhere too by legislating laws.**

Is this a contradiction? Because the atheist teaches that there is not any “one” moral code established for all. They present the idea that each has their own moral code. So, what is moral for one person may not be for another. This is their natural order of things. So, Hitler’s morality was good for him? What do we conclude from this? Survival of the fittest! Meaning that whoever can get their religious moral code passed into law. . . is the moral code by which we all will live under the force of government.

I am not the only one who defines atheism as a religion. The United States Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit in KAUFMAN, Plaintiff-Appellant, v. Gary R. McCAUGHTRY, August 19, 2005 ruled that atheism is a religion(a). So, the question is. . . why are legislatures passing laws based upon atheistic beliefs and attacking laws based upon the established moral code of the Judeo-Christian tradition? This is most glaringly seen in the public school system. By the way, there is not any record of the American Founders to be supportive of laws teaching children to be a homosexual, lesbian or transgender person through public education or any format.

**Spiritual Confinement**

The prison system uses solitary confinement to gain compliance to their rules and for punishment. Solitary confinement is a dark cell without light or communication with another person. Comparing solitary confinement to spirituality, the goal of the secularists/atheists is to have children in public schools, and throughout the theater of public life, cut-off from God’s Word. They have sought and seek to confine children and all the public from God and His Word. An example, which we all heard through news/media sources, was their religious pursuit to prosecute a Christian baker for refusing to bake a cake for a gay wedding in Colorado. The U.S. Supreme Court overturned the lower court rulings, so the baker was vindicated.

Atheists have the goal of no one praying in public. They seek for the whole nation to be held in solitary confinement from God. They look upon prayer to a God that is not there to be foolish.

**The result of these atheistic religious public policies, pushed by the minority, was that the majority under atheistic religious laws have had their civilized society thrown to the wolves of perdition.**

They were offended? Offended by what? The presence of America’s founding biblical and civilized moral code that prevented them from exploiting others including children.

We, Biblical Christians, know that Satan’s goal is to destroy God’s creation and all life that God created in His image. The secular atheist sees the biblical worldview as nonsense and destructive. They lie. Biblical Christianity is the answer to all humanity for life and life eternal.

The atheists cannot refute their own historical record. What has happened to civility in public schools and life in the West since their “*religious moral*” policies have been carried-out over the last seventy plus years? I ask, what has been destructive to the family? A loving God and His biblical people, or atheistic religious public laws establishing fatherless gang invested communities that allow and promote pedophiles to prey on children and to make them twice the sons of perdition (Matthew 23:15).

14 **Do** all things without grumbling or disputing;

 15 so that you will prove yourselves to be

blameless and innocent,

children of God above reproach

in the midst of a **crooked** and **perverse** generation,

among whom you appear as lights in the world, **AMEN**

**Notes**

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 **United States Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit.**

**James J. KAUFMAN, Plaintiff-Appellant, v. Gary R. McCAUGHTRY, et al., Defendants-Appellees / No. 04-1914 / Decided: August 19, 2005**

At one time it was thought that this right [referring to the right to choose one's own creed] merely proscribed the preference of one Christian sect over another, but would not require equal respect for the conscience of the infidel, the atheist, or the adherent of a non-Christian faith such as Islam or Judaism.   But when the underlying principle has been examined in the crucible of litigation, the Court has unambiguously concluded that the individual freedom of conscience protected by the First Amendment embraces the right to select any religious faith or none at all.

Id. at 52-53, 105 S.Ct. 2479.   In keeping with this idea, the Court has adopted a broad definition of “religion” that includes non-theistic and atheistic beliefs, as well as theistic ones.   Thus, in Torcaso v. Watkins, 367 U.S. 488, 81 S.Ct. 1680, 6 L.Ed.2d 982, it said that a state cannot “pass laws or impose requirements which aid all religions as against non-believers, and neither can [it] aid those religions based on a belief in the existence of God as against those religions founded on different beliefs.”  Id. at 495, 81 S.Ct. 1680.   Indeed, Torcaso specifically included “Secular Humanism” as an example of a religion.  Id. at 495 n. 11, 81 S.Ct. 1680.

It is also noteworthy that the administrative code governing Wisconsin prisons states that one factor the warden is prohibited from considering in deciding whether an inmate's request to form a new religious group should be granted is “the absence from the beliefs of a concept of a supreme being.”   See Wis. Admin. Code § DOC 309.61(d)(3), cited in Kaufman v. McCaughtry, 2004 WL 257133, at \*9. Atheism is, among other things, a school of thought that takes a position on religion, the existence and importance of a supreme being, and a code of ethics.   As such, we are satisfied that it qualifies as Kaufman's religion for purposes of the First Amendment claims he is attempting to raise.