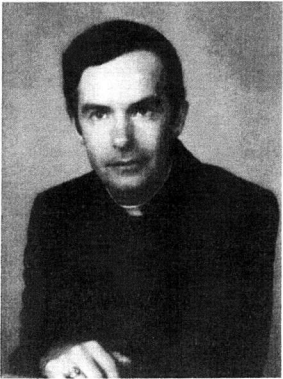


## Chaplain's Corner, Hughes Camp Chaplain Richard W Rudd...



*Continued from August.*

Job is thought to be the oldest book of the Bible and contains one of the oldest examples of relativists' attempt to define another's identity. None of us is exempt from experiencing the trials of life in this world, like Job. He was visited by three friends who

presumptuously attempted to assess his situation with an intolerant, mocking, and dogmatic attitude of possessing a superior monopoly of wisdom and the right to dictate what Job should do. (Job 2:11) With friends like these, Job was not without enemies. Job was a righteous man, but his visitors denied the truth of his good character and reputation, daring to speak for him in ways that did not give consideration to Job's own thoughts, words, and actions. They sought to shame him with accusations of being a counterfeit and hypocrite who unjustly and cruelly oppressed others and enslaved those who could not pay their debts. They even blamed deceased members of Job's family for the condemnation they expressed for him. Their charges were based, not on incontrovertible proof but, on their careless judgements, casual observations, mere opinions, and presumptions regarding what they imagined the reality of the situation to be. When Job disagreed with their views, they could not defend themselves with proof, reason, and civility, so they resorted to intemperate emotionalism, increasingly harsh condemnations, and anger.

Job could be viewed as a type of the Confederacy and those who descend from or sympathize with its founders. The Confederacy was composed of people with a righteous cause and leaders of admirable character and reputations who offered no harm or threat to the North. But, like Job's friends, their fellow Americans in the North assessed the reality of the situation differently, claimed superiority to dogmatically dictate what the South should do, and intervened into the South with a cruel visitation. The casualties of war and vengeance of the occupation followed by years of unrelenting

condemnation have plagued the South and its progeny as Job suffered. To this day, those who subscribe to the relativist doctrine blame our deceased Confederate ancestors as the primary practitioners of slavery and oppression and cite them as the root-cause of their disdain for us.

During the early years of Israel, two goats were selected to make atonement for the sins of the people. (Lev. 6:7-22) Lots were cast to determine which one would belong to God and to Azazel (Satan). Aaron and his successors would lay hands on the head of Azazel's goat, confess the sins of the people, and send it into the wilderness bearing their sins. The North practiced slavery and oppression and stained their hands during the war with Confederate blood. To this day, their successors continue to symbolically lay hands on the defenders of the Confederacy in a vain effort to divert their sins and seek atonement. Attempting to shame us, the true meanings of our thoughts, words, and symbols are twisted and our character defamed; we are mocked, called hypocrites, racist, and intolerant. If we disagree with relativists' imaginary perception of reality pertaining to history and current events, they resort to harsh outbursts of emotion, slander, incivility, abdication of all semblance of reason, anger, and even violence. One needs to look no farther than today's media and what passes for journalism, socialist politicians, pseudo-academics, and Antifa, those fascist brown shirts and storm troopers of radical liberal relativism.

Liberal ideologies, such as relativism, bait potential followers with promises that are never delivered. Relativism promises unity, but ironically demands blind conformity to the belief that, as Thoreau said, everybody should follow their own drumbeat. As a result, people divide into factions and the individual becomes isolated. True unity is found by people who form communities and nations by developing a common bond and creed based on their discovery of shared history and traditions, values, ethics, ideals, and moral standards. Relativism promises freedom and tolerance, but this promise is a false contradiction. Tolerance implies allowing for disagreement. One does not merely tolerate something with which they agree. Yet, relativists react

with intolerance toward those who freely disagree by speaking and acting according to their own consciences. The freedom relativism offers leads to chaos and the eventual acceptance of entanglement in the bureaucratic regulations of big government or a strong ruler to restore order, completing a historic cycle and repeating a lesson some refuse to learn.

The South still waits for the vindication that eventually came to Job. Those who gave their lives for the South's cause must echo the plea of Asaph, "How long, O Lord?" (Ps. 79:5) With the Tribulation martyrs who died for their faith, they will ask, "O Sovereign Lord...how long before You will judge and avenge our blood...?" (Rev. 6:10) Until then, America is still in need of real national heroes, not a pantheon of demi-gods who appeal to the raw passions of the masses with inflammatory rhetoric to create personality cults. How do we recognize true heroes? Christ said, "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits." (Matt. 7:15) Each one of us will be challenged during the course of our life; adversity will find you. We need heroes worthy of emulation, who inspire us to learn the facts, to know the truth, to faithfully speak and live with conviction, and to become heroes to our families, neighbors, and fellow Americans.

***Deo Vindice***

***Father Richard Rudd***

***Hughes Camp Chaplain***