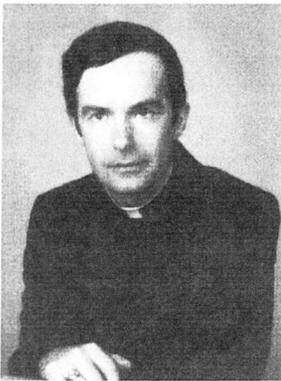


Chaplain's Corner, Hughes Camp Chaplain Richard W Rudd...



A Chinese proverb states, "A picture is worth more than a thousand words." Inspired by that observation, Ivan Turgenev said, "A picture shows me at a glance what it takes dozen of pages of a book to expound." Like pictures and books, monuments accomplish the same degree of expression.

Because of the effectiveness with which they convey their message, Christian symbols have been attacked, desecrated, and removed across the nation for several years. Following that bad example, in AD2015 New Orleans mayor Landrieu and the city council sought the removal of historic monuments to President Davis, Generals Lee and Beauregard, and the 1874 resistance to the illegitimate government of occupation of the city. Councilman Stacy Head was the lone dissenter with enough foresight to warn of the slippery slope the city was carelessly approaching. New Orleans native Walter Isaacson advised that the city should consider the primary message their ancestors intended when the monuments were erected, not the twisted politically correct connotations of the 21st century. Last March, the 5th US Circuit Court of Appeals' infamous decree allowed New Orleans to begin the desecration reportedly done at night by legalized vandals wearing masks and bulletproof vests. Not only every Confederate descendant, but every American who values the First Amendment and the truthful preservation of history should boycott New Orleans and unceasingly work for the restoration of those monuments to their original locations.

A writer or speaker is as much a creative artist as a painter or sculptor. Their pen or tongue is their brush or hammer and chisel. The words they employ serve the same purpose as the artist's paint or the sculptor's strokes. Instead of forming images on canvas or stone, they project ideas that form images on the mind. Words have power--power to create and power to destroy.

"By faith we understand that the world was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was

made out of things that do not appear." (Heb. 11:3) In the creation narrative (Gen. 1), repeatedly we read, "God said." "And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good." God has given us the freedom of choice to use words to share in the power of creating what is good or to curse with the power to destroy. Unfortunately, and to their peril, in these last days mankind is increasingly choosing the latter.

According to the lie of the theory of relativity, there is no absolute truth and no God. Reality is only a narrative and truth is only a story society is deceptively convinced to collectively accept through the development of ideological unanimity. Words are no longer used to describe reality; words are contrived to create the world for which one wishes. No criterion of truth outside of language is permitted; there is no consideration of observable material conditions beyond the mere verbal description of them and scientific evidence is ignored. For example, how else could abortion be justified as only freedom of choice when science demonstrates that a living fetus has a heartbeat within three to four weeks of development? Illicit homosexual and miscegenous relationships are not marriages just because they are now described as such. The Satanic ideology of Islam will never be transformed into a religion of peace because stubborn sympathizers persist in calling it such until their throats are finally cut. That is why liberals strive for total control over what we say, write, hear, and read. That is why history is being erased or rewritten. That is why Christian and Confederate monuments are being obliterated. For the narrative of present reality to be changed, the narrative of past reality must also be changed. How else can liberals postulate that society has arrived at where it really is not? Liberals believe Satan's lie that "... you will be like God..." (Gen. 3:5) and through linguistic slight of tongue seek to create their concept of a better world by attempting to speak it into existence.

News reports have documented how indoctrination is passing for education in America's school systems; constructive and open debate is being muted by passive acceptance of what one is told to believe. According to recent scores from the College

Learning Assessment Plus Test, the average college graduate is unable to assess evidence, interpret data, or make a cohesive argument. The consideration of different opinions, the unbiased weighing of facts, and freedom of speech are being eradicated from today's campuses and it all too often is the students who have been manipulated by liberal professors into rejecting their own First Amendment rights. The most effective way to stop this nonsense is for responsible taxpayers and parents to pressure legislators and governors to end public financing of state colleges and universities that are liberal indoctrination mills. The only alternative liberals possess to compensate for their lack of knowledge, ability to reason, and communicative skills is hyperventilation with emotion overpowering reason and some combination of rabid yelling, profanity, malicious slander, cowardly escape, or physical violence. To verify this, attempt to engage a liberal in a civil and rational discussion of different viewpoints. Or, recall the mobs and riots that erupted after the AD2016 election. Just last month, James Hodgkinson, documented as a consistent Democratic Party voter and member of a group called Terminate the Republican Party as well as Bernie Sanders' campaign, deliberately targeted Republican congressmen with a gun because he could not accept the results of the last general election.

St. Paul warned us, "But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of stress. For men will be...arrogant, ...fierce, haters of good, treacherous, reckless..." They will "...oppose the truth..." (II Tim. 3:1,8) Today's liberals use the same senseless, violent tactics their Yankee ancestors did in the WBTS. Mark Pitcavage of the Anti-Defamation League's Center on Extremism joins many other terrorism experts in noting, "There is a real chance for increased violence coming from the left." Liberal jihadists are coalescing into a movement that relies on tribalistic forms of political expression with the claim that resistance justifies violence. But, it gets even worse. Refusal to accept absolute truth, the existence of God or Christianity is one of the four top reasons why America's young adults are increasingly committing suicide. Pew Research reports that 62% of

those born between 1981 and 1996 have no spiritual influence in their lives. The American Journal of Psychiatry found that those without spiritual influence experience significantly higher rates of attempted suicide. Between AD2000 and 2015, suicide rates have risen 27% for those ages 20 to 35 and 21% for all ages. This is what awaits those who travel to the end of liberalism's dead-end-path- -possibly physical and certainly spiritual death.

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