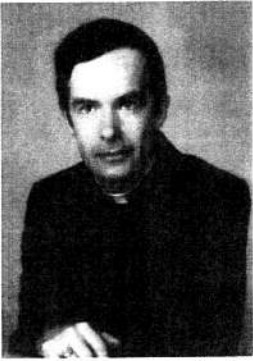


Chaplain's Corner, Hughes Camp Chaplain Richard W Rudd



As we go to the polls to vote next month, the battle lines are already being formed for the 2024 general election. For the second time in its history, a fault line divides the US, threatening catastrophic implications. This time, the division is not geographical between the North and South, but

ideological between the left and right. Although we are confronted by a multitude of controversial issues, the root cause of our division is the perspective from which those issues are viewed. The ultimate question is what point of view will dominate.

Plato believed that mental concepts are more real than the physical objects that portray them. Today, what we think and believe, based only on other people's ideas, can seem as real as what we actually experience objectively through our senses. For example, instilling the mere thought of fear can produce goose bumps or shaking. Anger can redden the face. Desire can enlarge the pupils of the eyes. The perspective from which we view the physical world around us, our thoughts and beliefs and various perceptions that constitute reality affect our emotions, attitudes, moral standards, and actions.

Ideas about what does not yet exist can become reality. Inventors do this constantly. I have quoted William James before, who said, "Repeat a lie often enough and people will believe it." Advertisers seek to create their own version of reality. Consumer demand for a product, shortages of particular items, and fads all begin with an idea planted in the minds of the public. Make everybody believe that everybody is doing it and everybody will do it. Politicians want to make their ideology a reality. To do so, revisionists rewrite history and editors manipulate current information. Thus, the Founding Fathers are being called racists, Confederate heroes and ancestors are being called traitors, and those who currently disagree are being called intolerant and hateful. The secular left views contemporary issues from the perspective that reality is relative; there are no absolutes. Consequently, how we deal with the issues of infanticide (abortion), sodomy (homosexuality), gender

identity confusion (transvestism), race, miscegenation (racial hybridization), global warming, socialism vs capitalism, evolution vs creation, or globalism vs nationalism depends on the perspective from which we view them. The secular left's position on all of these issues promotes globalism. Evolution denies the Creator, postulating that man alone without God can solve his own problems through a one-world government. The demarcations delineating nationality, race, and gender are being blurred to homogenize humanity into a false sense of unity. Abortion seeks to limit the world's population and the global warming agenda seeks to supercede national sovereignty and reallocate the world's wealth and resources in the misguided socialist attempt to provide for everybody's needs.

Drugs can skew one's perspective of reality and how they think and react. Airplane pilots sometimes experience vertigo. Do they trust the information received from what they think they see or the instrument panel? How they choose to act can mean the difference between a crash or safe landing. Currently, the secular left holds the high ground for sources of information including the mass media, internet, academia, news networks and wire services, and entertainment. From these strategic positions, they seek to intimidate, indoctrinate, and censor their opposition. The sources of our information and the credibility we give to them are critical. It can mean the difference for each one of us and all America between a crash or safe landing.

Historically, resistance to the tidal wave of misinformation has never been easy. At tremendous costs, Confederates resisted the lure of compromise, a barrage of false and inflammatory propaganda, and the military advantage from Radical Republicans and their naïve constituents to defend the constitutional form of a true federal system of government. Socrates was a patriotic Athenian and uncompromising critic of a group called, ironically, "democrats". He resisted popular false theories of morality and refused to obey orders he considered dishonorable and unconstitutional. Indicted on the vague charge of "impiety", he was sentenced to capital punishment by drinking hemlock. Up until the 17th century, the prevalent view for approximately 1300 years was that the universe was

geocentric, that the earth was its center, as postulated by the Alexandrian astronomer Ptolemy around 150AD. When Galileo, the first to use a telescope, promoted the views of Copernicus that the universe was heliocentric, that the sun was its center, a firestorm came against him from the Inquisition, and he spent eight years under house arrest. This year, a congressional committee has been conducting an inquisition under the guise of an investigation, but these inquisitors are really seeking to make the superficial ideas they already hold a reality in the minds of the public to influence the present and future elections. If their objective was really the maintenance of law and order, why do they ignore the urban riots of 2020 and the current threats against the Supreme Court by their comrades?

In this election year and in 2024, the perspective from which we view our world and the issues that confront us must be from Calvary. Our concept of reality, the sources of information we trust, and the validity of what we choose to believe will determine how we vote. What we see and hear, think, believe, and do must be grounded in truth, not the relative, nebulous, superficial ideas of the left. We need not be intimidated by their inquisition tactics. Secular liberals, like Pilate, ask, "What is truth?" (Jn. 18:38) We must believe and remember that Christ answers, "I am...the truth..." (Jn. 14:6)

Fr Richard Rudd

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