

# PROVOKING THOUGHTS

December 2, 2020

## 1. Fallen World = Compromised World

Romans 1:28-31

“Since they thought it foolish to acknowledge God, he abandoned them to their foolish thinking and let them do things that should never be done. Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, quarreling, deception, malicious behavior, and gossip. They are backstabbers, haters of God, insolent, proud, and boastful. They invent new ways of sinning, and they disobey their parents. They refuse to understand, break their promises, are heartless, and have no mercy. They know God’s justice requires that those who do these things deserve to die, yet they do them anyway. Worse yet, they encourage others to do them, too.”

### 1. RACISM is a byproduct of fallenness/sinfulness.

A. Dollars over Dignity (slave trade)

B. Institution of Slavery (laws to support the practices of racism/slavery)

C. Civil War – historical corrective to past sins of greed and racism

D. Complicity of the Church/Government in slavery/racism

E. Compromise during the Civil Rights era/Rise of Jim Crow

1. Racial Reconciliation in the PRESENT (conventions, politics, Black Lives Matter)

A. It is always the RIGHT TIME to do the RIGHT THING!!!

B. Personally (build relationships, work with or build working groups, etc.)

C. Corporate (join efforts of entities already doing constructive work in this area (NAACP, BUILD, responsible political groups, local, state, national, fraternities, sororities, etc.)

1. GOD ALWAYS HAS THE FINAL WORD!

Matthew 24:4-14

“Jesus told them, “Don’t let anyone mislead you, for many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah.’ They will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and threats of wars, but don’t panic. Yes, these things must take place, but the end won’t follow immediately. Nation will go to war against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in many parts of the world. But all this is only the first of the birth pains, with more to come. “Then you will be arrested, persecuted, and killed. You will be hated all over the world because you are my followers. And many will turn away from me and betray and hate each other. And many false prophets will appear and will deceive many people. Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come.”

Serenity Prayer

“God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage the change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.”

Original Prayer by Reinhold Niebuhr

Father, give us courage to change what must be altered, serenity to accept what

cannot be helped, and the insight to know the one from the other.”

James 1:19-25

“Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires. So, get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls. But don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the word and don’t obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don’t forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.”

WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT SIN????? HOW DO WE RESPOND TO SIN??????

A. The CROSS is the only answer. Otherwise, we only grow angry and continually experience disappointment. God truly is our only HOPE.

B. Be faithful in prayer and the pursuit of God, while working to address those issues of injustice which are very prevalent. At the same time, we are to be watchful to exemplify the God Whom we serve! Please know this will at times involve suffering for righteous sake!!!