



Opening Sunday School July 28, 2024

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Making Melody A prayerful hymn

- #417 “Dear Lord and Savior”
- “Reclothe us in our rightful mind”
- This is from a poet, John Greenleaf Whittier, who wrote this in response to a false religion of Vedic priests who drank themselves into an intoxicating frenzy, likewise, he felt that this had also come into the Christian religion by ginning up their frenzied activity.
- “Beside the Syrian Sea, were the “Beatitudes.”
- Speak “through the earthquake”, were from Elijah’s experience.

From “Discipleship Ministries,
UMC” History of our Hymn.

Reclothe us in our rightful mind

- I do not think that Whittier knew about the left brain-right brain ways of doing life, but the right brain is the rightful mind I read about in McGilchrist's book. Page 330.
- Right brain is flexible, shaped by experience, involves the whole being, in context, and intuition. Resisting fixed formulas. Reasonable.
- Left brain is more rigid, interesting to a select group, mechanical, governed by fixed laws, and rational.

Let's look at our
conference portion taking
samples from the book of
Philippians.
The Apostle Paul,
illustrates being re clothed
in the rightful mind.
In Colossians 1:18 “head
of the body, the church.

- Philippians 1:27 “One mind striving together for the faith”
- Philippians 2:2 “Being of the same mind.”
- Philippians 2:3 “humility of mind”
- Philippians 3:4 “if anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh”
- Philippians 3:15 NKJV “otherwise minded”
- Philippians 4:2 “Be of the same mind.”

Philippians

3:12-14

- Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
- NASB 1995

Samson

Judges 14:1

- So, he came back and told his father and mother, “I saw a woman in Timnah, one of the daughters of the Philistines; now therefore, get her for me as a wife.” 14:1 NASB
- Then his father and his mother said to him, “Is there no woman among the daughters of your relatives, or among all our people, that you go to take a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?” But Samson said to his father, “Get her for me, for she looks good to me.” 14:3
- So, he went down and talked to the woman; and she looked good to Samson. 14:7

- Yet, Samson had such promise and the gift of God, and so I present this to you in contrast to the Apostle Paul words in Philippians 3.
- The right religion, but the wrong way of going about it.
- Samson, with many sins, finally learns to lean on God and ask for His help. 16:28 “Please remember me”

The Apostle Paul is saying, I believe

- “not having laid hold of it yet.”
- PBPGINFWMY”
- It will be an excuse, if done like Samson, and in humility’s power as in the Apostle’s life.
- Philippians 1:6 “began a good work in you will complete it”
- The Apostle Paul had been working out his salvation and he was confident God would work it out in the beloved brethren he was writing to.
- Yet beware, of unbelief,

Knowing and knowledge, known by context

- Philippians 3:8 “knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord.” “Gnosis”
- Philippians 3:10 “That I may know Him” “Ginosko” Greek
- The experience is emphasized in verse 8, counting all things loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing (knowledge Gnosis) Christ Jesus my Lord.
- Not having laid hold of it yet, “I press on” a mind to grow more Christ like.

Experience knowledge

- This is not like learning an equation or applying a formula and inserting numbers.
- McGilchrist, “This has to grow out of each individual’s experience and is incarnated in that person with all their feelings, beliefs, values and judgments.”
- In our English we say, common sense, reason, reasonable, and to the Apostle it is now incarnated as knowing Christ.
- Samson was relying on his sight, and his parents said to him, but it made no difference, to choose a Hebrew woman. We call this being deceived, or blind, or willful ignorance.

What historians call the Enlightenment

- McGilchrist notes a time called the Enlightenment, and called itself the age of reason, but he explains that it exchanged their own understanding instead of a life of faith. The Enlightenment was about rationality, not reason. A leading figure in the Enlightenment movement was Rene Descartes (1596-1650) “detached from the body and its tiresome emotions and imitations of immortality, he was all seeing but separate from the world.”
- (This sounds like the Gnostics we read about in 1 John.)
- Sight itself got in Samson’s way, and the deeds of his body “followed after.” (See 1 Timothy 5:24)

How sight can be just that. The context where knowing and knowledge are false representations.

- The visual impression, capturing the picture, focusing on the details and gathering it to hold and keep in our well-preserved museums.
- It is nothing to us unless it means something to us. In James 1:23 describes the hearer who looks at himself in a mirror and forgets what he saw.

- In summary, there is a depth in these beautiful scriptures to be revered and held sacred, and I investigate it for clues and information about them, so I might understand them. Yet not separate from the Holy Spirit's work, a Christ-like mind.
- I am not stuck in a rut, bored, lost in circumstances, hopeless and lost, yet passing through this real world of experiences that teach me along the way and I intend to learn His way as I walk by faith not by sight.
- There are dangers, and false religion is recorded for our learning. There are no formulas, but a lifetime of godly living to experience.

