

Trends

“To justify its half-billion dollars in taxpayer funding, Planned Parenthood downplays abortion — falsely claiming that it only makes up 3 percent of its business — and instead plays up its cancer screenings and so-called ‘women’s health care’...Planned Parenthood doesn’t perform a single mammogram, and...less than 2 percent of all women’s cancer screenings in the United States, yet it commits over 30 percent of America’s abortions...In fact, 1 in 8 women who go to Planned Parenthood receive an abortion — not 1 in 33. ...even more stunning, Planned Parenthood performs 160 abortions for every one time it receives an adoption referral.

—via Live Action

2 Kings 24:4: “because of the innocent blood that he [Manasseh] had shed; for he had filled Jerusalem with innocent blood, which the LORD would not pardon.”

Sentence Sermons

“Abortion is an attack on the family and the humanity that unites us all.” —Alveda King

Jeremiah 1:5: “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.”

News & Notes

- Please pray for those mentioned in the announcements after services and others listed on the bulletin board in the foyer of the church building.
- Please consider donating funds to Zach & Taya Martin. Zach is a medical student and he and his wife Taya are planning to assist Ron Halbrook on one of his preaching trips to the Philippines. The Martins are worthy of our support. You can contact Zach at: zcmartin30@gmail.com.
- Please pray for one another! “comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.” 1 Thessalonians 5:11
- Please pray for the Duque family in the Philippines. Bro. & Sis. Duque were tragically killed in a highway crash (2/5/2018) on the way home from a gospel meeting.
- Please keep sisters Virginia Brown and Wilma Cardwell in your prayers. Their faithfulness sets such a good example and gives encouragement to all! Ditto for Al (our Barnabas!).
- Pray for all the lost souls, especially those in the greater Bloomington area. Pray that Westside might be an influence for good in this community.
- Pray for the all of our students: elementary, secondary and college. Our young people face many trials and temptations at school.

Words of Life is published by the Westside Church of Christ meeting at 1301 N. Enterprise, Bloomington, IN 47404

Times of Service: Bible Study, Sunday 9:30 AM and Wednesday 7:00 PM; Worship, Sunday 10:30 AM and 5:00 PM

Editor: Craig Thomas (812-320-9569); craigthomas82000@gmail.com

Please direct questions and comments to the editor.

Words of Life

Westside church of Christ

“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”

John 6:68



Feb. 11, 2018

Vol. 10, No. 6

Symbol of Cross Too Violent

Larry Ray Hafley

Or so said the headline in *The Dallas Morning News*, April 1, 1995, p. G1. Some doubt that “the cross is an appropriate symbol of the faith.” Professor Delores Williams does not “think” that the cross and its “violence” is “the message for Christians to be giving when there’s so much destructive violence in this world....We...need to consider the violence that the symbols of our religion have been used to support.”

Well, bless your condescending, professorial heart, Delores. Would you rather that Christians glory in a pink, Mary K powder puff? “But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world” (Gal. 6:14). Delores, dear, our Lord was not exactly “put to sleep” with his head resting on a pillow. The evidence shows that a man was severely beaten with the lacerating lashes of a torturous whip. There was hitting and spitting. There was a crown of thorns and there were sharp blows upon the head (Matt. 27:26-30). We are not talking about mud wrestling here.

Said “Ms. Keller, a feminist theologian...’the thinking that we are redeemed by blood is pervasive and hard to change. The trouble is that it numbs us to violence.” Miss Keller, should Scripture say, “For God was so violent that He gave His only begotten Son”? Or, how about, “But God commendeth His violence toward us in that, while we were not being nice little boys and girls, Christ passed away for us”? Was Jesus made a little lower than the angels that “He by the violence of God should taste death for every man”? Or, “In this was manifested the violence of God toward us....Herein is violence, not that we were violent toward God, but that He was violent toward us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” Mrs. Keller, should the Bible say that we are “reconciled to God by the violence of His Son”? (The cross offends her. “Ms.” offends me. Hope my use of “Miss” and “Mrs.” does not cause her to feel “cross” towards me and incite her to “violence” against my peace-loving person.)

Consider Keller’s conclusion that “the thinking that we are redeemed by

blood is pervasive and hard to change.” Imagine that! By reading the Bible, how would anyone ever get the wild and crazy notion “that we are redeemed by blood”? “In whom (Christ) we have redemption through his blood” (Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14). “Being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved” (Rom. 5:9). “Ye were not redeemed with corruptible things,...but with the precious blood of Christ” (1 Pet. 1:18, 19). “The blood of Jesus Christ...cleanseth us from all sin” (1 Jn. 1:7). Keller’s correct. The thinking “that we are redeemed by blood” is indeed “pervasive.” It pervades and permeates the prophets, and it is not simply “hard,” but it is impossible “to change,” for “without shedding of blood (there) is no remission” of sins (Heb. 9:22).

“Duane Ediger, a Dallas peace activist,” said, “Jesus did not die for our sins, but because of them”. Did you catch that? “Jesus did not die for our sins.” Compare and contrast that with the following:

“Ye were not redeemed with corruptible things,...but with the precious blood of Christ.”

1 Peter 1:18-19

“For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins” (Matt. 26:28). “Christ died for our sins” (1 Cor. 15:3). “Grace be to you...from our Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave himself for our sins” Gal. 1:3, 4). “Jesus our Lord...was delivered for our offences” (Rom. 4:24, 25). “Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8). “I live by the faith of the Son of God...who gave himself for me” (Gal. 2:20). “Jesus Christ...is the propitiation for our sins” (1 Jn. 2:1, 2).

It might be fair to say that because of our sins Jesus died for our sins, but it is not correct to say, as did Duane, a Dallas doctrinal deviant, that “Jesus did not die for our sins”. Duane should spend more time reading the words of the Prince of Peace before he leads any more marches for peace. Any time he so

“Jesus Christ...is the propitiation for our sins”

1 John 2:1-2

violently misrepresents and perverts the truth of the Captain of our salvation, we shall declare war upon his peace (2 Cor. 10:3-5). Such spiritual warfare is not a pretty sight. The squeamish should close their eyes and hide in the basement with the children.

“Stop Using the Cross”

Lest any should find this article too harsh, let us close with the soft, kind, loving and totally inoffensive words of our peace professor, Delores Williams. “Theologian Williams insists that one of the strongest acts against violence Christians can make is to stop using the cross as a symbol of the religion....’It’s destructive to use the cross as a symbol,’” she said. “‘I don’t think that’s what Jesus is about.’” Are words strong enough to condemn such arrogant audacity and brazen blasphemy?

Jesus used “the cross as a symbol of religion.” “If any man will come after me, let him...take up his cross daily” (Lk. 9:23). Delores, was Jesus

guilty of “destructive” behavior? The Spirit used the cross “as a symbol” of religion” when he said that worldly people “are the enemies of the cross of Christ” (Phil. 3:18). Paul used the cross “as the symbol” for the gospel itself when he said, “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness (that includes you, Miss Williams); but unto us which are saved, it is the power of God” (1 Cor. 1:18). Furthermore, like Paul, “God forbid” that we should glory in anything, except “the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Gal. 6:14).

These pseudo-purveyors of peace are wolves wrapped in fleece. They are mutant “ministers of righteousness,” angels in the army of our Adversary. Christ “made peace (not violence) through the blood of his cross” (Col. 1:20). Paul was not “ashamed” of that gospel,

“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved, it is the power of God.”

1 Corinthians 1:18

of that bloody, yes, violent “testimony,” and neither must we be (Rom. 1:16; 2 Tim. 1:8)! With their feigned words of “peace” they will deceive the hearts of silly, sensual, sentimental simpletons (Rom. 16:18). However, Enoch warns against all such people. Through the prophet, Jude, he said that God would “execute judgment upon all,” for all their ungodly words and deeds. Duane, Delores, and Keller are “mockers,” walking “after their own ungodly lusts. These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit” (Jude 14-19). These are the very folks and the very philosophies Paul was talking about when he said, “See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ” (Col. 2:8).

There is a spirit afoot today that would apologize for such people, contending that they are “well meaning” but merely “misguided.” Therefore, it is urged, “We should not ‘come down’ too strongly against them.” If so, I read about

“Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.”

Matthew 15:8-9

some people in Matthew 15 who were also “well meaning” and who were “misguided”. Jesus said, “Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch” (Matt. 15:8, 9, 13-15). That is harsh language, but when men and women spout doctrines and philosophies that lead men to hell, is it not time to “cry aloud, and spare not” (Isa. 58:1)? “Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by?”

Editor’s note: I would like to commend brother Larry for writing this fine article some 20+ years ago. Since its writing the spirit Larry identifies has grown even more bold, brash and bombastic. It is the spirit of the world. It is a spirit with a “form of godliness, but denying the power thereof”; well did Paul warn, “from such turn away”! (2 Tim. 3:5) Thanks Larry!