October 27, 1989

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John 8:47 "He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God."

Dear ^F2^:

Life is somewhat like a book title I once read: "Swimming Upstream In A Downstream World". The prophets of old put their chins to the smiters and Jesus warned: "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated Me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love its own; but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you." Implied in all of this is the fact that standing up and being counted for the sake of **truth** is risky business.

One of the leading men in our country said recently in a panel discussion: "Yes, I am a Christian and I know AIDS is a moral problem, but I can only act as a physician." Any connection between profession and faith seemed distant and irrelevant. It seems many believe there can be order without law. Worse yet, some believe there can be law without truth. Yet further, some believe there can be truth without authority while degenerating to the place of believing there can be authority without God.

Although it is a proposition that costs something to believe, I am thoroughly assured that our convictions ultimately manifest themselves in our behavior. It seems true, if by no other means than logic, that God delegates authority, which He has ordained to communicate truth, which establishes law, which maintains order. As one philosopher put it, "Judging by the people I look at, they want a God without wrath, who brought man without sin into a kingdom without judgment through the ministrations of a Christ without a cross."

The true essence of life ought to be the reverence of God. The true fulfillment of life is serving Him.

In the debris of an elementary school removed for modernization lay the once etched words of Proverbs 14:34: "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." This precious landmark, now removed, once served the children as a daily reminder of the inescapable relationship between national order and obedience to God. On an old wall of an elementary school in my own city are these words from Proverbs 4: "Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go. Keep her; for she is thy life." The message of our forefathers was nothing short of wanting us to know the sense and service of God.

Somehow I ache for the day when by some heavenly means there might be a blending of faith and our profession. Perhaps the only hope of such a dynamic is enveloped in the understanding of man's chief end: the worship of God.

"Worship is the submission of all of our nature to God. It is...
the quickening of conscience by his holiness...
nourishment of mind by His truth...
purifying of imagination by His beauty...
opening of the heart to His love...
submission of the will to His purpose...
All this gathered up in adoration."

- Ravi Zacharias

Respectfully,

Jack Crans
Director

Philippians 4:4-9

JC:al