August 2017

Paradoxes of Christ

Jim Bill McInteer

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.harding.edu/mcinteer-sermons-topic

Recommended Citation
PARADOXES OF CHRIST
John 11:25
I. A paradox is a tenet contrary to received opinion; assertion opposed to common sense.
II. Around Jesus there are many—shall we see some.

A. He came to earth for us to go to Heaven.
   I Tim. 1:15 "This is a faithful saying and
   Matt. 20:28 "Even as the Son of man came
   John 14:1-3 "Let not your heart be troubled"
   2 Cor. 5:1 "For we know that if our earthly

B. He was born in flesh so we would in Spirit
   John 1:14 "And the word was made flesh
   I John 4:2 "Every spirit that confesseth
   that Jesus
   John 3:5 "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except
   I Peter 1:23 "Being born again, not of com-

C. He was poor—we rich.
   2 Cor. 8:9 "For ye know the grace of our
   Luke 9:58 "Foxes have holes and birds of
   2 Cor. 8:9b "Yet for your sakes he became
   Eph. 2:7 "That in the ages to come

D. Rejected of men—we accepted of God.
   Isa. 53:3 "He is despised and rejected of men
   John 1:11-12 "He came unto his own and they
   Eph. 1:6 "To the praise of the glory of his
   Acts 10:34 "Then Peter opened his mouth

E. Put to death to make us alive.
   Luke 24:46 "Thus it is written and thus
   Matt. 16:21 "From that time forth began
Col. 2:13 "And you, being dead in your sin
Eph. 2:1 "And you hath he quickened
John 11:25 "I am the res. and the life
Church of Curiosities!

BY KELVIN WALLACE COVENTRY

NAME the gift you would like above all others,” King James I of England demanded of famed Elizabethan poet, Ben Jonson.

Jonson jokingly answered that he would like “a square foot of Westminster Abbey.”

King James took Jonson at his word. Upon his death, the poet was buried in the Abbey, standing up, so that he would occupy no more than the promised square foot!

This is only one of the curiosities workmen are discovering as they move about in the dark and sometimes forgotten corners of the great church in London. What history the Abbey has witnessed during the nine hundred years of its existence!

Here came Oliver Cromwell, the strict Puritan, with his psalm-singing followers. He disdained crowns, jewels, and all regal trappings, ordering that they all be melted down or auctioned off.

When Charles II succeeded Cromwell, he looked high and low for enough jewels for his crowning. There just weren’t any. His coronation had to be held up until sufficient precious gems were collected to satisfy him.

Then there was the shrewd Duke of Gloucester whose nephew, Edward V, a boy of thirteen, came to London to be crowned. His uncle, the Duke, lodged him and his younger brother in the Tower of London. Neither of the princes was ever heard of again. The Duke later arrived at Westminster Abbey and was sworn in as Richard III.
The interior walls and ceilings of the Abbey were a dead gray color for centuries before workmen recently erected their scaffolds and began a laborious cleaning of the ancient building.

"Most people thought it was dirt," one clean-up expert explained. "That's wrong. Most of the dirt has turned out to be candle smoke."

Westminster Abbey had just been built when William the Conqueror landed at Hastings, England, in 1066, and crushed the defenders. The stream of English history, prefacing our own American culture, flows in every chapel of the Abbey.

The coronation of George IV in 1820 was celebrated by ceremonies that were the most elaborate ever staged. It was the last time a state banquet was held in the Abbey. Wax from dripping candles ruined hundreds of robes. The King's banquet was a fabulous affair, but when it was over, he was told that ugly mobs were waiting to waylay him on his ride home. He sneaked off, trembling, to find refuge in his palace. It was a shabby ending to a festive day.

Many curios are turning up, including an almost forgotten gallery of waxwork figures, lost tombs, and curious historical facts.

The waxwork figures are startlingly real. They are actually right under the feet of the thousands who visit the Abbey. With color and candor which surpass in reality any painted portraits, British kings and queens from as long ago as the fourteenth century are represented in figures created at the time of their deaths.

Edward III, who died in 1377, has a twitch in his mouth and left cheek left there by the apoplexy which killed him. King Henry VIII has a large mole on his
cheek. Charles II stands there in all his splendor, with a hat two feet high, lace collar, and royal robe.

The custom of displaying these effigies died out in the eighteenth century. Lord Nelson is one of the few later figures. He stands in a lifelike position in full uniform.

Westminster is more than just a museum with a halo. It has always been a rallying point in times of distress. A bomb fell just outside during the World War II air raids on London and blew a hole through the wall of the Henry VIII Chapel. An Abbey custodian explains that a piece of glass was placed over the hole "so those who worship
Times Have Changed

Fifty years ago folks boiled coffee and settled it with an egg; the only reds known were red flannels and a boy didn’t think he had to have a vehicle in which to pursue happiness.

People were more interested in the contentment of each other than they were in cows; ladies rode sidesaddle and when the preacher said a truth the people said “Amen”.

A candidate had to be economy-minded to get elected to office; neighbors asked about your family and meant it; and when a man dressed for the evening he put on his nightshirt.

Folks used toothpicks and were still polite; and the neighbors got fresh liver at hog-killing time.

Two or three people could meet without passing the hat; parents were the only baby-sitters; and men worked for an honest living instead of wishing for one.

A man’s word was his bond; Rip Van Winkle slept 20 years and no one asked him to endorse a mattress; and men made the same wife do a lifetime.
Man of Many Words

NOAH WEBSTER, JR., is to language as Shakespeare is to literature and Gutenberg to the graphic arts. Webster was born near Hartford, Connecticut, in 1758, the son of a thrifty, industrious farmer, and the stirring times in which he passed his formative years actuated his extreme patriotism which never faltered. Upon his graduation from Yale, he wanted to study law, but his limited finances deterred him, so he got a job as a schoolmaster and read law on the side, being admitted to the bar several years later.

Webster saw the defects of the Colonial educational system; methods and textbooks were antiquated and many teachers were inadequately prepared. He believed that armed with proper textbooks any teacher could be successful and that it was his mission to furnish the proper system of instruction. Patriotism imbued all of his writings, a patriotism which manifested itself in many ways, primarily in uniformizing a language for his fellows, for he believed that a natural language is a band of national union.

Webster had all of the qualities of a great religious or political
stands liberty, he is not, in one way or another, working in liberty's behalf. Inactivity while liberties are being lost is impossible for one who understands.”

Wernher von Braun, engineer, Huntsville, Ala.: “Belief in God and in immortality gives us the moral strength and the ethical guidance we need for virtually every action in our daily lives.”
This story was popular among Negro preachers in slavery days. When Adam was expelled from Eden, he sat down under a tree and fell asleep. While he slept the four spirits, earth, water, air, fire, stole man's soul. Where would they hide it? The spirit of the earth said I'll hide it far down in the surface of the earth, but water answered No, do not hide man's soul in the earth for he will dig in the earth and find his soul.

Water said they were carried into the depths of the sea where no life is and the unsunned waters bury it there. But the spirit of the air said no, man will invent some kind of ship that will sail under the water and he will find his soul again. Air asked for the soul and said he would carry it beyond the suburb of the remotest star. But the spirit of fire said no, man will invent a ship that
will sail through the air and he will find his soul, give me his soul and I will sink it in a burning flame where man can never find it. This they tried to do, but after a bit man's soul emerged unscared and in tact.

In despair the four spirits went to master Satan. He laughed at them and said "Fools, you thought you could hide the soul of man made in the image of God in earth, water, air or flame? I will tell you where to hide man's soul so that he will never find it--hide man's soul in himself."

--from Clarence E. Macartney
"Salute Thy Soul" Page 16
As Alexander the Great was lying upon his dying bed he left careful instructions that when his body was carried to the grave his naked hands should be left projecting outside of the bier that all onlookers might see that they were empty; that though he was the absolute master of the then known world, yet now when dead his hands were as empty as those of the veriest slave in all his vast dominion. Truly was it written aforetime, that the living might read and ponder it, "Surely every man walketh in a vain shew." "For when he dieth he shall carry nothing away; his glory shall not descend after him." "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity."

--from "Doran's Ministers Manual 1944"
page 337