

Vantage Points, part 1

Christmas Eve Invite

Proverbs 2:1-6

2 My son, if you will receive my words And treasure my commandments within you,
2 Make your ear attentive to wisdom, Incline your heart to understanding; 3 For if you cry for discernment,
Lift your voice for understanding; 4 If you seek her as silver And search for her as for hidden treasures;
5 Then you will discern the fear of the Lord And discover the knowledge of God. 6 For the Lord gives wisdom;
From His mouth *come* knowledge and understanding.

Truth (in its totality) is not just lying on the ground for anyone to pick up- it is buried treasure that must be sought out, dug out, and refined!

In order to understand anything fully, you have to get above it! The readily accessible perspective is rarely the right one.

To be people of the Truth, we need multiple vantage points. A diverse perspective leads to better conclusions!

Ecclesiastes 7:25, 27

25 I directed my mind to know, to investigate and to seek wisdom and an explanation, and to know the evil of folly and the foolishness of madness.

27 "Behold, I have discovered this," says the Preacher, "*adding* one thing to another to find an explanation

The Election

Job 11:6b 6 ...For sound wisdom has two sides.

The Coin

Proverbs 18:17

17 The first to plead his case *seems* right, *Until* another comes and examines him.

Truth can handle scrutiny- it can be examined from all sides and it will remain true. Falsehood withers in the light.

Why this matters

Our perspectives determine our prayerfulness! What I believe to be true- or false- either undergirds or undercuts my prayer life.

We will all be convinced we are right on a given subject, but we are one or two vantage points short of the whole picture.

Your enemy is strategic, and he is measuring your strength from every angle, patiently plotting your destruction.

If the church does not also begin to operate strategically, we will spend our few precious days on earth snatching defeat from the jaws of victory.

2 Corinthians 2:11 11 so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.

2 Corinthians 6:6-7

6 in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in genuine love, 7 in the word of truth, in the power of God; by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left

The enemy examines our vulnerabilities from every angle because he is looking for an exposed place to attach his curse.

Proverbs 26:2

2 Like a sparrow in *its* flitting, like a swallow in *its* flying, So a curse without cause does not alight.

Velcro

Numbers 22:41:⁴¹ Then it came about in the morning that Balak took Balaam and brought him up to the high places of Baal, and he saw from there a portion of the people.

Numbers 23:13:¹³ Then Balak said to him, “Please come with me to another place from where you may see them, although you will only see the extreme end of them and will not see all of them; and curse them for me from there.”

Numbers 23:27:²⁷ Then Balak said to Balaam, “Please come, I will take you to another place; perhaps it will be agreeable with God that you curse them for me from there.”

Numbers 23:23

²³ “For there is no omen against Jacob, Nor is there any divination against Israel; At the proper time it shall be said to Jacob And to Israel, what God has done!

He examined Israel from every side, but the result was the same: You cannot curse a people whom God has blessed!

Mountains/Jerusalem; Favor/Shield

On his way out, He slipped Balak Israel’s poison pill, counseling him to tempt Israel with the women of Baal Peor.

Think of all they did not know: their future was as secure as the faithfulness of God, but their destruction was orchestrated through a well-thought-out, strategic plot, and they proved easy prey.

What about you and I?

Galatians 3:10, 13-14

¹⁰ For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who does not abide by all things written in the book of the law, to perform them.”

¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”— ¹⁴ in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Commission:

Next week:

1 Corinthians 2:9-10

⁹ but just as it is written, “Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, And *which* have not entered the heart of man, All that God has prepared for those who love Him.” ¹⁰ For to us God revealed *them* through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.