

Has the world gone mad?

Was Friedrich Nietzsche right? Nietzsche was a philosopher. The son of a pastor, and whose grandparents were both pastors.

He rescued philosophy from its dry academic practice and made it alive and accessible to the ordinary man. He produced sharp insight into Western civilization through metaphorical stories.

His most famous involves a madman who lit a lantern and ran through the village crying "I'm looking for God, I'm looking for God!" The crowd laughed at him "Have you lost God?" they asked in derision. "Where has he gone?" the madman in anguish cried. "We have killed Him!" He said "We have killed God!" "We have murdered Him!" "God is dead!" Nietzsche then in parable form declares that we have killed God through turning away from God. Nietzsche then has the madman shatter the lantern and utter a most profound statement. "I came too early. Maybe my time has not yet come"

Nietzsche made two prophetic comments about the time to come. Firstly, a universal madness would break out, and secondly the century to come would be the bloodiest in all of history. Conflict in the twentieth century killed more people than the previous nineteen centuries added together. This is what happens when one lives in a world without God. A world where science, rationalism, atheism and evolution have killed God. Nietzsche went insane and spent the last 13 years of his life in a mental institute.

We too have lost our moorings. The tide has turned and the boat has slipped its tether. Russel Kirk a philosopher and historian in tracing the roots of our civilization identifies four major cities that give content to our culture:

Jerusalem which gives us a moral framework; Athens which gives us a philosophical framework; Rome which gives us a legal framework, (our common law is Roman Dutch) and London which gave birth to the United States of America, the current leading force in forming culture. We still remember London, Rome and Athens, but we have forgotten Jerusalem. We have lost God's Word. We have lost our moral framework.

I have been reminded of Nietzsche's statement that universal madness will grip our culture through a few incidents which have occurred recently.

The first one was the tragic death of Noa Pothaven, a 17-year-old Dutch girl who, according to initial reports, had been euthanised in the Netherlands. She had been raped at the age of 14 years and never recovered from the trauma. There is a degree of confusion surrounding her death with the official version being death by starvation.

She died with the consent and approval of her parents who allowed their 17-year-old daughter to starve herself to death. If only she had known the God of the Word, and the Word of God which was written to give us hope she may have received courage to continue.

She wrote, "It is finished. After many conversations and assessments, it was decided that I be released because my suffering is unbearable... I breathe, but no longer live." How unimaginably sad.

We have an eternal hope that Jesus will make everything new. Revelation 21:5. “He will right every wrong, overturn every injustice and set every prisoner free”. This hope is our anchor in life. It is steadfast and sure and connects us to the eternal God. When we abandon the Word of God we are left in a hopeless place of indifference and madness.

The second incident relates to gender fluidity. A friend of mine, a medical practitioner was informed at a medical conference overseas that there are 74 identifiable categories of gender. Gender is no longer binary, but multifaceted in nature.

Genesis 2:27 is clear: “God created mankind...male and female”. Science tells us that maleness is imprinted in every cell of the body of a male and vice versa in the body of a female. Surgical intervention and hormonal treatment will never alter the biological truth as uncomfortable as that may be.

One can hardly imagine a new world with 74 genders and how this will impact the workplace and the sporting world. Imagine 74 categories in the 100 metre race!

My plea is that we return to our compassionate, loving heavenly Father and His life giving Word. Centuries have come and gone and still God’s Word stands firm. It remains a lamp for our feet and a light for our path. It continues to declare God’s unfailing love for us.

In a world slowly becoming mad, it is a beacon of truth and life. It is a door which leads to genuine reality, not the smoke, mirrors and deception of an incoherent world in which God is dead. Through this doorway one will find faith, hope and love together with courage to continue the journey.

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