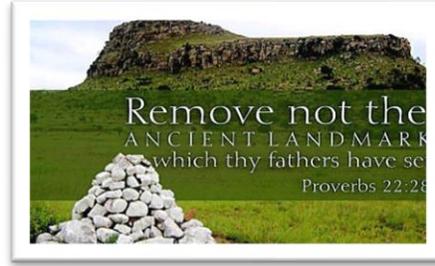


THE RESTRAINTS OF THE REDEEMER (Part 3)

by Phil Sessa, July 22, 2020



Dear woke evangelical pastors, in the words of the late R.C. Sproul, “What’s wrong with you people”! Why in God’s name would you stand in solidarity with an organization that seeks the destruction of Christianity? Would you also stand with Planned Parenthood, and LGBTQA+? Perhaps you say, there is no comparison, but realize these groups are all sitting together at the same table. These are world groups that oppose the God and The Gospel, “denies the Bible, belittles men, demeans women and subjugates generations of black children to the dysfunction of fatherless families¹.”

Previously we looked at the first three **Restraints of The Redeemer**: the conscience, the family, and civil government. The final restraint of The Redeemer is the church, which is the spiritual authority.

A Pillar and Buttress of the Truth

Paul calls the church “**a pillar and buttress of the truth**” (1 Tim 3:15). A Pillar supports the roof and walls of a structure and a buttress supports a pillar, allowing it to stand stronger and higher. As a pillar the church (the bride of Christ) is valued by God as exceedingly precious in His sight, as she upholds the truth of God's Word to the world around her. As the buttress of the truth she upholds and is simultaneously subservient, submitted, and yielded to Christ. The church does not have authority outside the Word of God (The Bible). John Calvin stated, “But in those things where it rests upon God’s Word, the Church will not waiver with any distrust or doubting but will repose in great assurance and firm consistency.” (Institutes of the Christian Religion, IV:8:13)

The Salt of The Earth

The church is also the salt of the earth! Salt has several properties, but the most important one is that of a preservative. Raw meat can be preserved. Christians have a preserving effect in a wicked, perverse, and decaying world. God told Abraham that He would preserve Sodom from the wrath of judgement in ten righteous people – a little salt – was present. Salt also acts as an antiseptic used to treat wounds, and stings as the old adage “salt in a wound,” proposes. It heals and hurts. It hurts through the presence of believers that strings the consciences of the ungodly as a painful reminder of the righteous requirements of God’s Holy Law. On the other hand, it is healing for those that are wounded by their sin to come to the Savior. Salt causes thirst. You can lead a horse to water, but you cannot make him drink. However, you can salt his oats to cause thirst. Those that hunger and thirst for righteousness will be filled (Matt 5:6), because this can only be satisfied in Christ (John 4:13-15; John 6:35). Salt also gives flavor to bland tasting

¹ <https://sovereignnations.com/2020/06/15/evangelical-pastors-pander-radical-black-lives-matter/>

foods. We are to taste and see that The Lord is good (Psalm 34:8). The presence of God's people causes an arousing appetite for God among His elect, His sheep which hear His voice.

The Light of The World

The church is also the light of the world (Matt 5:16). John wrote, "And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹ But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God" (John 3:19-21). The light of Christ in the church exposes and dispels the darkness of sin in the world. while simultaneously illuminating Christ! This is why, "...the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God" (2 Cor 4:4).

Christ died for His precious church which he gave Himself up for that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish." (Ephesians 5: 25-27) is called to preach the truth boldly (Acts 4:13,29) and unashamedly (Romans 1:16).

The church has the proper worldview concerning what is happening in our world because she holds a biblical worldview. For example, the current mantra "black lives matter" could only truly make sense in a biblical worldview where all humanity is created in the image of God. We do not need this mantra, because we have sola Scriptura (Scripture alone). If we have God's Word, why do we need the word of man? Why to try to improve upon God's Word? Planned parenthood, LGTBQA+, the ACLU, the socialists, the communists, social justice warriors, Nation of Islam, the KKK, and proponents of the caste system, and false religions all have agendas that oppose God and His Gospel. Archbishop Vigano recently said, "There are [now] mercenary infidels who seek to scatter the flock and hand the sheep over to be devoured by ravenous wolves ...; a deep church that betrays its duties and forswears its proper commitments before God.". Pastors and church leaders cannot stand with support and undergird these groups as if God is aligned with them. Yet we see many professing churches joining groups they should be opposing. If they were simply preaching the Gospel, these other groups could not dare ask God's people to align with their ungodly agendas. The church is the salt of the earth.

We see many professing churches joining groups they should be opposing. If they were simply preaching of the Gospel these others groups could not dare ask God's people to align with their ungodly agendas. Liberalism has in mind to convert Christianity into the social gospel, and away from a biblical gospel. They want our hands and feet, our money and time, and to champion their cause by hanging their ungodly signs (representing their fundamentally unbiblical philosophies) in front of our churches, while trumpeting their message from our pulpits. We must not compromise! We must not bend! "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect (Rom 12:2)." Our social acts stem forth from the very Gospel we believe.

**The church doesn't simply "do" salt and light things once in a while;
the church is the salt and light of the King. (Rev. Bill Green)**

We have been transformed by the power of the Gospel, we are new creatures in Christ, born again (John 3:3), regenerated by the power of The Holy Spirit (Ezekiel 36:24-26). Butterflies that were once caterpillars

do not try to once again act and live as the crawling creatures they once were. Paul again wrote, “ But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, **how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world**, whose slaves you want to be once more (Gal 4:9).” Again Rev. Bill Green states, “If God is re-creating a new humanity whose purpose is not only to be salt and light but also that men might “praise our Father in heaven” because of us, we are left with no alternative than to **consider the world’s non-salty darkness as antithetical to the Christian’s entire worldview**. Christians are called to be a kingdom-honoring covenant community seeking Christ’s glory—in everything we do.” When the church views and carries itself as not only God’s redeemed people but also the visible evidence of God’s kingly-covenantal activity on earth, the metaphors of “salt” and “light on a hill” become natural modes of existence, and this metaphor becomes an overflow of our very lives ([Matt. 5:13–16](#)).

If you are a pastor, are you standing with the world to find favor and acceptance among them, or are you standing with The Lord, because His favor and call is upon you to be the pillar and buttress of the truth, and the salt of the earth and light of the world. The world and its ideas, attitudes, actions, words, manners, worship, fashions, and worldview oppose God’s Word. “World” means the pomp and splendor of the world; which Satan makes use of to further his kingdom and interest as well as to hinder the kingdom and interest of Christ (William Greenhill).”

“For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. (Jude 1:4).” The nations are raging, “and the people plotting in vain. The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his Anointed” (Psalm 2:1-2).

Preparation is always to come before the battle. How are you preparing God’s flock in your local church to defend (1 Peter 3:15) and contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints (Jude 1:3)? How are you preparing God’s Flock in a culture that is trying to manipulate you, and all of God’s people to abandon the cause of Christ, and preach another Gospel (Gal 1:8) like the trojan horse of social justice? The world desires for us to be consumed by it’s desires, but it has no interest in that which pleases God. We cannot partner with the world, the people of Satan, but we must stand in solidarity with God’s Word, and His people.

I will give the Apostle Paul the last word, “But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. (Gal 6:14).”

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