

From Our Pastor

December 29, 2018

Sabbath Greetings to everyone!

As the world embarks on a new calendar year it appears obvious that Aristotle and Plato have won. The roots of modern culture can be traced back to the Greek philosophers Plato and Aristotle. Plato advocated a dualistic view of the world made up of the material and the spiritual realms. Aristotle proposed the Greek world-view that cherished the power of human thought and reasoning to discover the truth. Together they provided the foundation for the Enlightenment and the subsequent conversion of the West to a new form of faith. Their secularism appears to have vanquished Christianity as the driving force of the Western nations.

Christianity has been the backbone of the Western world for centuries but is in rapid decline. There are places in the third world where religion based on Bible teachings is increasing, but they do not compare with the avalanche of decline in the Western nations.

The Guardian recently reported, "Europe's march towards a post-Christian society has been starkly illustrated by research showing a majority of young people in a dozen countries do not follow a religion. The survey of 16- to 29-year-olds found the Czech Republic is the least religious country in Europe, with 91% of that age group saying they have no religious affiliation. Between 70% and 80% of young adults in Estonia, Sweden and the Netherlands also categorize themselves as non-religious.

A startling truth is revealed by young people. "In the UK, only 7% of young adults identify as Anglican, fewer than the 10% who categorize themselves as Catholic... Religion was "moribund" wrote Stephen Bullivant, a professor of theology and the sociology of religion at St Mary's University in London. "With some notable exceptions, young adults increasingly are not identifying with or practicing religion." The trajectory is likely to become more marked. "Christianity as a default, as a norm, is gone, and probably gone for good – or at least for the next 100 years," Bullivant said.

The trend is also true in the USA. The Atlantic reported, "Over the past decade pollsters charted something remarkable: Americans— long known for their piety—were fleeing organized religion in increasing numbers. The majority still believed in God. But the share that rejected any religious affiliation was growing fast, rising from 6 percent in 1992 to 22 percent in 2014. Among Millennials, the figure was 35 percent." Barely a third of Americans attend church, less than half of a generation ago.

The religion of Humanism--which says there is no absolute truth except the truth that there is no absolute truth and that a perfect world can be brought about by human reason--has taken a terrible toll. Evidence depicts Western society in decline--not "progress." Hundreds of millions of innocent babies have been killed in the name of "women's rights." Almost half of babies born are to unwed mothers. The rise of crime,

dependency on government, family breakdown, drug use, immorality, depression, suicide, burnout, low self-esteem, obesity, and loneliness are some of the symptoms. The toll is increasing every day.

Plato and Aristotle will be on the march during the coming years, but after that their system will be defeated forever. The victory of Humanism will be short lived. As Isaiah proclaimed, " It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD's house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. (Isaiah 2: 2-3)

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