

Smoky Mountain Reflections, May 2011

We all think we are so very important when each and every one of us, in the grand scale of things, are all relatively very small and insignificant. If you do not read this whole article please know that opening sentence is designed to be an attention getter, so take the time to read the whole thing.

The reason we are so relatively insignificant is mostly because we choose ourselves over others. We choose our wants, needs, and desires over God's will on a regular basis and in so doing, we make ourselves very small. When our universe is focused inward we have a very small universe.

I could point out that the human life span is less than .02% of the earth's history and that is if you believe as I do that the world is only about 6000 years old. I could point out that in hundreds of generations mankind has had thousands of geniuses and prodigies, and we know very little about most of them. Those who existed more than 2000 years ago are only known to us in their architecture, their writings and their carvings. Each of us tries to be different than those who preceded us. We are going to make our mark, make a difference for all mankind, and then everyone will know just how special we really are.

At this point you may be saying, "Come on pastor...people do not really think they are that important. They just want the respect due them." I would reply that for the most part, people really do think they are better than everyone else including the very God who created them. We are not interested in submission, obedience, as these are words of weaklings. We want to talk about rugged individuals who did it their way!

Do not trouble me with history—I am making it! I am writing a newer better enlightened history for mankind. We are not the crown of God's creation. We are a plague on mother earth, and I am here, the enlightened one, to let you know that everything on earth is more important than you. God did not create the earth for you, calling you to be its steward. You are the product of millions of years of accidental happenstance so that the green ooze in the bottom of the pond is more important than you are.

And as far as religion is concerned, to each his own. Do not put your morals on me. We live in a society that for the most part is unchurched and biblically ignorant. Less than 20% of the U.S. population goes to any church on a weekly basis, and that number is less than 5% for Europe. There are some 20 to 30 percent who would say they have no use for God, and another 40 to 60 percent might be called church shoppers. They really are non-church goers but they like to give the appearance that they are searching for the right church to serve their needs. But the church they are looking for does not exist—the one that is centered around them, not Christ. If they cannot get church on their own terms, then it is the fault of those judgmental hypocrites, not them.

We can't even entertain ourselves without self importance. We always identify with someone in the films we watch and the books we read. Hollywood thinks they are so important they need to let us know that our TV will not do justice to their great cinematographic work of art. You know that irritating notice in the beginning of a DVD: "This film was modified from its original format." Really!! May I ask who cares? Hollywood's self importance is a reflection of our society's empty self importance. All of us are little specks on this little blue ball in the middle of this vast universe.

But there is someone that is really important and His revealed word is important. He created all that is and revealed to us all we need to know in His word. Words *mean* things. We do not win souls for Christ. He won victory over sin, death and the devil on Good Friday. We don't give our life to Jesus. He redeemed and won us and in so doing made every one of us eternally important to the triune Creator of the universe. His creation sings His praises with the beautiful explosion of colors in spring, and in the long happy carefree days of summer to come, followed by the deep colors of fall that signify that his creation is going to sleep again for another winter, and this all at His bidding in accord with His will. He is all important and we are made important because His eternal love and redemption makes us important to Him.

In Christ
Pastor Portier