

UPWARD THOUGHT

SEARCH



Explaining the prophecies and the scriptures to all who desire to hear them. (Mosiah 27:35-36)

Subtlety and slavery: Liberty and justice for all.

By Rob • July 05, 2020

The Lord told me to write this today, on July 5th 2020.

SHARE

People think that good and evil need be sudden and extreme. The fact is that they are frequently subtle, and stronger when they are.

Labels

freedom

slavery

Good: You think of a good person as someone who takes up an enormous flag and loudly charges into battle in a moment of glory. That is relatively easy to do: what is right is clear, the sacrifice is only momentary, and everyone is watching you, spurring you on with peer pressure and instantly awarding you with credit.

Subtle good is quiet and secret. It is also excruciatingly hard. Subtle good is crawling forward ever so slowly, fully exhausted, collapsing with every effort, only to somehow recover just enough to take another small plunge forward. Subtle good is loving your

enemies when they hate you, turning the other cheek, giving your cloak away, feeding those who have squandered their inheritance instead of yourself, and so on. In most of these subtle good situations, no one will ever know what you did, everyone will judge you negatively if they did, and the constancy of the challenge is like being crushed by unending water at the bottom of the sea, all the time, for decades, until you die.

Evil: You think of an evil person as someone who commits the most atrocious, sudden, violent action. That is relatively rare: there are strong social norms against the most heinous deeds (even now), and there are strong penalties against them. Subtle evil is quiet and secret. It says lie a little, take advantage of your neighbor a little, submit to your emotional outbursts a

little. Like mold on food, the corruption you see does not reveal the depth of what has already happened. It does untold damage to your character, but all you see is the smallest most obvious part. What makes flaxen cords into chains is not some overt process, but simply passivity: like weeds in a garden, "little" sins will suddenly go to seed and infiltrate everything, and all it takes is doing nothing after the first weed sprouts. The outcome is guaranteed if the weed is not pulled immediately.

The problem about subtle evil is not just the condition it brings, but also the difficulty it creates of escaping it. If you put your hand in boiling water, you will not get in very far before you yank it back out. It is obviously worse, and the way out is plain. In a subtle condition, not

only is the way out unclear, but many times it is actually taken away from your capacity.

Satan's flaxen cords become chains because the ideas that come along with them actually block you from conceiving the way out. A lot more can and will be said about this, but it will have to wait.

How does subtle evil apply to our government system? For one, we live in subtle slavery. Does that sound too extreme? It isn't.

You have to understand how principles work. Principles are broken when one thing violates them. The violating thing is usually small. It doesn't matter how small it is. Broken principles are not like broken dams. Once broken, they

don't immediately release everything they were holding back. The good news is, it takes time. The bad news is that there is no guarantee of how long it will take, and every single thing behind that dam is now fair game. The second you impede *any* person's ability to say *everything*, you open the door to preventing *everyone* from saying *anything*. The second you impede a person from hiring or firing anyone for every reason, you open the door to the government completely dictating who you hire and who to fire. The second you impede *any* person's ability to own *any* gun, you immediately open the door to the seizure of all guns.

This is why the sentimentality that causes us to violate principles is so damning. Yes, it is sad when people don't have much money. However,

the harm done by raising taxes to fund welfare will always cause more harm than caused by their penury. Yes, it is sad when someone gets shot. However, the damage done by increasing gun laws will always be orders of magnitude worse than the harm caused by that incident.

Understanding principles requires a strength of character and intellect not possessed by the majority of people. This is why the United States was designed as a republic, not a democracy.

The founding fathers understood that a democracy would never vote according to what was wise, because the majority of people are fools. That is human nature. But most normal people during most times of history have the sense to realize that some people have a better sense than they do. Farming will do that. It's

pretty hard to look at your neighbor who has the same type of soil as you and the same bodily resources as you yet manages a yield double, triple, or quadruple yours and conclude that you are equal.

I digress.

We departed from the principles of liberty a long time ago. And it happen so subtly that no one seems to have noticed it.

Freedom is defined as "the power or right to act, speak, or think as one wants without hindrance or restraint." Are you free?

Is an American today any freer than a slave?

What can't you do? What can't you say? Most

Americans are only clueless about the state of affairs because they only color within the lines. The majority of Americans live lives where all they know is going to work as an employee and doing what everyone does in their off time: the minimal house chores of modern amenity and boatloads of TV and recreation. They are covered in flaxen cords and have no idea. They have crept into the American family like vines, and almost everyone is bound in them. And they are hardening.

When we read of the events described in end times scripture, we tend to think "if it is this bad, how could people still be oblivious? How obvious could God be in indicating that things are not right?" There will be people who maintain their blind state until the last vial of

judgment is poured. That spirit of blindness is already manifest in almost everyone, and it is likely manifest in you.

The signs of slavery are all around you. Can you see them? Have you read the Declaration of Independence recently? Can you imagine living according to it today? You would be jailed or shot if you tried. Do you have freedom of speech? Do you have the right to practice your religion? Do you have the unfringed right to bear arms? You have none of these things.

Do you have the right to exchange goods and services with whom you please at the terms you agree upon? The obvious answer is no, but things are far worse than you know unless you own a small business or are paying attention.

Did you know that in many places, business owners can't dismiss an employee without a detailed written record of poor performance? Did you know that employees who are fired for poor performance or absenteeism can immediately get unemployment, which the employer pays for? Did you know that an employer is not allowed to hire people for what they are worth, but has to pay them a minimum of whatever the state tells them? Did you know that there are many egregious administrative burdens the state places on employers? Lengthy quarterly reports, withholding payments, tax prepayments, figures for unemployment, and on and on. The requirements are legion, and if you forget, the penalties are severe. Here is just one example: Did you know that if you happen to

hire a person making child support payments (which you can't know ahead of time, because you are not allowed to ask), you have to spend extra hours per month garnishing their wages and sending it off to the state, and if you don't within 7 days of each and every payroll, they will fine you the total amount plus a penalty and you could go to jail? Business owners also have a much better view of the taxes you pay than you do, because the government has obfuscated most of the taxes you pay through your employer. Your employer pays half of your social security and medicare taxes, all of your unemployment tax, and a host of other expenses before anything hits your paystub. The withholding you see on your check is less than half of what you are actually paying, and you don't get any refunds on that majority. Everyone

on a W-2 pays at least 8.65% in taxes, even when they get a "full refund" on April 15th.

Most Americans pay someone else to do their taxes. If you do them yourself, you realize to a greater degree how much of an arbitrary racket it is. You start to see how the more successful you are, the greater your punishment.

Homeowners know they never actually own their home--they have to pay rent through property taxes for the rest of their lives, and if they fall behind, the state will seize their house. In other words, they are slaves of the municipality. HOA "members" know that they are slaves to the HOA.

But because most Americans either rent or own

a home in a tightly packed suburb, they don't know how bad it really is. If you live on acreage, you might have a better idea of how much of a slave you are. You can't add a house, subdivide, dig a hole, build a shed, have a fishpond, or do almost anything else without the government's permission. It's not your property. It's theirs.

Do we live in a land where "every man may enjoy[s] his rights and privileges alike?" (Mosiah 29:32) Or do you get different treatment depending on the color of your skin, the amount of money you make, what political ideology you profess, and how famous you are? This is called *iniquity*. Read the scriptures regarding it. It is the opposite of justice, or treatment based solely upon merit.

What has God said about America and freedom?

What has he said about how he would maintain liberty here?

Americans are slaves. We are prosperous slaves, but slaves nonetheless. Prosperity comes as a natural result of choosing righteousness. When our choices are limited or dictated by another, and that other is not more righteous than us, we will be less prosperous. An enslaved country cannot be prosperous, because a righteous king would not enslave his people.

What should you do about it? There was a time when this country could have been put back on the right course through violent intervention. That time is long passed.

Only God can redeem this nation. He will do so with unimaginable horror. To be technically accurate, he will do so by allowing the natural consequences of what we have created to occur. The wicked will destroy the wicked. Nature will also react. Many of the righteous will also suffer and many of them will die.

Our job in the meantime is to actually repent of our sins, to shake off our apathetic lethargy and actually learn more about God, apply everything we can to ourselves, and to teach our children to reject this fallen culture we live in so that when something better comes, we are not disqualified from being a part of it.

Our job is to pray unceasingly to God to deliver justice to this nation, and to prepare ourselves

through repentance and striving to learn more about God so that justice recompenses good to us when it comes. And it **is** coming.

LABELS: [FREEDOM](#), [SLAVERY](#)

[SHARE](#)



Archive



Labels



[Report Abuse](#)

YouTube Channel

[UpwardThought YouTube Channel](#)

Free Audio Books

Men are that they might have joy
Seek Ye This Jesus
The Glory of God is Intelligence
Through Faith

Free E-Books

Through Faith
Men are that they might have joy:
Obtaining happiness and peace
through Jesus Christ
The Glory of God is Intelligence:
Acquiring and Disseminating Light
and Truth
Seek Ye This Jesus: Hearing, Seeing,
and Dwelling with God
Teaching for Doctrines the
Commandments of Men: Tradition in
Modern Mormonism
Commanded in All Things
Holiness to the Lord: How to Live the
Law of Consecration
Lectures on Faith (by Joseph Smith)

Kindle Books

The Glory of God is Intelligence
Seek Ye This Jesus
Lectures on Faith
Teaching for Doctrines the
Commandments of Men

Paper Books (Sold at print cost)
Through Faith

Men Are That They Might Have Joy:
Obtaining Happiness and Peace
Through Jesus Christ
The Glory of God is Intelligence:
Acquiring and Disseminating Light
and Truth
Seek Ye This Jesus
Teaching for Doctrines the
Commandments of Men: Tradition in
Modern Mormonism
Holiness to the Lord: How to Live the
Law of Consecration
Commanded In All Things
Book of Mormon (1840 edition)
Scriptures on Wisdom
Lectures on Faith (Economical
Reprint)

 Powered by Blogger

Copyright Rob Smith