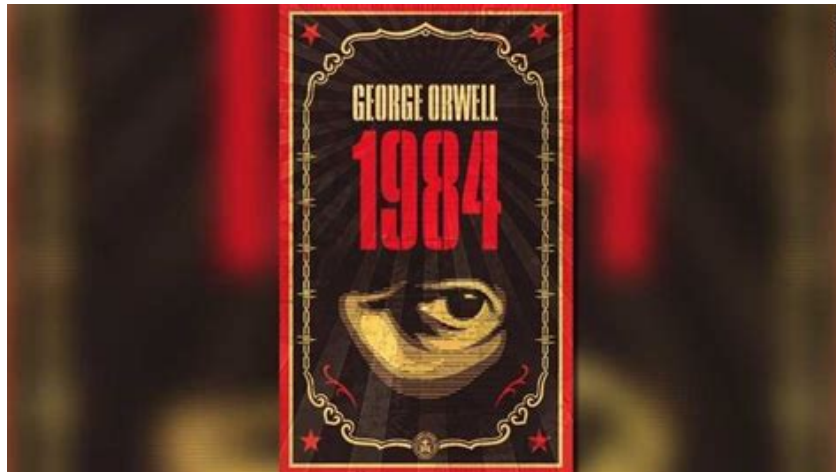


Daily View

"But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called 'today'" Hebrews 3:13

June 25, 2020



George Orwell's classic, written in 1949, sounds eerily familiar.

Is it 1984?

The bestselling book, *1984*, by George Orwell, was required reading in 1964, at least for those of us attending LaQuinta high school. The book was written in 1949. It seemed so *far out*, as we used to say, we wondered why we had to read it. I thought it was interesting but weird, pure science fiction. There were lots of problems in the early 1960s. JFK was assassinated in '63 and the Cold War seemed about to boil over. But there was nothing going on at that time that was similar to what Orwell was describing in *1984*.

You are undoubtedly familiar with the famous line from the book, *"Big Brother is Watching You."* But there are others that you may not remember. For example, another motto of "The Party" was *"War is peace. Freedom is slavery. Ignorance is strength."* And this, *"The Party seeks power entirely for its own sake. We are not interested in the good of others; we are interested solely in power, pure power."*

Remember, the book was written in 1949 yet there are things happening as I write this that come close to Orwell's 1984 world:

"Every book has been rewritten, every picture has been repainted, every statue and street and building has been renamed, every date has been altered...History has stopped. Nothing exists except an endless present in which the Party is always right."

The difference is that statues are not being renamed but torn down. In the minds of some of the protesters (not all), history has stopped — they want to start over, and they want to be in charge.

I'm not an alarmist and I tend to get impatient with people who are obsessed with it: "everything is yellow to the jaundiced eye." I've seen protests and movements come and go; historically, people get bored after awhile and move on to something else.

But it's hard to miss some of the eerily similar things from a 71 year old novel. For example, *"It's a beautiful thing, the destruction of words."* I can't help but think of the word "Christian" and how it has been misused for years. Now, it is

being hijacked. This short excerpt from a long tweet by a young lady serves as one example:

I am a Christian and I don't go to church.

I am a Christian and I don't believe the Bible is the word of God.

I am a Christian and I embrace sex-positivity, which includes but isn't limited to, sex outside of marriage.

This is my space, this is my truth, and this is how I treat others and their spaces.

She can believe what she wants, she can say what she wants but that doesn't mean it's true. If you want to know why it's hard to teach people the gospel today, look no further than the last line: *"this is my truth..."* She says she's a **Christian** but Christ taught the opposite of everything she says above. But, she admits, that's *her* truth. But when it comes to the things of God, there is one truth, *the* truth.

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, the life." Note the definite article: *the* truth. He said, "You shall know *the* truth..." in John 8:32 and, in the verse before that, "If you abide in my word (the truth), you are truly my disciples — or "Christians," see Acts 11:26.

You can't have your own "truth" and still be a Christian. Of course, the young lady conveniently dismisses the Bible as God's word, so that frees her up to believe a Christian is whatever she says it is.

I tell you, this is the challenge of our time. Not only that people quit serving the Lord or don't believe in God or believe in evolution or whatever. Orwell, quoting the "Party," said it: *"Reality exists in the human mind, and nowhere else."* That, my friends, is the reality of our time, as Paul predicted in II Timothy 4:3-4:

For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.