

Daily View

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

July 11, 2020



3 ½ square feet for each person? Not even on Oahu (January, 2020)

Sometimes, people just say stuff

When I was a Senior in high school, in 1965, Mr. Wall, my history teacher, stated matter-of-factly that by 1980 or so, each person in the world would have only 3 ½ square feet to stand on. He said that because people were talking about the dreaded "population explosion" at the time.

Obviously, Mr. Wall should have stayed with history and not tried his hand at prophecy. Even at 17, I viewed his claim with skepticism, but I still thought about it a lot. I still do. Almost every time I drive on I-5 through the central valley to LA, I think of Mr. Wall's prediction... and laugh. Even Oahu (above), the site of busy and crowded Waikiki, has a lot of open ground.

Did Mr. Wall believe what he was saying? I don't know. Since that time, I've heard a lot of people say things and it seems they are making it up as they go. And sometimes a person says something so wrong that it lays bare their ignorance on the topic they are commenting on.

For example, this past week on CNN, Don Lemon (apparently pronounced "Lee-Moan,") speaking to fellow host Chris Cuomo, lit up Twitter with this statement: *"Jesus Christ, if that's who you believe, if that's who you believe in, admittedly was not perfect when he was here on this earth."* My first thought was, how one can hold himself up as a commentator on culture and not know that Christians believe that Jesus was perfect? Yet even Cuomo (a Catholic) did not correct Lemon. But others did.

Former NFL player and coach Tony Dungy immediately responded and said, "I'm sorry Mr. Lemon but just who 'admitted' that Jesus Christ was not perfect here on earth? Not anyone who believes the Bible. Not anyone who trusts in Jesus

as their savior! I'm not sure the point you're making but your premise is dead wrong. That was the point in Jesus' coming!"

Dungy is right, of course and the Bible backs him up. Here are just a few scriptures that make the point that Jesus was sinless: I John 3:5, "in him is no sin"; II Corinthians 5:21, "...made him to be sin who knew no sin..."; Hebrews 4:15, "...tempted as we are, yet without sin."

Like Mr. Wall, talking heads on TV just say stuff sometimes, and it exposes their ignorance, sooner or later. When the 1980's rolled around, Mr. Wall looked foolish and you wondered if anything he ever said was true. I know that many people listen to cable news personalities and take what they say as "gospel," never bothering to check to see if it's true.

It happens in church, too. I've heard many prayers that go something like this: "please, God, help us search the scriptures to make sure these things are so..." (Acts 17:11). I encourage people who listen to me to do just that. I, too, am capable of getting it wrong, of misinterpreting something, of "just saying stuff" (though, I never intend to do that). No preacher worth his salt resents someone who comes to him with a different view or application of a text. All of us should remember Paul's warning to Timothy, found in II Timothy 2:15:

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

Whenever anyone speaks, hold his feet to the fire to make sure he is not "just saying stuff." Look around: we all have much more than 3 ½ cubic feet of ground to stand on, don't we? Mr. Wall's prediction looks pretty foolish right about now.