



Seek The Old Paths

“Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths. . . and walk therein”
(Jeremiah 6:16)

Vol. 28, No. 8

August 2017

PROGRESSIVISM IS NOT PROGRESS

Rusty Stark

Those who reject God’s word in favor of some newer more modern standard are spiritual progressives. It is digression wrapped up in bright paper with a pretty bow. It is a rotten egg with icing on top. It is apostasy!

You would think that being progressive would be a good thing—a positive thing; because, when I think of being progressive, I think of progress—being positive, going forward—being better and improved. Some churches of Christ are now advertising themselves as being progressive—and proud of it. But, being progressive when it comes to the Bible is an evil work of darkness (cf. Eph. 5:11).

Bing Dictionary defines progress this way: positive development, usually of a gradual kind, toward achieving a goal or reaching a higher standard, ...the general advance of human society and industry over time toward a state of greater civilization, movement forward or onward.

In spite of the fact of sounding similar, progressives, and the ideology and direction of progressivism, is not the same as progress. A striking and dangerous parallel exists between progressivism in the political sense of the word and progressivism in the religious realm.

POLITICAL PROGRESSIVISM

In the political realm, the term ‘progressive’ has different shades of meaning, but one basic concept of progressivism, one characteristic of those who are called progressives, is that of “not wanting to be governed by the Constitution.”

In America, progressivism was conceived and took root as our country was modernized. Advances in the scientific world brought about advances in business and industry. Manufacturing practices changed, electricity brought us ‘new light,’ and changes in transportation took us down new roads at faster and faster speeds.

In light of these many advances, people began to believe and argue that a modern country should not be governed and controlled by a document that, at the time, was 100+ years old. Progressives believed (and still do today) that the constitution of our country was (and is) out of date and out of touch.

Dennis Brady shows the view of President Woodrow Wilson: “Woodrow Wilson believed the constitution was outdated. He thought the founders had a ‘Newtonian’ view of government that was static, he believed that the current leadership of the nation should be able to legislate without regard to the constraints of the constitution, especially the limits spelled out by the enumerated powers of the federal government listed in the constitution. He was the father of the modern view of the constitution that it is a ‘living document.’” (www.brady-reports.com)

Granted, the founders of our country, those who wrote and eventually ratified our constitution, did not see it

as a perfect document. They even allowed an amendment process to change the constitution when such was necessary. But this is not what progressives want. They want the power to translate or even ignore the plain intent of the constitution as they see fit. Essentially, Woodrow Wilson “believed that the constitution means anything the current president and congress think it should mean with no regard to the original intent of the founders.” (www.bradyreports.com)

Another website (heritage.org/Research/Reports/2007/07/The-Progressive-Movement-and-the-Transformation-of-American-Politics) brings out this quote from Wilson: “All that progressives ask or desire, is permission—in an era when development, evolution, is a scientific word—to interpret the Constitution according to the Darwinian principle; all they ask is recognition of the fact that a nation is a living thing and not a machine.”

By referring to the “Darwinian principle,” president Wilson meant that the interpretation of the constitution should “evolve” rather than remain “static” (a fixed or stationary condition).

SPIRITUAL PROGRESSIVISM

Sadly, political progressivism is

(Continued on page 59)
Progressivism...