

The Universe Next Door



This is one of my favorite Norman Rockwell's. The elderly gentleman stands in military posture. He is in West Point gray. One can imagine him as an officer in WW II. He is a product of the Western Judeo-Christian worldview. He has no questions concerning existence, order, human dignity, right and wrong. But he stares at a piece of art that is the product of another worldview, another universe, another age. One where truth is created in the eye of the beholder. Truth is relative within man not absolute outside of man. The man and the painting are on different sides of a watershed. They are the old and the new. One being replaced by the other. They behold each other in silence. Rockwell's painting was in the 60's. It was prophetic of what was coming.

Many of us were born into the Modern (or rather Post-modern) world-view and converted back into the Christian. Most of us were born in a day of Roy Rogers, John Wayne, Boy Scouts and the assumption that there was truth of which God was the final appeal. If you are one of these (of which I am) you probably at times feel like this old gentleman staring at what is supposed to be modern and wondering what new world you have suddenly, like Spock and Kirk, materialized in. It's a world that sees the same things as we do but interprets them totally different. A world without God, truth, meaning, or morals. A world of chaos. A world like the painting – random and relative in meaning. And to a creature like man? A world of horror.

But do you know what is interesting? Our day is beginning to parallel first century Christianity more than any time in our history. No longer do we live in a culture totally affected by the Christian worldview where moral people all think that they are Christians. No longer do we have to labor convincing men that they are lost. As in the days of Rome where Christians were the anomaly so it is now. A day when monotheism is scorned. Purity is held in contempt. The violent is exalted. Perversion is normal. And the Christian is persecuted and seen as a threat to the national good because of their narrow theological and moral perspective as they are possessors of the truth.

So – don't be frightened of the day. We are beginning to follow a path that our people have not followed for ages. We are walking in the way of the early saints of God. Remember that the Christians of the failing Roman Empire believed that they were the preservers of the culture. The ideas of love, justice and truth all were housed and commanded in Christ. So are we. We are the consistent reason for purity, truth and excellence. We must hold true.

Step up!
Now is our time.
Take the hit.

Tommy