

REVISIONIST HISTORY

Some years back I watched several news programs, called “documentaries” on the end of WW II. Many of these programs involved the decision by then President Harry S. Truman to drop the Atomic Bomb on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan. Due to the fanatical devotion of the Japanese people and their soldiers to their emperor and god, Hirohito, Truman and his advisors felt this was the only way to end the war. They had seen the willingness of Japanese pilots and soldiers to perform suicide missions, or to take their own lives rather than surrender. In the early deliberations the leaders of Japan had shown no willingness to surrender. Truman and his advisors were convinced that many more lives thousands of American soldiers and Japanese citizens would die by prolonging the war rather by dropping the bomb. That decision is now being questioned and blame is being placed upon America for the thousands who lost their lives in those cities at the time of the explosion and since that time by the effects of radiation.

Certainly the morality of dropping the bomb is a matter of debate. The morality of war period is questionable. No civilized person relishes in the fact that such decisions have to be made. Most of us have never been in, not will we ever be in, a position of making such weighty decisions. Thank God for that. May we pray that such decision never have to be made again.

However, what I heard on most on the programs I witnessed was another attempt by historical revisionists to rewrite the whole history of WWII. They appear to have made America the aggressor, forgetting about the bombing of Pearl Harbor and even the shelling of some American cities near the coastal areas of our Western United States. They conveniently forgot about the Bataan Death March and the way in which the victorious Japanese army took few captives and the Inhuman treatment of those they did take captive My point is not to debate the morality of war or even to defame the decisions that were made, nor is it really to place blame. No sane person approves of war, but at the same time reasonable and fair thinking people know that sometimes wars have to be fought to preserve our freedoms. Can you imagine what this world would be like if Hitler has succeeded in his designs on the world? What if his Nazi Germany, Mussolini’s Fascist Italy, and Imperialist Japan were today ruling the world? Would the world be a better place?

My main point is only to say how foolish it is to second guess the decisions of national leaders almost seventy years ago? We were not there. We do not have all of the information or know all of the facts they had at their disposal when making those difficult decisions.

Whenever a trend starts in academia its almost always finds its way into the religious arena. Historical revisionists began with rewriting the history of the world, and then our nation’s history by discrediting many of our national leaders and heroes. Now the popular trend is to rewrite religious history. Recently I have read article in magazines and journals questioning the existence of Jesus, questioning the kind of person He really was, if He existed at all, if he was married and had a family, and portraying Him as a rogue and a rebel rouser. Other articles question the movement He founded that bears His name.

Within the church we have our own revisionists. They rewrite the history of and nature of the church. They call into question the Restoration Movement in our country denigrating many of the leaders of this movement. They denounce as “hardheaded,” “narrow minded,”

“bigoted, “ and “mean spirited” many of the early pioneer preachers who sacrificed almost everything for the cause they believed in restoring New Testament Christianity to our day and to our world. These modern historians also present the church in a negative light accusing it as being responsible for driving people away from God, creating guilt and by generally demonstrating a loveless attitude towards the saved and the lost.

Certainly there were some problem in the church of my youth. There are faults within the church of today. That is because it is made up of humans who are imperfect beings. Most of the people I have known in the church have been some of the best people I have ever seen in my experience. They are certainly not the degenerates, malcontents, and perverters of truth they are portrayed as being by some revisionists.

We are told that we are losing our young people. We are told they will not be members of the “church I grew up in.” That may be true, but why? Is it because we try to teach them the truth? Or could it be because all they have grown up to hearing about the church is bad. Have the sermons and lessons they heard been laced with sarcasms, ridicule and spewed venom about our sins and transgressions. What can we expect from such “preaching?”

My Bible says Jesus loved the church and gave Himself for it ([Ephesians 5:25](#)). It also says we should love it and cherish it because it was purchased with His own blood ([John 13:34-35](#); [Acts 20:28](#); [Ephesians 4:15-16](#)). It may have its faults, flaws, and foibles, but when Jesus presents it to the Father it will be “a glorious church not having spot or blemish” ([Ephesians 5:27](#)). We need to exalt it now as He will then.

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