

Max's Musings...

The Danger of Doublespeak

In July each year we celebrate important holidays in both Canada and the United States. So, "Happy Birthday Canada and Happy Birthday United States". I suspect that most of us who live here in North America feel we are blessed by living "in the best nation in the world!" (I guess we will have to settle which is better – Canada or the United States – another time)☺

While being thankful for the freedoms and blessings we share, we surely must be troubled by the fact that, based on God's Word, our lands are, in some ways, a reflection of Isaiah 5:20. ***"Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!"*** Political correctness has changed the thinking of many and we are "expected" to accept and approve of the use of language and practices which were unthinkable not so many years ago.

In the statement in Isaiah 5:20 it is clear that God holds mankind accountable to what He has revealed as good and evil, light and darkness, sweet and bitter. Many openly reject what God has revealed and teach or accept a standard of conduct that is much different than His. Solomon wrote, ***"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. They are wise in their own eyes, but since true wisdom begins with 'the fear of the Lord'"*** (Proverbs 1:7). Jeremiah speaks about this same issue when he says, ***"Thus says the LORD: 'Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD'"*** (Jeremiah 9:23-24).

Sadly, our countries have become, for many, the capitols of what William Lutz describes as "doublespeak". It is defined as "...language which pretends to communicate but really does not. Doublespeak is language which does not extend thought but limits it". As an example of such, Mr Lutz gives the following: "There are no potholes in the streets of Tucson, Arizona, just "pavement deficiencies. "The Reagan Administration didn't propose any new taxes, just "revenue enhancement" through new "user's fees". There are no more poor people, just "fiscal underachievers." There was no robbery of an automatic teller machine, just an "unauthorized withdrawal."

When human beings set themselves up as the ultimate authority, they define terms and rules according to their own feelings. Truth then, becomes whatever one decides it is for himself. The sad thing is that often such decisions are made apart for any respect for God's authority. These opinions of man, stated often enough, become accepted as truth.

Part of our goal on the Key To The Kingdom program is to challenge our viewers to "season" their thinking and living with an appreciation for and a clear understanding of God's will. May we learn with Peter the lesson of true knowledge. In John 6, Jesus has had

some turn away from Him because His teachings were too hard. Then Jesus turns His attention to the apostles and John records the conversation as follows, ***“After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. So Jesus said to the Twelve, ‘Do you want to go away as well?’ Simon Peter answered him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life...’”*** (John 6:66 – 68).