

Repeat of ignorance

(Black History Month)

Knowing history is vitally important for understanding how we think the way we do. It is important for us to understand the events and thinking of the past that have shaped our current situation. It should have the effect of humbling us and increasing our empathy for our fellow citizens of this planet. Without the study of history, we often make the mistake of acting as though things have always been the way they are.

We are fortunate to live in a place where our laws and literature have been preserved. This is a tremendous blessing, even when those laws and literature are less than flattering. We must always be careful not to condemn those of the past. Even when we judge their decisions to be cruel or short-sighted.

There are, however, some examples of nearly incomprehensible decisions or events that change the course of history for generations. It is shocking that people who claim belief in a God of love, a Christ of salvation, and a Holy Spirit of guidance and comfort could be responsible for, or complicit in the chattel slavery. The apostle Paul wrote in Galatians 3:28, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." In Colossians 3:11 he wrote, "Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all."

On Sept. 23, 1667, the colonial government of Virginia overturned over a millennium and a half of Christian teaching on equality. They were a self-styled, "grand assembly" and they "enacted and

declared" a new law that ignored Paul's beautiful teaching. Here it is in its original syntax and spelling along with a "clarification" passed three years later.

"Whereas some doubts have arisen whether children that are slaves by birth, and by the charity and piety of their owners made partakers of the blessed sacrament of baptism, should by virtue of their baptism be made

free; It is enacted and declared by this grand assembly, and the authority thereof, that the conferring of baptism doth not alter the condition of the person as to his bondage or freedom; that diverse masters, freed from this doubt, may more carefull endeavor the propagation of christianity by permitting children, though slaves, or those of greater growth if capable to be admitted to that sacrament." [sic.]

"Whereas it hath been questioned whither Indians or negroes, manumitted or otherwise free, could be capable of purchasing Christian servants; It is declared by this grand assembly, that noe negro or Indian though baptized and enjoyed their own freedom, shall be capable of any such purchase of Christians, but yet not debarred from buying any of their owne nation." [sic.]

In his classic 1969, Winthrop Jordan published, "White over Black: American Attitudes Toward the Negro, 1550-1812." It is based on over two decades of research. He points out that after these laws were enacted there was a change in how people self-identified. In the early part of the 1600s, Englishmen in the colonies would identify as "Christian." By the middle of the century it had shifted to English

and Free. By 1680, a new term appeared and eventually overtook all others - "White." These laws, and ones like them are what makes American chattel slavery different than other forms of slavery in history.

We are still living with the wretched turn of events today. If Christians had only continued to treat others as Paul had instructed, there is a chance that our current fighting of DEI would never have been. On many forms and applications there is still a space for "race" or "ethnicity." This does not even touch how the legal definition of the made-up term "white" has shifted over the years.

The most tragic consequence from a Christian point of view is the continuing damage done to the witness and body of Christ. In my lifetime it was dangerous in some parts of our nation to live according to the teaching of Paul rather than the implications of the laws passed in Virginia in the Seventeenth Century.

We desperately need to know our history. We desperately need to repent of willful ignorance and complacency. Christians must learn to be witnesses to the morality and ethics of the Bible without resorting to being legal or doctrinal bullies.

We can pass laws, and our "grand assemblies" can make declarations that push people in one direction or another. None of this changes what Christ-followers are to be doing. None of it changes how we should treat others.

I owe a debt to an acquaintance and fellow-traveler on the road to be a better human being, Bobby Valentine, for providing the seed for these thoughts today.

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Sean NIESTRATH
Faith-based columnist
Guest Columnist

Religious Outreach

■ Suicidal thoughts? Stop! Email dbrant-pc@tds.net and request a video link that hopefully will change your mind.

■ Old Salem Baptist Church has a Blessing Box located next to the church at 117 Old Salem Church Rd. Everyone is welcome to take items or place them in the box for others to enjoy.

■ First Baptist Church of Fredonia food pantry is open from 4-5:30 p.m., third Wednesday of each month in Coleman Hall of the church.

■ Cave Springs Baptist Church between Lola and Joy in Livingston County offers food

24 hours a day, 7 days week at its outdoor Blessing Box in front of the church.

■ The Clothes Closet of the First Baptist Church in Fredonia is open to serve the area with free clothes. The Clothes Closet is operated from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. each Thursday. The Clothes Closet will be closed in case of severe weather.

■ Fredonia Unity Baptist Church's clothes closet is open from 9 a.m. to noon on the second and fourth Saturday of every month.

■ The clothes closet at Mexico Baptist Church is open from 9 to 11:30 a.m. each Monday.

Love should be without favoritism within the family

Question: My parents showed favoritism to my sister. She was pretty and a good singer. They were always doting on her. I did woodwork and it seemed unimportant to them. I disliked all the attention she got and I grew to resent her. We're still not close. As a parent, how can I keep from showing favoritism among our children?

Answer: We like hunting and care for concerts. We may like dogs and want nothing to do with cats or vice versa. Our preferences define who we are. But when it comes to family, playing favorites has detrimental consequences. It causes the



favorite child to waltz through his (her) younger years with an unrealistic sense of entitlement throughout life. It causes the other child(ren) to feel less important and neglected. Perhaps, it will cause sibling rivalry and a breakdown of family closeness.

The way to keep from showing favoritism among your children is to show genuine love to each child. First Corinthians 13 is a template

for love and respect in the family. "Love is patient, love is kind. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres" (vs. 4, 7). Ask God to fill your heart with His love.

With His love within you, you have the capacity to generously give love and time to each of your children as opportunities arise. By giving love, we can make each child feel special for who he (she) is and does. By giving wholehearted love to each of your children, you may negate sibling rivalry and prevent lifelong conflicts.

Send your questions to: bob@bobhardison.com

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Rodney Phelps, Pastor
(270) 704-2400
emmausbaptistsalem@outlook.com
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St. William Catholic Church

Sunday Mass 11 a.m.
Father Jojo Joseph
860 S. Main St.
Marion, Ky.
(270) 965-2477

Mexico Baptist Church

Minister of Music Mike Crabtree
Pastor: Morgan Smith
Sunday Worship Services: 10 a.m., 7 p.m.
Sunday Bible Study: 9 a.m.
Sunday Discipleship Training: 6 p.m.
Wednesday Worship Service: 7 p.m.
175 Mexico Rd.
(270) 965-4059
MexicoBaptist.org

DEER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday Bible Study: 10 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 7 p.m.
Approx. 5 miles from the intersection of Hwy. 60 & Hwy. 297
Phone: (270) 965-2220
"Whatever It Takes"
Bro. Jamie Baker

Emmanuel Baptist Church

108 Hillcrest Dr., Marion | (270) 965-4623
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 10:45 a.m., 6 p.m.
Wednesday Adult Bible Study, Children and Youth Activities: 6 p.m.
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Tolu Methodist Church

Pastor: David Brown
We invite you to be our guest
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Barnett Chapel General Baptist

Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.
Sunday Night Service: 6 p.m.
Barnett Chapel Rd., Marion, Ky.
Barnett Chapel... where everyone is welcome.

Freedom General Baptist Church

Pastor: Ross Atwell
87 Freedom Church Rd., Marion
(about 1 mi. from Marion off Ky. 91)
CHURCH TIMES:
Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday Evening 6 p.m.
Sunday Worship 11 a.m. Wed. Bible Study 6 p.m.

Marion Baptist Church

College & Depot streets, Marion • (270) 965-5232
Pastor: Bro. Aaron Brown • Children's & Youth Pastor: Bro. Shawn Holman
SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES: 9 a.m. & 11 a.m., ONLINE 11 a.m., SUNDAY SCHOOL: 10:05 a.m.
WEDNESDAY: BIBLE STUDY/PRAYER 6 p.m., AWANA FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH GROUPS 6 p.m.
CHOIR PRACTICE: 6:45 p.m., PRAISE TEAM: 7:30 p.m.

SEVEN SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH

219 Seven Springs Rd., Marion, Ky. 42064
Sunday evening service 5 p.m.
Wednesday night service 6:30 p.m.
- We are an Independent Baptist Church seeking to know Christ, and to make Him known to the community around us. -
Pastor Justin Miller

Crayne Community Church

Crayne Cemetery Road, Crayne, Ky.
Bro. James Driver, Interim Pastor
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.

FIRST CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

224 W. Bellville St., Marion, Ky.
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.
David LeNeave, Pastor

growing in grace
2 Peter 3:18
PLEASANT GROVE General Baptist Church

Located on Ky. 723, 4 miles north of Salem
Sunday School 10 a.m. | Sunday Worship 11 a.m., 6 p.m. | Wed. 7 p.m.

Marion Church of God

334 Fords Ferry Road, Marion, Ky.
Morning Service 11 a.m.
Sun. Evening 6 p.m. • Wed. Evening 6 p.m.
"Where salvation makes you a member."

Crooked Creek Baptist Church

261 Crooked Creek Church Rd.,
P.O. Box 442, Marion, Ky. • (270) 704-0914
Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.
Pastor, Hank Cayce "Come and Worship with Us"

Speaker: Greg Rushing
PINEY FORK

CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Worship 11 a.m.
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585 Sugar Grove Church Rd., Marion, Ky.
Reverend Greg Cain 270-245-4013
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Wed. Bible Study: 7 p.m.

Marion Methodist Church

We love intensely, believe deeply, and pray zealously
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Worship 10:45 p.m.
South College St.

Frances Community Church

Bro. Butch Gray
Worship service:..... 11 a.m.
Children's Church ages 3 & up ... 11 a.m.
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Hurricane Church

Hurricane Church Rd. off Ky. 135 West
Pastor: Bro. Danny Hinchee
Sun. School, 10 a.m. • Worship, 11 a.m.
Sun. Evening services, 6 p.m.
Wed. Evening services, 7 p.m.

Unity General Baptist Church

4691 Mott City Rd. • Marion, Ky.
Bro. David Perryman, Pastor
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Sunday Worship 11 a.m.

Marion Church of Christ

546 West Elm Street • (270) 965-9450
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
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