

# How Jesus Changed the World

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

## Introduction:

- A. Gal. 4:4-5 - "But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons."
  - 1. Nearly everyone is familiar with the 1946 film classic, "It's A Wonderful Life," produced and directed by Frank Capra, based on the short story The Greatest Gift by Philip Van Doren Stern written in 1939
  - 2. Have you ever wondered what kind of world this would be if Jesus had not been born?
  - 3. Friedreich Nietzsche, 19th century nihilist German philosopher, declared the world would be a much better place if Jesus had never been born. He point to the excesses of historic Christianity in the crusades, Spanish Inquisition, and Salem witch hunts. According to Nietzsche, more people have been killed in the name of Christ than in any other name, a highly distorted and dishonest assertion.
  - 4. Nietzsche and his evil kind always fail, either deliberately or ignorantly, to make the distinction between what Jesus did and taught, and what professed followers of Jesus do and say.
- B. What if Jesus had never been born into this world?

## I. CHRIST'S INFLUENCE ON THE VALUE OF LIFE

- A. Christ's influence in this world includes:
  - 1. Laws that required justice among all people. Before this, power and oppression ruled.
  - 2. Dietary and hygiene laws instituted at a time when few practiced them.
  - 3. Jesus' life and teachings have transformed all of world history into two periods as A.D. ("Anno Domini", Latin for "in the year of Our Lord",) and B.C. (before Christ).
  - 4. Christian principles of fairness were the force behind equality at the polls for women and African-Americans.
  - 5. Christian principles form the basis of American jurisprudence, economics, and property ownership.
  - 6. Christianity is the force behind fairness for the poor, orphans, widows, and the disenfranchised of every age.
  - 7. During the great plagues and disasters, Christians cared for the sick and injured. Jesus taught humankind to love enemies, to love everyone regardless, and care for all persons in need. Laws made that require providing for the feeding of the poor.
  - 8. Divorce is less than 10% when families pray, attend church, and read the Bible together regularly.
  - 9. When the French statesman, Alexis de Tocqueville came to this country in the early 1800's, he was startled by the volunteerism that was carried out by associations mostly founded and run by Christians, and said that America's volunteer

spirit is its greatest strength. He went on to say that he did not know ten men in all of France who would do what ordinary Americans do every day as a matter of course. (<http://www.sciforums.com/threads/impact-of-christianity-on-human-society.4090/>)

10. "Judeo-Christian values have a foundational role in America, beginning with the Declaration of Independence: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.' Our Founding Fathers separated church from state, but they wisely did not separate God from state; they acknowledged God as the source of our rights, and, in fact, they were careful to place Biblical morality directly into our founding documents and laws, and into our values and culture precisely to help prevent a future of totalitarian or tyrannical rule in America. Our Founding Fathers were religious, deducing that our political and human rights come from a power higher than human government. This spirit is known in political science as American Exceptionalism." ([http://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2007/09/the\\_judeochristian\\_values\\_of\\_a.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2007/09/the_judeochristian_values_of_a.html))

## **II. CHRIST'S INSTRUCTIONS IN OUR CULTURE**

- A. Children: opposes infanticide and sacrifice; founds orphanages in society and promotes fostering and adoption among Christians
  - 1. Luke 17:1-2; Matt. 19:14; James 1:27
- B. Women: values her equally as men - Gal. 3:28
- C. The aged: culture opposes euthanasia and provided income and homes for the elderly; Christians are tenderly attentive to them until they pass from life
  - 1. 1Tim. 5:1-3; Eph. 6:2
- D. Slaves: Western Civilization opposes slavery and punishes slavers; Christians released their slaves and made them brethren - Eph. 6:5-9; Philemon 15-17
- E. Gladiators and public violence: Western Civilization put a stop to it with the spread of Christianity - Matt. 7:12; James 3:17

## **III. CHRIST'S IMPACT ON WESTERN CIVILIZATION**

- A. Universal application and purpose of medicine - Matt. 12:15
- B. General benevolence by individual citizens - Gal. 6:10
- C. Moral structure of civil and criminal laws - Prov. 14:34; Rom. 13:3-4
- D. Civil liberties - John 7:51
- E. Scientific understanding of God's creation - Gen. 1:28
- F. Personal, individual responsibility and morality - Phil. 1:27
- G. Education and development - Prov. 1:1-5
- H. Transformed lives - Col. 3:10; 1Peter 1:13-16

### **Conclusion:**

- A. Jesus lived in this world 2000 years ago so that we could have an abundant life, spiritually supplied with every blessing (Eph. 1:3), and a more pleasant sojourn in this world (John 10:10).
- B. Our world would be unrecognizable to us had Jesus never been born. But while Jesus' time in this world transformed it until the end of days enriching our lives, His true purpose was to transform our lives throughout all of eternity.