

## HOOK'S POINTS

◇◇◇ A printing company in Florida has done 25 book printings for me without a hitch. As I have sent "Grit in my Gizzard" for printing that has changed. They have upgraded from use of camera-ready copy to pdf.files. With the expert help of Paul and Mira, we worked for four days to break through the technicalities. Question: By means of this difficulty, was God telling me not to print the book, or was it a satanic effort to prevent its being printed? Or neither?

◇◇◇ VOTING 101. Maybe you are tired of hearing about the upcoming election and, since you find so many flaws in all of the candidates, you are determined to vote for none of them. Let us cherish this privilege of choosing men and women to represent us even though we may never have a candidate who stands for all we stand for and no legislator is able to enact all legislation he desires. Edmund Burke had a word for us: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

Sometimes people vote for a third-party candidate who has about as much chance of winning as they have of winning the lottery. They want "to send a message." Let's see how that works. We will let "10" represent the things you stand for and "1" represent the things you oppose most. You are not likely to find a 1 or 10 in the race, but there may be a 4 and a 7. Are you going to take your vote from the 7 and give it to a loser thus giving the 4 a better chance? You are actually favoring the 4 by withholding your vote for 7. The message you send is that you prefer the one who stands for what you oppose most. Your fourth grade daughter or grandson can understand that! If you fail to vote, or vote for one who cannot win, you fail Voting 101. Class dismissed.

◇◇◇ The Muslim clerics entice suicide terrorists by promising them a harem of virgins in heaven. Is there a bountiful supply of those virgins in heaven just waiting for a murderous man? Or does Allah clone them for special prizes for killers? Don't you think that really elevates womanhood? What woman would look forward to being eternally used as a prize to satisfy the lusts of a man she never even knew or loved? It seems that the women of the Western world would be eager to help free those women from such degrading servility.

◇◇◇ Isn't it strange that you can eat a clean meal off your dishes and as soon as they are moved a few feet to the sink they become dirty dishes?

◇◇◇ A few weeks ago I invited any volunteer computer expert to revise our web site to make it more user friendly. Randal Bowling in Byron, Georgia has accepted that task and has already devoted many hours working on it. Soon you and others around the world will be better enabled to make use of our web site.

◇◇◇ Many on the "left" (whatever that means) decry the "religious right" (whoever they are) of wanting to bind religious beliefs on our nation. Horrors! "You cannot legislate morality/religion," is the worn-out cry. So, we cannot pass laws against killing, stealing, and slander/perjury/false testimony? Right? Those are issues of morality. They are not wrong because they are forbidden in the Ten Commandments; they were included in the Ten

Commandments because they have always been immoral! They predated any religious code! The whole dodge is a prejudicial effort to take abortion out of the category of killing another human.

Speaking of abortion, God must deplore the unbelievable paradox of so many Americans now going overseas to find children to adopt while we destroy our own in the birth process. Even the most callous abortionist must be able to recognize this societal illness.

◇◇◇◇ Everybody profits from these newcomers into our nation. They provide cheap labor so that business prospers and consumers have cheaper goods. The newcomers have a better life than they had in their native land. So, everybody profits!

Oh, I am not referring to current immigration problems. I am talking about importing slaves from Africa. The same arguments to justify creating a dual culture in early America are being used to justify creating a sub-culture today.

Did everybody profit from that dual culture? Let's see. It cost the Union 364,512 lives in freeing the slaves. The Confederates gave 133,821 lives in defense of states' rights to have a sub-culture. So it cost "only" 498,333 lives!

As to monetary profits, whatever accrued from their cheap slave labor hardly paid for the Civil War. And the generational effects of a segregated society are still problems in our nation today. So, who profited?

Theodore Roosevelt warned prophetically, "The one absolutely certain way of bringing this nation to ruin would be to permit it to become a tangle of squabbling nationalities." He has been proven right in various nations even as it was in the Civil War. Now, we see it fast developing with approval in our country again. Already, a second language is approved and illegal aliens are protected by law, exempted from law keeping, being allowed to vote, and are receiving benefits of public dole made available by taxpayers. They receive benefits some citizens cannot afford. Many thousands of criminals and an unknown number of terrorists are taking advantage of our porous borders. They are destructive and costly, yet little determined effort has been made to prevent their coming.

Who is profiting? Businesses, consumers, politicians, and the workers, yes, but at the expense of tax payers. Unlike the slaves, they are able to move upward so that they soon leave that cheap labor class to compete for better jobs. That requires other immigrants to replace them in the sub-culture. Where does it stop? Already, we have reached the 300 million mark. A severe recession would be catastrophic. Besides, if we did not abort our babies, we would have plenty of workers.

Rather than being a racial issue, it is an economic and social matter, and the sponsoring of opposing cultures is threatening the unity of our nation. If sponsoring a sub-culture of slavery brought division and civil war, should we not detect the evidences developing in that direction again?

◇◇◇◇ Peter's last exhortation to his readers was, "*But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*" (2 Peter 3:18), but he did not explain how to do that. Can we win greater favor than received when we were converted? Maybe it is through generous giving! In commending the Corinthians for their giving for the poor in Judea, Paul instructed, "... see that you excel in this gracious work also" (2 Cor. 8:7). Uh-oh – that would make giving a work meriting the grace so that it would be earned instead of being a gift!

◇◇◇ Pain-killers – there is an aisle of them in the drug store. So why suffer pain? Pain is God’s method of telling you that something is wrong in your body. So you ignore the cause and try to cover it up. That remedies nothing but is more likely to cause the problem to intensify. Wisdom will cause you to seek a cure for your problem rather than seeking temporary relief for the day.

When you sin, your conscience gives you pain. That is God’s warning device. Rationalizing to justify your actions may ease the pain allowing you to ignore your misconduct and to allow it to become more entrenched. Preachers may even be too generous with God’s grace, thus soothing your conscience without dealing with your problem. Pain calls for remedial action, not soothing.

◇◇◇ Peter urged disciples, “*Honor all men* who please you. *Love the brotherhood* of those who agree with you doctrinally. *Fear God* if you ever think about him. *Honor the emperor* unless you dislike him” (1 Pet 2:17). Maybe you should check out my practiced translation in your version of the Scriptures.

◇◇◇ Less gullible Americans have sufficient reason to distrust the media. The “news” has become “news magazine” emphasizing the negative, the bizarre, the novel, and the radical along with promoting an agenda. Consider the stupid media feeding frenzy over the renewal of the JonBenet Ramsey case, the footage often given to a few fanatical protesters, the extended coverage of the stand-off of a deranged gunman, the car chase, the claims of torture by imprisoned terrorists, and a long list of other matters that are of little consequence. Are such things the important news you need to know?

Most news programs, like advertisements, have an agenda and are designed to manipulate the viewer or listener. Only items that fit the agenda are reported or, if they cover what does not support their aims, they report the positive and then offer a “but” to throw in a negating trailer. Notice how little natural voice you hear on television and how much stage voice is used to manipulate you.

Just by the way it is stated, truth can be slanted. Consider this truthful statement for an example: “Colonel Sanders has made a fortune feeding people dead chicken.” One turn-off word makes the truth repulsive. More. They brag about their secret recipe of eleven herbs and spices. Is their reason for keeping them secret because of the high cholesterol and carcinogenic chemicals they use? You may notice that they now go by KFC instead of Kentucky Fried Chicken. Is that because they also use other less desirable meats without telling us? Rumor has it that they use some growth hormones in their chickens and the meat is irradiated for tenderness. Inside sources reveal that some of their employees will not even eat the food they sell.

Please, I am not saying any of these things are true about KFC. I am just illustrating how things can be slanted for manipulation. I am hoping to make you more aware of these manipulations which are so common that we may forget that we are being victimized by our gullibility.

Our Islamic enemies make fools of us by using our own media to promote their causes, gain sympathy, and affect our elections. Some of our media begrudge our President’s speeches as being political but are eager to run repeatedly any new message from Osama bin Laden and other terrorists.

But statistics and polls do not lie. Right? If you believe that, go to the foot of the class! Just this one example will suffice.

The polls may show that 35% of the people do not approve of President Bush. What could be deceptive about that? It is that he is not measured against any other person. For illustration, if the married women of America were asked if they were fully pleased with their husbands, possibly half of them would answer negatively. Why do they not divorce them and marry more compatible men? That's because they love him or the prospect of finding a better man is too slim! They may prefer tolerating the negative aspects rather than divorcing and trying to find a better husband.

So, if there were a referendum on the ballot in the upcoming election where you are allowed to write in the name of the person you would like to replace George Bush, it is very likely that no person of either party would receive 35% of the nominations. The deceptive nature of the polls would lead us to conclude that most all 65% of those dissatisfied with Bush would choose the same person.

<<>> It is a sad commentary that we hear much more about the petty negatives of a candidate than about his/her good qualities, aims, and abilities. When being criticized so heavily, President Lyndon Johnson is reported to have commented something like, if he were to walk on water, someone would yell, "Look at that guy; he can't even swim!"

<<>> Vote your conscience, but educate it first.

<<>> God bless America – and the whole world. May he use us in doing it!

<<>> Y'all drop in for a visit, or write, or call. []

(Cecil Hook: October 2006)