

Fr. Perozich comments —

I want salvation for all who believe in the name of Jesus, which requires following Him until the end of life.

Too many pied pipers in religion, politics, “education”, science and pseudoscience, sociology, psychology alter language to lead Christians away from Jesus on a seductive path toward perdition. They have abandoned Jesus for the secular world and its ideas.

Secularization in the West is, in effect, an alternative faith, entirely fictitious, subjective, and driven by short-term self-interest. And while it poses as progressive – the Science! – it’s instead the path of moral, intellectual, and cultural decadence, where adolescent attitudes rule, reason is forfeit, objective truth denied, and moral law abandoned. H.W. Crocker III

Just because I have a title and a degree does not mean I am telling you the truth or leading you to Jesus and to eternal life in Him; thus those who hear me must trust but verify through the bible and catechism, the deposit of faith

Many prelates, clergy, religious, offices of religious education need profound conversion back to their baptismal promises and to the deposit of faith in Scripture and Tradition. They have been seduced by and now are heralds of other gospels whose authors praise them for their promotion of novelties not of Jesus.

“Believe what you read, teach what you believe and practice what you teach” from the ordination rite.

By REV. FR. SAMUEL FREDERICK
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Isaiah 1:10.16-20, Mt. 23:1-12. "Receive the Gospel of Christ whose herald you now are. Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach." We hear this statement at Diaconate and Priestly Ordination to remind preachers and teachers of **their obligations to bring alive the message of Christ. In today's Gospel, Jesus denounces the hypocrisy of the Scribes and Pharisees, because they do not practice what they teach. They project themselves as**

God-fearing and law-abiding, yet their main interest lies in making a show of their religiosity. They are preoccupied with what people think of them and are anxious about creating a positive public image of themselves.

The statement of Jesus stands as an indictment to everyone whose actions are not motivated by any authentic religious principles and genuine human values, but by self-interest. It is an indictment on us whose actions are not inspired by the Gospel values. If our piety should be meaningful it must follow the path of integrity and justice as the first reading enjoins: "Wash, make yourselves clean. Take your wrong-doing out of my sight. Cease to do evil. Learn to do good, search for justice, help the oppressed, be just to the orphan, plead for the widow."

May the knowledge of Christ penetrate into our minds and hearts so that it may find expression in all our ways of living! Amen!!

Poetry proposes truth in a few words where prose needs thousands to express. Rudyard Kipling, in the poem below, offers us a return to truth in an age where even clergy now speak to tickle men's ears.

Lunatic, Liar, Lord. . .or Carpenter?

H.W. Crocker III
Monday, March 4, 2024

We're all familiar with C. S. Lewis's trilemma that Jesus, as portrayed in the Gospels, was either a lunatic, a liar, or Lord of the World. Jesus certainly didn't seem to be a lunatic. Indeed, He was the cure for lunacy – casting out demons from those possessed – and never proposing anything as lunatic as, say, choosing your pronouns or drag-queen story hour or the idea that men can become pregnant.

Liar doesn't fit Him either. **He was, instead, a pretty obvious truth-teller**, unafraid of uncomfortable truths, hard truths, and ultimate truths that most people try to gloss over, fudge, or deny. And **His chief enemy goes by the name of the Prince of Lies. That prince has all the seductive lies that people like to hear: that there is no such thing as sin, that they can be as gods, that they can invent their own reality.**

As for Lord, well, that *does* seem to suit the facts, but who, these days, wants to believe that? Who wants to repent of his sins or be judged by God? And so we often now hear of a fourth possibility: that Jesus was merely a legend, the most insupportable argument of all.

As far as textual and documentary evidence goes, we have far better sources for the life of Jesus than we do for any other figure of the ancient world. It's not even close. And that includes figures like Alexander the Great and Julius Caesar.

When we talk of Alexander the Great, we cite texts written 300 years after his death – all earlier accounts were lost. And our earliest copies of these texts date from a thousand years later. When we talk of Caesar's Gallic Wars, our earliest copy dates from the Dark Ages, more than 900 years after he wrote it. Essentially every classical text we have – except for crumbling tablets or fragments of papyrus – date from the Middle Ages, the work of diligent scribbling monks or Islamic scholars, and usually in only a handful of copies.

By contrast, not only were all the New Testament documents originally composed in the first century, within decades of the events, but we have thousands of copies dating from Roman times. The Gospels, Acts of the Apostles, the letters to churches are all very keen on citing names, dates, and eyewitnesses. The apostles, indeed, testified as to their truth to the point of martyrdom.

The argument that Jesus was a legend is really just a sort of adolescent reflex, a matter of dismissing Christianity without a second thought, invoking “flying spaghetti monsters” or “Why your God and not the 4,200 other gods?” (The Bible actually talks about that). Or “No intelligent person can possibly believe that fairy tale.”

In other words, it is sort of an anti-argument that makes no case at all, disdaining any engagement with the evidence as unnecessary. It’s the perfect argument for the very young because it is based on the young’s special province: snark, egotism, and ignorance. It’s, however, undeniably weak on its face, and seems a



very feeble version of the “argument from authority” (as in “no intelligent person”).

**The Resurrection of Christ* ^[1]by Peter Paul Rubens 1611-12
[Cathedral of Our Lady, Antwerp]

Even on its own terms, it’s self-refuting. After all, **if we’re going to invoke intelligent people, how many of us are better logicians than Aquinas? More astute philosophers than Saint Augustine? Better cosmologists than Georges Lemaître** – mathematician, physicist, astronomer, and priest who proposed the “Big Bang” theory?

How many of us walk around with credentials like those of popular columnist and Catholic priest, the **Reverend Tadeusz Pacholczyk? Who, ahem, “has degrees in philosophy, biochemistry, molecular cell biology, and chemistry. He later earned a PhD in neuroscience from Yale University.** . . . After working for several years as a molecular biologist at Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School, Fr. Pacholczyk studied in Rome at both the Gregorian University and the Lateran University, where he did advanced work in dogmatic theology and bioethics.”

Now, just for the sake of argument, what if we imagined Jesus as a mere carpenter, full stop? What if instead of being Lord of the World, he was instead history’s greatest carpenter, businessman, and entrepreneur, creating a vast multi-national corporation, begun in obscurity in Judea, now based in Rome, with branch offices (and independent spin-off companies) in every country in the world, serving nearly a third of the world’s population, with well more than two billion current customers, and represented by the slogan, “He Gets Us – and All Our Furniture Needs.” Would anyone think this carpenter to be a lunatic, a liar, or a legend? He would be an ancient J. P. Morgan

or John D. Rockefeller. He would have His share of critics, but no one would dismiss Him as a fairy tale, for a very simple reason: He would make no claim on us.

But if He were to appear as a Holy Hologram on Shark Tank, reminding entrepreneurs to value their souls even more than their companies, to repent of their sins, to worship the Lord their God – well, that would be another case entirely.

Disbelief in the Christian revelation is, for most people, not a matter of philosophical argument or historical evidence, it is simply a matter of desire: a desire not to believe, and almost invariably not to be judged, especially in matters of sexual morality.

Secularization in the West is, in effect, an alternative faith, entirely fictitious, subjective, and driven by short-term self-interest. And while it poses as progressive – the Science! – it's instead the path of moral, intellectual, and cultural decadence, where adolescent attitudes rule, reason is forfeit, objective truth denied, and moral law abandoned.

The only corrective may lie in “The Gods of the Copybook Headings [2].” For, as Kipling taught us, when “the brave new world begins/ When all men are paid for existing and no man must pay for his sins,/ As surely as Water will wet us, as surely as Fire will burn,/ The Gods of the Copybook Headings with terror and slaughter return!”

H.W. Crocker III is a popular historian and novelist. His classic history of the Catholic Church, Triumph: The Power and the Glory of the Catholic Church - A 2,000 Year History, updated and expanded, has just been reissued in hardcover, and his classic history of America's military, Don't Tread on Me, updated and expanded, has been reissued in paperback.

<https://www.thecatholicthing.org/>

[The Gods of the Copybook Headings](#)

Rudyard Kipling

As I pass through my incarnations in every age and race,
I Make my proper prostrations to the **Gods of the Market-Place**.

Peering through reverent fingers I watch them flourish and fall,
And the **Gods of the Copybook Headings**, I notice, outlast them all.

We were living in trees when they met us. They showed us each in turn

That Water would certainly wet us, as Fire would certainly burn:
But we found them lacking in Uplift, Vision and Breadth of Mind,
So we left them to teach the Gorillas while we followed the March of Mankind.

We moved as the Spirit listed. *They* never altered their pace,
Being neither cloud nor wind-borne like the Gods of the Market-Place.

But they always caught up with our progress, and presently word would come

That a tribe had been wiped off its icefield, or the lights had gone out in Rome.

With the Hopes that our World is built on they were utterly out of touch

They denied that the Moon was Stilton; they denied she was even Dutch

They denied that Wishes were Horses; they denied that a Pig had Wings.

So we worshipped the Gods of the Market Who promised these beautiful things.

When the Cambrian measures were forming, They promised perpetual peace.

They swore, if we gave them our weapons, that the wars of the tribes would cease.

But when we disarmed They sold us and delivered us bound to our foe,

And the Gods of the Copybook Heading said: *"Stick to the Devil you know."*

On the first Feminian Sandstones we were promised the Fuller Life

(Which started by loving our neighbour and ended by loving his wife)

Till our women had no more children and the men lost reason and faith,

And the Gods of the Copybook Headings said: *"The Wages of Sin is Death."*

In the Carboniferous Epoch we were promised abundance for all,

By robbing selected Peter to pay for collective Paul;

But, though we had plenty of money, there was nothing our money could buy,

And the Gods of the Copybook Headings said: *"If you don't work you die."*

Then the Gods of the Market tumbled, and their smooth-tongued wizards withdrew,

And the hearts of the meanest were humbled and began to believe it was true

That All is not Gold that Glitters, and Two and Two make Four —

And the Gods of the Copybook Headings limped up to explain it once more.

As it will be in the future, it was at the birth of Man —
There are only four things certain since Social Progress began —
That the Dog returns to his Vomit and the Sow returns to her
Mire,
And the burnt Fool's bandaged finger goes wabbling back to the
Fire —
And that after this is accomplished, and the brave new world
begins
When all men are paid for existing and no man must pay for his
sins
As surely as Water will wet us, as surely as Fire will burn
The Gods of the Copybook Headings with terror and slaughter
return!

Analysis (ai): "The Gods of the Copybook Headings" by Rudyard Kipling is a satirical poem that critiques the hypocrisy and futility of political ideologies and the eternal relevance of traditional wisdom. The poem posits that despite the transient nature of political movements, the "Gods of the Copybook Headings" - timeless truths and principles - remain unyielding.

*Kipling argues that humans have a tendency to abandon reason and tradition for the alluring promises of political utopias, only to be disappointed and betrayed. **These ideologies offer lofty ideals of peace, abundance, and equality, but ultimately lead to disillusionment, conflict, and regression.***

In contrast to these false promises, the "Gods of the Copybook Headings" represent fundamental truths about human nature and the limitations of political action. They remind us that certain principles, such as personal responsibility, honesty, and the consequences of sin, are immutable and inescapable.

The poem is notable for its use of irony and historical examples to illustrate its points. Kipling references **specific political movements, such as pacifism, socialism, and communism, to show how their promises have consistently failed to deliver.** He suggests that while political ideologies may change with time, human folly and the lessons of history remain constant.

"The Gods of the Copybook Headings" stands as a powerful critique of political idealism and a reminder of the enduring importance of timeless wisdom. It is a complex and thought-provoking poem that invites readers to **question the motivations behind political movements and consider the true nature of human progress.**