

Lessons from the Heart

The Coming Messiah: Not Radical Thought (Or Is It?)

By Pastor Eric Haley

In these times, when terrorism is on the minds of many throughout the world, we hear words

such as "fundamentalist," "extremist," and "radical" used interchangeably to describe the religious beliefs behind the terrorist mind. Not that terrorism



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has to be fueled by religious thought, for we know that acts of terror are also fueled by bigotry, hatred, money, selfishness, mental instability, power struggles and humanist idealism, if not classic demonic possession. Yet, the questions beg to be asked. Is it wrong in general to have basic fundamental beliefs that are nonnegotiable? Is extremism just a matter of perspective? And what in the world does it mean to be "radical?"

I'll pose this "radical" question about myself since I have been accused of being a radical from time to time. Is it radical for me to believe in the soon coming of Jesus, the Messiah? There are those in the Christian world that don't like talking about the Second Coming of Christ. To some, it's an uncomfortable subject and considered doom and gloom theology. To others it's outdated, something people talked about before the turn of the last millennium. And then to others, it's just plain overrated. Many have been so inundated with *Left Behind* books, video games and movies they are eager to move on to other subjects of greater relevance to the world today.

But, really, is there anything greater in relevance than the End Times, if indeed we are in the End Times? You know, a large part of the world's population believes we are very close to that time. There are many Christians, Jews and even Moslems who are waiting for a messiah and though we strongly disagree about who that is, we have one thing in common: we believe this will mark the end of the age. Millions upon millions of people around the world believe we are in the Last Days. How radical is that? I guess that depends on how you define radical.

That word has so many meanings! Even if we stay away from the subjects of botany, geometry, philology, and music, paring down the definitions to just three leaves us with meanings that are nearly exact opposites: 1) to be wildly different, 2) to be foundationally primary, and 3) to be way cool (modern use, not yet in

most dictionaries). Well, believing in the Second Coming of Jesus Christ is certainly wildly different than what normally happens from day to day. I hope for His coming in my lifetime. What an awesome thing it would be to experience the victorious coming of the Lord Jesus Christ! I don't know about you, but I'm ready for a change. But even if I die before he comes, Paul says in I Thessalonians that I will still get to be there. It's a win/win situation. So I guess you can call that radical thought.

The Second Coming is also foundational. I would find it quite difficult to believe that the Bible is God-breathed and then think that so many of those breathings are not relevant for today. If reading about the Second Coming of Christ made me uncomfortable, then I would have to avoid reading certain chapters in all four of the Gospels, the book of Acts, and nearly all the letters of the apostles Paul, Peter, James, and John. I would have to totally avoid I Thessalonians, and of course Revelation as well as some of the classic Old Testament prophets like Daniel and Ezekiel. I would really have to question why God would give us this book of truths if he expected us to laugh that much of it off saying, "Well you know those apostles, they were so gullible!"

Yes, of course there are other things to talk about and there are great lessons for spiritual growth throughout the Scriptures. But can we really ignore the connection of these truths to the Second Coming?

The late Dr. Francis Schaeffer wrote a book several decades ago entitled, *How Should We Then Live?* There is an obvious response to that question. We should live a life holy and acceptable to God. (Romans 12:1). But I believe the scriptural parallel to that question posed in the title of Dr. Schaeffer's book is found in II Peter 3:11-12: *Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hastening unto the coming of the day of God.* This was the conclusion of Peter's thoughts concerning the Second Coming of Christ, in response to those who were giving up on it.

It appears that *holy conversation and godliness* is recommended to prepare us for the Lord's coming, as much as it is a testimony of changed lives. So the Second Coming is foundational and primary. Is that radical? Yes.

Finally, I also consider the Second Coming of Christ to be the way cool kind of radical. Back in the days of the Jesus Movement we called it "far out".

We would sing songs like "Maranatha, maranatha, the Lord is coming back. We must prepare our hearts so we can meet him." I think it is so cool, so far out, and so radical that the Lord Jesus Christ who suffered and died for us, was resurrected from the dead, and ascended into heaven, would desire to come back for us so that we could live with him forever! Is that totally radical and way cool or what?

Eric Haley is pastor at Calvary Chapel.

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

By Dr. James Dobson

Childhood trauma can inspire greatness

QUESTION: Do childhood traumas inevitably twist and warp a person in the adult years?

DR. DOBSON: No. It is well-known that difficult childhoods leave some people wounded and disadvantaged, but for others, they fuel great achievement and success. The difference appears to be a function of individual temperaments and resourcefulness.

In a classic study called "Cradles of Eminence," Victor and Mildred Goertzel investigated the home backgrounds of 700 highly successful people. The researchers sought to identify the early experiences that may have contributed to remarkable achievement. All of the subjects were well-known for their accomplishments; they included Einstein, Freud, Churchill and many others.

The backgrounds of these people proved very interesting. Three-fourths of them came from troubled childhoods, enduring poverty, broken homes or parental abuse. One-fourth had physical handicaps. Most of those who became writers and playwrights had watched their own parents embroiled in psychological dramas of one sort or another. The researchers concluded that the need to compensate for disadvantages was a major factor in the drive toward personal achievement.

One of the best illustrations of this phenomenon is seen in the life of Eleanor Roosevelt, the former first lady. Being orphaned at 10, she underwent a childhood of utter anguish. She was very homely and never felt she really belonged to anybody. According to Victor Wilson of the Newhouse News Service, "She was a rather humorless introvert, a young woman unbelievably shy, unable to overcome her personal insecurity and with a conviction of her own inadequacy."

The world knows, however, that Mrs. Roosevelt rose above her emotional shackles. As Wilson said, "From some inner wellspring, Mrs. Roosevelt summoned a tough, unyielding courage, tempered by remarkable self-control and self-discipline." That "inner wellspring" has another appropriate name: compensation!

Obviously, one's attitude toward a handicap determines its impact on his or her life. It has become popular to blame adverse circumstances for irresponsible behavior; i.e., poverty causes crime, broken homes produce juvenile delinquents, a sick society imposes drug addiction on its youth. There is some truth in this assumption, since people in those difficult circumstances are more likely



Dr. Dobson

to behave in destructive ways. But they are not forced to do so. To say that adverse conditions "cause" irresponsible behavior is to remove all responsibility from the shoulders of the individual. The excuse is hollow. We must each decide what we will do with inner doubt or outer hardship.

The application to an individual family should be obvious. If a child has gone through a traumatic experience or is physically disadvantaged, the parents need not give up hope. They should identify the child's strengths and natural abilities so that they can be used to overcome the hurdle. The problem that seems so formidable today may become the inspiration for greatness tomorrow.

QUESTION: You have described two extremes that are both harmful to kids, being too permissive and being too harsh. Which is the most common error in Western cultures today?

DR. DOBSON: Permissiveness is more common and has been since the 1950s. But harshness and severity still occur frequently as well. These dual dangers are equally harmful to children and were described by Marguerite and Willard Beecher in their book "Parents on the Run." This is how they saw the two extremes:

"The adult-centered home of yesteryear made parents the masters and children their slaves. The child-centered home of today has made parents the slaves and children the masters. There is no true cooperation in any master-slave relationship, and therefore no democracy. Neither the restrictive-authoritative technique of rearing children nor the newer 'anything goes' technique develop the genius within the individual, because neither trains him to be self-reliant. The way to raise healthy children is to find the safety of the middle ground between disciplinary extremes."

Send your questions to Dr. Dobson, c/o Focus on the Family, PO Box 444, Colorado Springs, CO 80903; or to his Web site at www.focus.org. These questions and answers are excerpted from books authored by Dr. James Dobson and published by Tyndale House Publishers. Dr. Dobson is the founder and chairman of the board of Focus on the Family, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of the home and Judeo-Christian values. Copyright 1997 James Dobson, Inc. All rights reserved. International copy secured.

DIRECTORY OF AREA CHURCHES

SS=Sunday School SW=Sunday Worship

- AMERICUS UNION NON-DENOMINATIONAL:** Vernon Stingley, pastor. SW: 10 a.m.
- BRINGHURST UNITED METHODIST:** Larry DeVos, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
- BROOKSTON CHURCH OF CHRIST:** 206 N. Prairie Street, Brookston. Ron Guzman, minister. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.
- BUCK CREEK UNITED METHODIST:** 4915 Ferret St., Buck Creek. Dwight Monical, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:15 a.m.
- BURLINGTON FIRST BRETHREN:** 205 W. 8th St., Rev. Dr. Peter Rousakis, pastor. SW: 10:00 a.m., SS: 9:00 a.m.
- BURLINGTON CHURCH OF CHRIST:** Tim Pohlman, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m. & 6 p.m., Children's Church: 10 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m., Youth Groups: 6 p.m.
- BURLINGTON UNITED METHODIST:** Rev. Chuck Rockey, pastor. SS: 10:50 a.m., SW 9:30 a.m.
- BURNETTVILLE FIRST BAPTIST:** Second & Main, Burnettsville. SW: 10:00 a.m., SS: 11:15 a.m.
- BURNETTVILLE CHRISTIAN:** Sixth & Washington, Burnettsville. John Wright, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.
- BURNETTVILLE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN:** First & Main, Burnettsville. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.
- BURROWS PRESBYTERIAN:** SS: 11:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
- CALVARY CHAPEL CARROLL COUNTY:** Wabash & Erie Canal Interpretive Center, Delphi. Eric Haley, pastor. SW: 10 a.m.
- CAMDEN UNITED METHODIST:** Dan Gottschalk, pastor. SS: 9-9:45 a.m., SW: 10 a.m. Sun. Nite Praise 6:02 p.m.
- CLYMERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:** 4003 W 400S. Clymers Kevin Drane, pastor. SW: 10:30 a.m. SS: Same as worship.
- COLBURN ROAD BAPTIST:** Bill Cadle, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
- COLBURN UNITED METHODIST:** Kasey Schnepf, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:20 a.m.
- COMMUNITY BIBLE MINISTRIES:** 1/2 mile north of SR 22 on CR 1150W. Patrick Kamm, pastor. SS: 9 a.m. SW: 10:15 a.m.
- CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN:** 3570 E 200S, Bringhurst, Dan C. Butcher, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m. SS: 10:30 a.m. Youth group 6:30 p.m., Bible study Wed. 6:30 p.m.
- CUTLER PRESBYTERIAN:** SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
- DEER CREEK UNITED PRESBYTERIAN:** Highway 29 in Deer Creek. SW: 10:30 a.m. SS: 9:15 a.m.
- DELPHI CHRISTIAN CHURCH:** 315 E. Main St, Delphi. Andrew Paris, minister. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:45 a.m. Wed. Bible study: 7 p.m.
- DELPHI CHURCH OF CHRIST:** 405 Cottage Street, Delphi. Sunday Bible study: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 & 5 p.m., Wed. Night 7 p.m.
- DELPHI COMMUNITY CHURCH OF GOD:** 321 W. Main Street, Delphi. Rev. Virgil Moss. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
- DELPHI PENTECOSTAL:** Hwy. 25 East, Delphi. Tim Stewart, pastor. Thurs. night Bible Study: 7:30p.m., SS: 12:45 p.m., SW: 2 p.m.
- DELPHI UNITED METHODIST:** Union & Monroe Streets, Delphi. SW: 8:45 & 11 a.m., SS: 10 a.m., Todd Ladd, pastor; Micah Hudson, youth pastor.
- DELPHI WESLEYAN:** North Union Street, Delphi. Rich & Carol Schneck, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
- EASTLAWN UNITED METHODIST:** SR 24 & Logan Street, Idaville. Ernie D. Elder, Jr., Pastor. SW: 10 a.m., SS: 9 a.m.
- FAITH CHURCH OF CHRIST:** SR 29, Burlington. Steve Cole, minister. SW: 9:30 a.m. & 6 p.m. a.m., SS: 11 a.m., Wed. Bible study 7 p.m.
- FAITH LUTHERAN:** CR 800 N, west of Hwy. 29. Thomas J. McShannock & Sandy Hutchens, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:10 a.m.
- FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH:** Hwys. 29 & 26, Middlefork. Jim Anderson, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
- FIRST APOSTOLIC CHURCH:** U.S. 421 North, Tippecanoe Township. Gilbert R. Ingram, pastor. SW: 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.
- FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD:** US 421N., Pittsburg. Brent Oliver, pastor. SW: 9:30 am, Wed. Family Night: 7pm
- FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CAMDEN:** Paul Marcellino, interim-pastor. Tue. 9:30 a.m. Women's study, Wed. 6:30 p.m. WW, SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:45 a.m., Sun. Youth Service 5:30 p.m. Sun. Bible study: 7:30 p.m.
- FIRST BAPTIST:** Indiana & Franklin Streets, Delphi. William Glenn, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
- FIRST PRESBYTERIAN:** Main & Indiana Streets, Delphi. Rev. Louis Sandos. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.
- FLORA FIRST BAPTIST:** 115 W. Columbia Street, Flora. Interim pastors. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.
- FLORA FIRST BRETHREN:** 115 N. Washington Street, Flora. Dan Herendeen, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
- FLORA FIRST CHRISTIAN (Disciples of Christ)** S. Center Street, Flora. Pamela Ditson-McCall, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.
- FLORA GRACE BRETHREN:** 103 S. Willow St., Flora. James Franklin, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m., Wed. Prayer Service: 7 p.m.
- FLORA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH:** 211 S. Center St., Flora. Charles Compton, pastor. SW: 10:15 a.m.
- FLORA UNITED METHODIST:** 107 E. Main Street, Flora. Larry DeVos, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:15 a.m.
- FLORA VALLEY VIEW SOUTHERN BAPTIST:** Route 2, Flora. Bill Godbey, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
- GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST:** 1101 Dreifers Ave., Delphi. Joe Whitehead, pastor. SS: 10 a.m. SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
- HICKORY GROVE CHURCH:** CR 700 W., Jefferson Township, Ken Smith, pastor SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.
- HILLSIDE MISSIONARY BAPTIST:** Hwy. 22, 2 miles E. of Burlington. Doyle Buckner, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
- IDAVILLE CHURCH OF GOD:** 11073 E 50 N, Idaville. Chris Murphy, pastor. Mearl Hodges, asst. pastor. SW 8:30 & 10:30 a.m., SS: 9:30 a.m.
- JUBILEE FELLOWSHIP:** CR 50 N, Flora. Scott Gamel, pastor. SS: 9:00 a.m., SW: 10:00 a.m.
- LIVING FAITH CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN:** 310N 250W. Jeff Tomson, pastor SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.
- LIVING STONE CHURCH:** Meets at the Freedom Center in Delphi. Stan Williams, pastor. SS: 11 a.m., SW: 9:30 a.m. contact (765) 589-3771
- LOCKPORT NON-DENOMINATIONAL CHURCH:** East of Patton. Nord Zootman, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. Sun. Bible Study: 6:30 p.m.
- LOWER DEER CREEK CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN** CR 300 N, SE of Camden. SW 10:15 a.m., SS: 9:00 a.m.
- MT. ZION INDEPENDENT BAPTIST:** 102 N. Connelly Street, Delphi. Alfred Smith, pastor. SS: 10:15 a.m., SW: 9 a.m., & 6 p.m.
- OAK GROVE CHRISTIAN:** 11810 N & 900 W, Monticello. Interim pastor, Don Arterburn. SW: 10 a.m.
- PINE GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH:** Crooked Road, 1 mile E of Delphi. Justin Wagner, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
- PITTSBURG MISSIONARY BAPTIST:** John Wagner, pastor. SS: 10 a.m.; SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. Bible Study: Thurs. 6:30 p.m
- PLEASANT HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH:** 5490 North SR 39, Frankfort. Donna Enerson, pastor. SS: 9:45 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. Everyone welcome.
- PYRMONT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN:** Pastor. Howard Hendrickson SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:15 a.m.
- RADNOR CHURCH:** Ed Selvidge, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.
- ROCKFIELD CHRISTIAN:** Bob Cree, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.
- ROCKFIELD PRESBYTERIAN:** SW: 9:30 a.m.
- ROSSVILLE BIBLE FELLOWSHIP:** 16 Cason St. Judd Dickey, pastor. Sunday Corporate Prayer: 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship 9:30 a.m.; SW 10:00 a.m.
- ROSSVILLE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN:** 109 N. Plank Street, Rossville. Pastor, Bob Pfiefer. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.
- ROSSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH:** 5434 W State Rd 26, Rossville, IN. Bob McAulay, interim pastor SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:20 a.m.
- ROSSVILLE UNITED METHODIST:** Main & Gaddis Streets, Rossville. Rick Jones, pastor. SS: 9:15 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
- SHARON AMERICAN BAPTIST:** St. Rd. 29, Carrollton Township. James Lund, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
- ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC:** 207 N. Washington Street, Delphi. Peter Vanderkolk, pastor. SW: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
- ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH:** 1301 S. Washington St., Delphi. Dale Larson, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
- ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN:** Church & Cumberland Sts., Camden, 2 blocks West & 1 block North of SR218 and SR75. Dale Larson, pastor. SW: 8:30 a.m., SS: Same as Worship.
- WHIRLWIND MINISTRIES:** meet at Burrows Fire Department, Greg & Michelle Britt, pastors. SW: 9 a.m. (574) 652-2280
- YEOMAN UNITED METHODIST:** Dave Inskeep, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.

Pray for our nation to seek God

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Ephesians 6:10 Pd. Adv.

REVIVAL

Delphi Church of God

321 W. Main St.
(across from Sheriff's Office)

Sun., May 20 @
10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Mon., May 21 through
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