



August 22, 2010

*Hijacked Jesus*

We would hate it someone misrepresented us, or, if we had spent our life in a work to see the result of that work taken and used in ways that were never intended. About two weeks ago I was passing through the room when the news was on and saw a piece about a beauty pageant. There were several problems with this that were obvious immediately. The first was that this was a pageant for young girls, and I want to emphasize young, who were dressed up as their older counterparts complete with makeup etc. and if that wasn't bad enough one of the groups being spotlighted was a "Christian" group that met for prayer before the pageant. We know that Christ attended a wedding and when sort of put on the spot by Mary changed water to wine (**John 2.1-11**). There is no indication that Christ pursued a social life as we would recognize it and certainly did not concentrate on many aspects of life that we hold to be so important. Christ came to finish the work that his father had begun (**John 4.34**) and in so doing fulfilled all things that were spoken by the prophets (**Matt 5.17-18**). The result of this is that salvation was made possible as God had promised (**Eph 1.4, Titus 1.2**). The sober nature of Christ's work did not allow the trivial pursuits of this life in order to secure the redemption of all mankind from the beginning of time to the end (**Heb 9.15**). Having said that, does it stand to reason that Christ cares one bit for baseball teams, football, stock car racing or beauty pageants? It does not matter that there are cute little girls involved, the fact is that the work of the Lord is far beyond concerns such as this. As we turn to the pages of the New Testament we find that Christians focused on teaching and preaching the word of the God to all who would listen. In the midst of persecution and facing imprisonment and death, they still went about the business of teaching (**Acts 8.4**). John states, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." (**1 John 2.15**). I suppose that someone, in a warped way, might argue that there is something spiritual about such an event as this pageant. However, as a very famous murder case brought out years ago, using children in this type of thing is more an expression of adult interests and appeals to the wrong type of climate. I suppose we could fool ourselves like that as well and maybe even make some money selling What Would Jesus Wear bracelets before the show. The Devil must really be having a good time seeing how foolish we become allowing the good name of the savior to be dragged through the veiled lustful activities of a "beauty pageant". I wonder how Christ would really feel and what he would do if he were in the world or made a guest appearance at the show? Isaiah stated, "... **he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.**" (**Isa 53.2**). If God did not place any emphasis on "beauty" in a physical sense then why would we try to misuse the power of God to satisfy our own pursuits. James addresses this in his address to Christians who apparently missed the point about what a Christian really was. "**From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.**" (**Jas 4.1-4**). Is it any wonder that God will send Christ back one day "**...In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power...**" (**2 Thess 1.8-9**). We can't hijack Jesus and use him how we see fit. What sense does that make?

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