

## The Purpose of Postmodernism: To Winnow the Flock, Separating Wheat from Chaff

In a 2012 interview on FoxNews.com actor Morgan Freeman answered questions about the PBS 'science' series, "Through the Wormhole"; Freeman is the narrator.<sup>1</sup> His responses included this comment that evidences the effect of postmodern thinking on pop culture:

MF: " 'Through the Wormhole' is a science series...that asks a lot of heavy questions about the universe, the solar system. For instance, is there a God; if there is, did we invent Him?"

Fox411: Do you think there is a God?

MF: Do I think there's a God? Um (pause) yeah.

Fox411: You paused.

MF: I paused because *I* am God.

Fox411: Because every man is created in God's image?

MF: Yes, *or God's created in my image.*"

By Freeman's provocative statement, he encourages the listener to *reject* propositional truth. And from that position, it requires only a few steps to *imagine* anything the mind can conjure up—according to Psa 14:1 self-delusion. Postmodernism—in addition to rejecting truth—eschews objective rationality (basis of reasonable thought), contests authorial meaning (ignores defined purpose), rejects stable verbal meaning (allows words to mean anything), and does not recognize universal linguistic definitions (eliminates all structures that define language). This state of *untethered chaos* is the product of a collective intellectual *reaction to* the period of *modernity*.<sup>2</sup> Postmodernism reacts to the modern period of homogenous intellectual consistency with its *open-ended* philosophical ideology that simultaneously takes us everywhere—but in its

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<sup>1</sup> Nick Gostin. "Q and A: Morgan Freeman on why he believes he is God ...". Available: <http://www.FoxNews.com/Fox411>. July 6, 2012. Accessed July 8, 2012, emphasis added.

<sup>2</sup> J. P. Moreland and William Lane Craig, *Philosophical Foundations for A Christian Worldview*, (Downer's Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2003), 145, emphasis added.

chaos —takes us nowhere. Yet, postmodernism has its merits. *God uses it to winnow, focus, and prepare the flock.* The Bride is being prepared while the world is storing up wrath.<sup>3</sup>

Solomon reminds us there's nothing new under the sun. Therefore, if we look far enough we find the chain of all false ideas leads back to the Garden. 1700 years before postmodernism challenged Biblical truth —Lucretius wrote his poem, *On The Nature of Things*. "Lost" for a thousand years, rediscovery of his work brought to light many of the same “dangerous” ideas many postmoderns like to think they thought of first. Lucretius said "...the universe functions without the aid of gods; religious fear is damaging to human life; pleasure and virtue are not opposites; matter is made up of very small material particles in eternal motion, randomly colliding and swerving in new directions."<sup>4</sup> Not much has changed, has it?

*Cultural relativism* is considered the main flaw in postmodernism. Relativism rejects the metaphysical (explanations for existence and being); disproves correspondence theories (Christian belief is an example); ignores universal standards (necessary to avoid complete anarchy), foundationalism (explanations according to belief), and global metanarratives (comprehensive explanation for world events). But for now, postmodernism is an opportunity to do good works. We are being prepared in order to *not let go of the plough* (Luke 9:62).

Many holding a Christian or theist worldview believe postmodernism accounts for the rise of all manner of social, political and economic evil that opposes decency, law, order, and

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<sup>3</sup> At the same time of the 2014 editing of this work, an **HBO** series is beginning. *The Leftovers* is a facetious spin off of the *Left Behind* movies. It fictionalizes the next event on the prophetic calendar. The series will move beyond the now worn-out denial of the *fact* of the rapture —and will indoctrinate with false teaching about what is going to transpire in the lives of those not gathered to Heaven. In denying the event was the biblical rapture, an actor shouts, “It wasn’t the rapture! They were no better than us!” This is precisely what Lucifer will want the Leftovers to dwell on. But the rapture is not about God removing “good” people and leaving the “bad” behind. It’s about gathering Home His blood-bought, Spirit-filled, sanctified, suffering saints. The Rapture will not be “...a test for what comes now.” It is fulfillment of God’s promise that He has not appointed His body to wrath. The Tribulation is about preparing Israel for her Messiah and judging the nations; not about defiling the Church.

<sup>4</sup> Stephen Greenblatt, *The Swerve: How the World Became Modern*, (New York: Norton, 2011), book jacket.

security in society—that it tolerates any viewpoint *but* Christian while condemning biblical standards that are *intolerant* of sin but tolerant *of* the sinner. This *is* unsettling for those who suffer from the misconception that God's plan *must* be played out according to Augustine's *Shining City on a Hill*. But Augustine was the first *dominionist*. Dominionism calls for complete societal revision according to *Reconstruction*.<sup>5</sup> Rather, we are called to the walk that follows in the footsteps of the Messiah—a much more humble, much less militant walk. The consecrated life is a walk of separation, suffering and patiently seeking "the substance of things hoped for." (Heb 3:6, 6:11, 18, 19, 7:19, 11:1). *It is not hampered by anything postmodern.*

Postmodernism will eventually be replaced, if only by Christ's second coming. I do not agree the Christian philosopher, the Biblical theist, or the evangelist needs to be intimidated by postmodernism. Called post-Christian by some, I find it is only *theoretical* to be concerned about challenging any labels. When in human history has the world *ever* affirmed or valued truth—*biblical or otherwise*? I do not agree we are experiencing "post"—anything. *We are experiencing what is prophetically planned from eternity past*. If we are stymied by the difficulties in witnessing for our faith; if we are overwhelmed by the range of non-biblical opinions and behaviors of others, we need to buckle down to study the Word so that any *false* worldview presented to us can be framed in the accurate context of corrective, *certain truth* we believe to be biblical and divinely sanctioned. If we forget that our faith, our being, our future is explained by *intangible* supernatural realities, we become side-tracked—believing we must intellectually relate to the problems and sinful people God allows to cross our path. But we are to have *the mind of Christ* so that we don't have to be conformed by carnal mindsets. Postmodern problems are a wonderful opportunity to persevere in the faith once received.

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<sup>5</sup> The entire Theonomy/Reconstructionist/Dominionist/Preterist/Progressive Dispensation/KingdomNow genre is false. It is powered by the tenants of Calvinism in a capitalistic context according to Natural Law.