



Bethany Lutheran Church & Preschool
5051 McCarty Road
Saginaw, MI 48603
www.bethanysaginaw.com
Phone: 989-793-9579

Viewpoints

Observing events in our modern world from the viewpoint of our ascended Savior.

A Digital Tower of Babel - October 18, 2013

The new health care system reminds us of why we need Christ.

[Online Version & Archive](#)

When supporters and friends call something a “train wreck,” you know there’s trouble.* Indeed, the news from both sides of the aisle report on the recent rollout of the Affordable Care Act with words like disaster, awful and failure.

The Affordable Care Act is built on the premise that websites efficiently provide online information and enrollment. Although the system had three years for development and received a half-billion dollars in funding, the Health and Human Service Department reluctantly “concedes there were built-in information technology and structural defects.” And here’s the one defect that especially caught my eye as a student of the Bible.

“The issues are unlikely to be mere coding errors, but stem from the way the modules are constructed to speak to different systems and networks. This is especially true when it comes to communicating with the state Medicaid systems, which are often decades behind current IT standards. Some are still operating on the COBOL programming language.” (emphasis mine)

In other words, one part of the system speaks a different language than another part of the system. The result is a modern day, digital Tower of Babel.

After the world-wide flood at the time of Noah, people were re-populating the world. The idea spread among them, “Let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth” (Genesis 11:4). By looking at the underlined words it’s apparent that this idea fomented from egotistical hearts filled with pride. Their goal was to exalt themselves, to enshrine human will and to worship human ingenuity and capability. Thus we witness the first gathering of “secular humanists.”

“Secular” means no room for God. The sacred and spiritual are denied. There is no life after death. “Humanism” refers to the idolatrous belief that the wisdom and capabilities of people provide the means for making life meaningful, and in fact, these means alone can advance life on earth. Humanists seek to build heaven on earth.

The beliefs of secular humanism are doctrines from the devil. For example, the Humanist Manifesto II (1973) is a document that declares, “No god will save us, we must save ourselves.” Prominent people signed this document in support of its philosophical offspring: that determining right from wrong is based upon the consequences, the results. Fast-

forward from 1973 to today, a quick four decades later. The humanist idea that ethics is determined by the results is the common “the end justifies the means” philosophy. In other words, lying, cheating and stealing are not wrong when it achieves a good result. And how do we know what a “good result” is? Well, that’s easy: it’s good when it’s what the persons who are lying, cheating and stealing want and desire.

Among the post-flood people, secular humanism began to ferment from their tower-building sacrament of self-worship. In this idolatry, the “end justifies the means” behavior would be enshrined into the human will as these people plunged into worshipping human ingenuity and capability. So the Triune God planned within himself, “Let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other” (11:7). Speaking different languages immediately threw a glitch into their plans. Confusion erupted. Their plans became a train wreck. “That is why it was called Babel—because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world” (11:9). The building stopped. The people scattered.

So as I hear how the Affordable Care Act is a train wreck, due in part to the confusion of programming languages, it leads to some questions.

- ▶ How many of the architects and engineers of the ACA are secular humanists who thought they were building a digital tower to enshrine human will and to worship human ingenuity and capability?
- ▶ Did the architects and engineers of the ACA purposely deceive the American people, knowing that the ACA could not/ would not deliver the promises on which it was advertized to the nation, because they subscribe to “the end justifies the means” ethics?
- ▶ Did God allow the rollout of the ACA to be a train wreck in order to send a message?

I don’t know how God is working in the midst of this ACA train wreck other than what it has done for me, a student of the Bible. It has caused me to examine myself to see if there’s some humanism in me that seeks to worship my own ingenuity and capability. And I find that there is. And secondly, the ACA train wreck has caused me to sniff out those times I was less than truthful in order to achieve an outcome that I wanted, that I declared to be good. And I smell the odor of “the end justifies the means” lingering within.

I am sickened with the very disease I detest being parading and trophied by the secular humanist. And no health care system on earth can save me. Or you.

But we need not look far for help. To some rough-hewn lumber erected on a hill called Golgotha we run in faith. In confession of the humanism that lingers within, we spiritually bow before the Almighty who gave his life on the cross as a ransom for all. And from that cross, we rise up forgiven, renewed and empowered to live life in worship of our Creator and our Savior. Into Christ’s hands we commend ourselves, body and soul. And from him we receive a peace not dependent on any health care system, even if it wasn’t crashing into pieces.

[Source Material](#) (Links may become inactive over time.)

*A Huffington Post article uses the term “train wreck.” The link is not shared due to the use of foul language.

[What is Secular Humanism](#) @ secularhumanism.org

[Why President...Will Have To Delay...Insurance Mandate](#) @ Forbes.com

[Obamacare’s Black Box](#) @ Wall Street Journal

[Obamacare’s Website Is Crashing...](#) @ Forbes.com

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Blessings to you and your loved ones, Pastor Mike Nitz

