

Igor Bondar

Focus

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Our world is incredible in its scale. This also applies to geography - we are surrounded by hundreds of seas and countries. And if you look up at the night sky, you can see thousands of stars, each of which is larger than the Earth. This also applies to history – life on Earth is many thousands of years old and it had many different forms and manifestations. The history of human himself is not so ancient but it is full of many important events. Our world is large-scale in spiritual and philosophical terms. Hundreds and even thousands of wonderful philosophers, sages and saints lived on Earth and left behind a very deep mark. A person can plunge into the depths of priceless wisdom, learn the secrets of the universe and the divine by studying their heritage. Our world is incredible in the abundance of everything it may offer to humans.

All this has to do with the possibility of people's development and education. However, if someone wants to control a person and manage him then all of the above, on the contrary, becomes unnecessary and even harmful for him. You don't need broad knowledge in order to manage a person, but targeted focus or fragmentation. A focus, and also a lie. It is difficult and sometimes even impossible, to manage a person with extensive education and deep knowledge. However, if his education or worldview was in advance deliberately focused on certain events or facts only, with the use of “useful” lies in addition then such a

person received a partially false or biased worldview. And this, in essence, is some form of programming.

Let's explain this with a simple example. Let's say a person has done fifty good deeds and five hundred bad ones in his life. So, by focusing, that is, seeing only good events from his life (quite real), we get a portrait of a very good person. By focusing only on his bad experiences, we get the image of a very bad guy. However, we will see the real picture only when we look at his deeds as a whole and see the balance of good and bad.

So, even a simple targeted focus on real, but selective events, can have a serious effect. And if you add lies here - invent various false events, non-existent facts, an unreal story - then a person who does not double-check all this and does not see the lies can be programmed to do a lot.

It is sad, but in recent years this kind of programming has become one of the most popular, profitable and highly effective business models in humanity. After all, a programmed person is invaluable to his programmer. He votes only for those who are profitable to the programmer. He buys what he is told through advertising. He goes where he is told and behaves as he was told. This is a kind of ideal living machine, which can also be convinced that it is as free as possible. This is what can be achieved by targeted focusing of attention and lies - an important building material for creating a controlled personality.

All this reminds us of a film studio a little. A kind of unreal reality is also created there with the help of various focusing of video cameras, scenery and actors portraying other people. However, in this case, all people know about it. Moreover, with

the good quality of the film, the acting and the interesting plot, people even like to consider it real for a while. Many manipulators on Earth, with the help of purposeful focusing of attention, fragmentation and lies, in fact, also create non-existent realities. However, so many people don't even suspect about it.

Progress and development

Nowadays there is a lot of talk about progress. Yet, what is actual progress? Examining the definition, we find that progress is a process of development and advancement in certain areas of life. It can concern technological, cultural and social development of societies. The progress is also often understood as a movement from less perfect to more perfect.

However, the Creator of world and people, of course, also has His own opinion about what real progress is for people. And this opinion is the most accurate one. Because it is stupid to argue with the fact that the Creator of people is always immeasurably higher than His creations. And He knows precisely what is the most important development for these creations.

Therefore, to understand how in actuality the situation with the progress on Earth looks, let us consider this issue not from the usual human point of view, but from the point which God told us about.

Obviously, a lot is happening nowadays in the world in the sphere of human development. For example, scientific and

technological direction is developing rapidly. Over the past few decades, humanity has progressed in this area perhaps even further than in its entire previous history. The quality of life increased for the people, many conveniences appeared, the level of communication and information sharing increased and so on. However, does the Creator consider it to be an actual progress for humanity and has the human himself developed?

It is obvious, that where previously a person did two tasks a day, now thanks to new technologies, he can do 20 or even 200 tasks a day. However, can this fact be considered a progress in itself? And here a lot depends on the answer to the question - what do people spend their cleared up time on? Maybe they ponder more often about the real purpose of life searching for reasons of happiness and unhappiness? Perhaps, with the help of new technologies, they achieve deep and important understandings in life? Gaining faith, for example, realizing the importance of goodness, honesty and morality. And, of course, discovering the most important thing as the result - the opportunity to gain immortal life and the path to achieving it.

Unfortunately, the reality indicates that the majority of people spend almost all of their now freed time on a completely different things - earning even larger sums of money, various leisure activities and pleasures and so on. Very few people direct their interest into spiritual direction. And in vain.

Because the achievement of the eternal life by a person - is, of course, a pinnacle of his true development. What kind of other human achievements during the short few decades of his life on Earth can be compared with the opportunity of his achieving an eternal life in the best place? None, of course.

In general, when discussing such important topics, it is often useful to make some clear analogies or comparisons. Although the existence of God has long proven on Earth by the many thousands of miracles, it is still not easy for people to constantly remember the most important things. Hence, simple and appropriate comparisons and analogies can be of great help here. Let's try to offer something that, in our opinion, is quite suitable.

My friends and I have been scuba diving for many years. We have special equipment needed for this - oxygen tanks, breathing regulators, inflatable jackets, fins, diving masks, etc. Thanks to all this equipment, we are able to swim in the underwater world. Nevertheless, the time of our stay at depth is always limited - when the air tanks get low, we always need to surface.

Our life on Earth is perhaps somewhat similar to some kind of underwater diving. Human soul also puts on some 'equipment' for staying on Earth - our body - after that it 'dives' into the Earthly life for 70-90 years. However, just like it is with diving - after the air runs out in the tank, human must come back to the surface, and so it is on Earth - our soul, after spending the resources of our body, must leave it behind along and this Earthly world.

Diving equipment is only useful underwater - on land it becomes absolutely unnecessary. Same as our body along with all the skills we acquired on Earth - be it the ability to driving a car, speaking a foreign language, running a business or something else - becomes absolutely useless in the world where we will come to after this Earthly life.

That is, all our earthly professions and knowledge mean nothing in the main world of God - everything is different there. Therefore, no matter how far would humanity develop on Earth

in a technological sphere - we must realize that this is simply the improvement of the people's 'diving equipment', which they soon will have to leave behind.

The technological progress on Earth does not constitute a progress for God. All the technologies and discoveries of people – are just a drop of what always exists in Heaven. Of course, God takes care of the people and helps them on Earth with the 'discoveries' to improve their quality of life. With great hope that technological progress will help them free up time and make it easier to find things that are really important.

So, what constitutes the main progress of human on Earth? In fact, the Creator of the world has already given us the detailed answer to this question long ago through His Son two thousand years ago. The Commandments of Lord contain the detailed description of what the person should focus his energy on to actually develop in this life. And as a result of this work, gaining something that is actually valid beyond Earthly life - in the main world of God.

These gains - the most important human qualities: faith, honesty, morality, kindness, forgiveness and others known among people as virtues. Gaining these, constitutes for a person a progress of all progresses. In addition, in this direction a person can develop very far.

The process of this most important development for a person has nothing to do with education or scientific-technological discoveries in the world. This process started in the moment when the Lord gave the Commandments to people and it continues to this day. People who kept the Commandments came to God even then, two thousand years ago, lacking any complicated skills or often even just education. Nevertheless, those people are valued

by God just as much as those coming to Him nowadays with their skills and education.

The reason for this is that spiritual development - is a labor in a separate sphere. Same as in the distant past, same as today, a person must accomplish a very similar, enormous work on himself before he can get rid of passions and reach virtues. Everything else plays a secondary role for God.

However, let everything else remain - technologies, comforts, education and others as well. All of this is not in the way, absolutely not, unless we forget about the most important thing. God gave everything to people for their comfort and happy life on Earth. But people themselves must ensure the scientific and technological progress does not obscure their actual progress and development.

Honesty

Our sometimes very unhealthy world is increasingly teaching people to perceive reality without its binding to morality and decency. We are becoming more and more accustomed to the fact that politicians, businessmen and even ordinary people can first say or promise one thing, then something completely different, and as a result do a third thing instead. So, year after year this is presented to people more and more as the norm.

However, this is not normal, and there is no such thing in the main and eternal world of God. There, what they say, think or do

is always the same. And that is called honesty. Moreover, the Lord told people what is good and right, told them about the importance of honesty for a person two thousand years ago. He also told everyone about the father of any dishonesty, or in other words, lies. Therefore, people have long known that any lie comes from the devil.

It is extremely unwise to forget the words of God. Serious problems also await all those who try to distort the words of the Lord, cancel His commandments, or even erase knowledge about the Creator from the life of His creatures (that is, lie again). Such a deed causes the most harm to the one who commits it - God also said this a long time ago. In addition, this action is always doomed to failure in the end - is it possible to talk about the confrontation between the Creator of the world and individual sinful people seriously? It's like with fish - how can those of them who decide to fight the current of the river look smart?

Contradictions

It is easy to notice that, in recent times, new contradictions have begun to appear on the planet and in some places old contradictions have deepened in societies on a variety of issues. Supporters of all kinds of freedoms criticize the adherents of conservative views. Supporters of traditional family relations condemn lovers of sexual open spaces. Adherents of ordinary two-gender humanity do not accept the newfangled multi-gender

view of the world and much, much more. In addition, there are also contradictions between people who remember the history and draw conclusions from it, and those who claim that the past no longer matters much.

Divisions sometimes occur within the sexes as well. Thus, for example, some of the women of Earth today want to be in no way inferior to men and another part of them tries to completely exclude themselves from the objects of male desires. It is unlikely that men are happy about all this. And as for the employees of museums and art galleries, these days they look with horror at the possible fate of their exhibits. After all, a good half of all the works of art of humankind for the entire period of its existence is dedicated (oh God!) to the beauty of the female body.

The attitude to such contradictions in various places of the world is different. Some more conservative countries today are trying to protect traditional views from the newfangled influence. To the best of their ability, they preserve the time-tested information field, where religions exist, universally recognized centuries-old philosophy, various good and moral books, fairy tales and films. All this has helped more than one generation in those countries to grow up in normal families as honest, kind and moral citizens.

Whereas those countries where vast newfangled freedoms have already become widespread behave in a different way. There, as a rule, traditional religion, philosophy, moral books, fairy tales and films are gradually being replaced with some new information products. And they have completely different views, rules and criteria. If we try to give them a brief definition from

the standpoint of the former world, then the words sin, immorality, welter and absurdity are quite suitable for this purpose. The age of that newfangled culture is quite miserable by historical standards - just a couple of decades. However, it seems that the countries that have embarked on this path are not at all afraid of this fact.

Does everything like this happens in the world by chance? This question can definitely be answered – no. It does not take any special ability to see that all these new changes are purposeful, consistent and planned. And their main goal is the destruction of morality and decency in people.

This period of development of events in humankind was told to people by the Lord two thousand years ago, during His coming to Earth. Therefore, there is nothing particularly surprising in what is happening today. By the way, this is precisely why many of the newfangled changes, if you look closely at them, have another very specific goal - the maximum withdrawal of people from God, from His words, from commandments of the Lord.

However, the reality of our world - the world of God - is such that a departure from the rules of the Lord is always a turn towards dead-end directions from the point of view of evolution. Supporters of such newfangled ideas, far from the Commandments, will eventually leave the information space for a variety of reasons. And this will inevitably happen, because these ideas themselves are not viable. Whereas traditional human families will continue their journey throughout the earth and pass on a much healthier morality, decency and culture to their children. As, in principle, it has always been.

The life created by God is wise and, figuratively speaking, it has a certain ability to cleanse itself of some delusions. And no one can do anything about it - these are the laws of the Creator of the world and people. Well, if someone does not like a highly moral and decent, kind and loving, honest and caring God and His commandments, then this is definitely not a God's problem.

God and science

It is quite funny to observe the attitude of the scientific world in some countries to the manifestations of the divine on Earth. Science, which always relies on evidence to substantiate a particular law, clearly makes an exception here. For some reason, it completely refuses to accept miracles as evidence of the existence of God. But those miracles, that is the indisputable facts of the superiority of God over the physical laws of the world, there are many, many thousands. Many tens of thousands of people witnessed those miracles.

Why is this happening? After all, if objects fall to the ground, then the law of universal gravitation appears. However, science does not turn God's numerous superiority of the laws of the physical world, His healing and even resurrection of people into its law. And it seems that scientists don't even really care how many thousands of miracles-confirmations of this there are on Earth.

However, one can try to find an explanation for this unusual phenomenon in science. All physical laws do not require a person to change his behavior: they do not require him to adhere to high moral principles, they do not tell him about the importance of honesty, kindness and love. But God's law recommends that people to do all this. It is well known that people (including scientists) usually do not really like to change the behavior they got used to. Perhaps this is why there is not much enthusiasm among scientists about recognizing the existence of God.

Horizon of consciousness

One of the main tasks of a person in this life is to see the existing world as broadly as possible – and therefore more correctly. It is precisely this vision and understanding of the world that inevitably sets more correct goals, priorities and desires in life. Let's clarify this thought.

For example, a small child is digging in the sandbox. At this stage, the whole world for him mostly consists of his home, his parents and some familiar places, including this sandbox. Some new toy is his maximum desire at this age. And of course, this child's desire is absolutely logical and understandable at this level of vision of the world.

The next important stage in a child's life is the process of obtaining an education. As he learns, he begins to see the existing

world more and more broadly. In addition, he is already trying to find his place in the world. Children's toys are gradually being replaced by various technology and electronics. His first plans about how he can achieve something in this life are born.

As the child grows up, his understanding of the world expands further. He gains new knowledge about the laws of the country and the world, an understanding of the different religions on Earth, philosophy, and culture appears. Thanks to this new understanding a person chooses his place in life even more accurately. Today, the most common goals at this stage in the world are usually money, career, various pleasures, success and the like.

In itself, the growth of a person's consciousness and education is somewhat similar to raising him above the ground. The greater the height at which a person is, the more space he is able to cover in his field of vision. It is also worth noting here that as a person's vision changes, their past goals from earlier stages of life usually begin to look different. So for an adult, his childhood desire for toys or school dreams are just funny memories.

A person is designed in such a way that everything he feels and understands at any stage seems correct and sufficient to him. However, of course, this is not the case. Although objectively, within the framework of only the material idea of the world, his consciousness does not have much space to grow indeed.

But if a person begins to cognize the divine on earth (which is absolutely scientific, since it is based on many thousands of facts and evidence), then his further inner growth can continue at a good pace. Because in this case, he begins to study a world that is

immeasurably superior to the Earthly one. And moreover, a world that determines and regulates all processes on Earth.

Therefore, it is not surprising that the consciousness of such a person continues to expand further, and the horizon of his vision sometimes goes beyond the purely Earthly world. Like any other knowledge, the knowledge of some divine laws also begins to become an integral part of a person over time. The undisputed, most interesting and useful part of him.

Two worlds

Our world has changed inconceivably in recent decades. So much so in some ways that perhaps the former world and today's world already are two completely different worlds. How are these changes expressed? If we leave emotional assessments and turn to facts, then in the new world lies have grown a lot in some places, tremendously even. Approximately in the same proportion the immorality and sinfulness of people have grown in many countries. Also, cynicism, greed, hypocrisy and manipulation of people has greatly increased. Furthermore, the manifestations of absurdity and unreasonableness have increasingly multiplied in the world as well.

What has decreased in the world? Honesty, nobility, decency, morality and responsibility at times has also decreased in many

countries. Romanticism, pursuit of beauty and harmony has decreased. Even more, faith in God has greatly decreased on Earth.

Why is the new world - a different world? It is just like a house - if you just change the wallpaper or furniture inside, then this is a refurbishment or a change in the interior design of an old house. While if you change the foundation, walls and roof, then in fact this is the construction of a completely new, different house. The changes that have taken place in many countries of the world in recent decades are so massive that they are comparable in their significance to the change in walls, foundation and roof of a house.

The old world was created by God and was guided by Him for thousands of years. Its aim is to educate good, honest and moral people on Earth on the basis of the rules-commandments given to people by Lord. However, the new world was already completely "built" by the people themselves. Yes, in fact, like everything else in this world, the new world belongs to God. But in its essence, in some places already it is infinitely far from Him.

Does God need such a new world? The exact answer to this question, of course, can only be known to God. However, it can be assumed that, possibly, if this world can still return to some significant extent to the fulfillment of its main purpose - the education of kind, honest and decent people. But God hardly needs the world for the "education" of egoists, liars, hypocrites, immoral people and other sinners.

The upbringing

For an oak to grow, one must plant a seed or seedling from an oak. For a pine to grow, one must plant a seed or seedling from a pine. By throwing grass seeds on earth, it is absurd to expect that trees to grow from them. The formation and development of anything in nature has its own logic, sequence and result.

Something genuine, high and kind in the sphere of human qualities does not also come from nothing or develop by itself. So, as an example, for a person to become noble qualities, from an early childhood he must hear about noble examples, read books and watch movies about it, and listen to his parent's or teacher's stories about the beauty of being noble. All of this together can be considered a seed or seedling of this high human quality. Without all of these events, how can a person discover the value of being noble? Similar situation appears with the other beautiful human qualities - honesty, loyalty, dedication, kindness and so on.

People, one way or the other, openly or in secret expect in their souls high and kind deeds from other people. However, one must realise that these deeds - are not an accident, but valuable "fruits" of the upbringing. Simple expectation them, without understanding the basics of that process - is naivety, which only leads to disappointment in people. Yet, people are not always at fault here. The fault lies more on those who 'simplified' or abolished the process of proper and serious upbringing of these people in the past.

Is it possible to recuperate the process of such upbringing on Earth today? Maybe. Of course, in our age of mass 'consumer

culture' in almost all countries of the world, to a varied degree, most of the things have been lost in the past decades. Nevertheless, not a small number of teachers and other carriers of the more moral upbringing exist in the world. Also, hundreds and even thousands of books and movies remain that carry the right ideas and thoughts. These could also play a positive, educational role.

However, the main thing - words of God. Commandments of the Lord are still available to people all over the world. There, it is stated in detail about what a person can become and how he can reach it. This is the standard of education from the Creator of our world and man himself. With it, it is impossible to go astray.

Reality and its perception

There is always exists a reality, and there is always exists our perception of it. That said, our perception of reality may be very different - from being close and accurate to being far removed from reality. In order for us to figuratively imagine it, let us consider a photographer who takes pictures of nature, for example. Depending on the quality of his camera, the pictures may have poor quality, black and white or a good quality that would accurately depict the landscape.

Similarly, people may perceive reality differently. Only the role of perception instrument plays what we generally call to be our consciousness or formed personality, instead of the camera.

The consciousness of any person is in essence a result of a choice and acceptance of the particular part of the information he considered correct and necessary. So, this information we always receive: from the first days it comes from parents, later it comes from different teachers, but also from the screens of the TV and the internet, radio and many other places. As a result, a stable system of perceptions and beliefs is eventually formed within us, through which we look at the world, at the events in it. This is a sort of our ‘personal camera’, with which we reflect the reality within ourselves.

It should be noted that a person is largely responsible for the consciousness he develops in his life. Of course, the place of his residence and the surrounding has some meaning. However today, in the age of total information availability, anyone willing can find out anything he would desire, anywhere. So, the precise field of interest of the specific person depends mainly on himself.

The principles themselves for the formation of human consciousness are not so complicated. So, if a person strives to be kind, honest and decent in his thoughts and deeds, a quite high consciousness will be formed within him in time. Or, in other words, his inner ‘camera’ appraisal of reality will gain a higher quality. After all this, the perception of reality by this person will not be far from actuality. And vice versa.

Is there any confirmation of all this mentioned above in the world? Of course, there is. It is enough to remember the One Who once created all of reality and ourselves. Naturally, it is God whose existence on Earth is proven by the many thousands of miracles. It was He who gave people the main ‘instruction’ for the correct human behavior - the Commandments of Lord. The value of all kind and moral qualities in a person is stated there,

along with the benefit of it to a person. Hence, it is logical that by striving for kind and moral life, people always experience the most positive changes.

The loss of love

Love is necessary for a human, so we always worry a lot should it leave our life. This is a very relevant topic, especially in our time as the durability of our families on Earth is declining. The sad statistics indicate that in certain countries the number of divorces per year is approaching the number of new marriages.

For humans, it is always painful to lose love. A significant part of human creativity - songs, books, poems - dedicated to this topic. This is another proof of the fact that this particular topic is concerned by many.

Partially this is because almost every human in the world to some degree touched upon real love. Much a lot of people know what a wonderful feeling this is and how high it can elevate us above the ground. So, as a beautiful love leaves, people start to get upset - without love they become very sad and feeling empty.

The most creative personalities then compose different works on this topic, philosophers attempt to consider the reasons for appearance and disappearance of love, psychologists think about how to help people cope with consequences and so on. The situation is indeed unusual as, first and foremost, love cannot be

grasped physically. Secondly, real love most certainly happens as we sometimes are willing to overcome the mountains for another. Thirdly, it can definitely disappear somewhere.

Not surprising that many people puzzle over this, and at times even write something down. Let us join the latter, but at the same time try to think more about how the Creator of all people, and of love too, looks at this question?

Without any doubt, in love, particularly the first love, each person strives to become better, each is being filled by that very love. Everything else seems not so important in comparison. On this stage of being in love, many idolise their chosen other half, consider that person to be the best and are willing to boil the ocean for them. We are always eager to trust the person we love and think that this feeling is in us forever. Often, such love happens on both sides at the same time.

However, this situation seems somewhat different in actuality. Indeed, love actually simply elevates a person for a certain amount of time. Yet, in life, every person in love is almost always a regular person with his own passions. Love only for time extinguishes these passions with its mighty power. Once love leaves, a completely different picture appears. Similarly, as a once beautiful lake after shallowing could become a not so beautiful bottom.

So, many then start to realise that a person they once loved and literally idolised is different in reality. Sometimes, that person's actions do not fit the definition of love or beautiful relationships. It is not surprising that as the result of each such action the feeling of love in the relationships begins to wither away. In a life together, these actions usually happen from both sides. We are

simply good at seeing the faults in others, as for ourselves, we are often not much better.

Of course, it is God who gives us love and other high feelings that exist in human relationships. But the passions that the evil one throws us, and which we voluntarily accept, are already our “acquisition”. It is these passions that start to erode our love. This process can go very far. According to statistics, many of the most hateful people to each other are those whom we once loved. Thus, human relationships may grow from a huge plus side into a big minus side.

Those passions that “helped” to destroy their relationships tend not to stop there. It is not rare for these passions to try and bother the former lovers by invoking the feeling of mutual hostility and sometimes even vengeance. Unfortunately, there are numerous examples of this.

God gives us the feeling of happiness provided by true love, in our first and sometimes other relationships down the line. For us to remember this feeling and seek it. Is it possible to love each other always and not lose such a high love? Of course, that is how Paradise lives - everyone always loves each other there. On Earth as well, there are plenty of couples that manage to preserve the high and the beautiful love throughout all of their lives.

Here, the secret is that in a relationship between two people passions must not appear. Yet, that result cannot be achieved without the process of constant diminishing of one’s passions. For that, we need to often look at ourselves critically, always apologize when we have done something wrong, to forgive the mistakes of others. It is vital to always and in all things be sincere and honest when it comes to relationships. So, in essence, one

need to approach life according to the Commandments of the Creator of the world and people.

Then we shall always be able to recover our relationships to the original state of beautiful form and even develop it further. However, if we do not do this work, then, taking into account the passions inside us, it will be impossible to keep a high relationship for a long time. At most, the relationship can then be kept in a very truncated format, far from the desired outcome. But this looks more like an agreement to live together. In such a relationship, people often quarrel, sometimes they make up and they are not always honest with one another. There is no point comparing this with high love, where people are ready to do a lot for the sake of another, and where all of the feelings are much more pure and beautiful.

The numerous poems, songs and other works on this topic in humanity indicate to how painful it is for people to lose real and beautiful feelings. It is important for people - high love provides us with happiness in life, fullness and adds new meanings.

So, this love in our life is achievable if we begin to resist our passions. If both in a couple will properly understand the reasons for the improvement or degradation of their relationship well, and begin to fight for them, they will succeed. Then, beautiful and high love can stay with them for long, for any amount of time. Not only on Earth, but beyond. As the fight with passions not simply preserves love, but it also pulls each person closer to the door of the eternal world of the Creator.

Christianity in cinema

One cannot help noticing that in world cinema in recent years a certain tendency start to appear and now reached a serious development. It concerns the movies about the Church and church communities, about certain servants of Christian denominations. Intriguingly, in many of these movies Church and the servants of the church are portrayed before the audience in a very bad light. Sometimes one can even get an impression that this is not Christianity that is portrayed in the movies, but some kind of dark sects.

Yes, Christianity has problems with some priests of certain denominations, there are problems with the accuracy of observing the Lord's Commandments. These cases periodically become public, and sometimes the situations there really look very ugly. However, there are many more honest and kind Christian churches in the world, with wonderful priests. Nevertheless, the films that have been released in recent years about churches are almost all negative. And this is already an action against Christianity as a whole.

So, the question arises - does this all happen by coincidence? Yes, violators always existed in humanity, in all areas of human life. But because of them, people have never looked at others as violators. This is even more true in relation to God who is Good, Love, Mercy. All genuine Christian that constitute the majority, strive to these high qualities, they avoid evil. Why not make some movies about it? Nonetheless, there are almost no such movies today.

Then a new question arises: who benefits from discrediting the Christian church by presenting some separate problems there as universal ones? The answer is obvious: of course, the enemy of God - Satan. In all times and epochs he has always been attempting to defame God, His followers and genuine servants of the Church. Satan tries to argue against any of The Creator's miracles to destroy the faith of human. He also tries with all his power to engulf people into sin.

Today Satan, by employing the broad capabilities of the movie industry and by primarily relying upon the not-so-moral movie makers, has taken up the matter with renewed vigor. As a result, movies that defame Christianity and also movies that advertise various sins appear on our screens in abundance. Therefore, any genuine person nowadays should be vigilant in that area and to understand the true causes of what is happening.

Satan, of course, can change nothing on a global scale. He is but the main liar and seducer on Earth, without any future perspectives. The people seduced by him - his only 'treasure'. That is why, if we always choose kindness, decency and God, then none of his tricks will confuse us.

The morality of consumerism

Today, without any doubt, we are living in the era of total and progressive consumerism. From all sides, dozen or even hundred times a day offers for different products, services and so on, are falling in on us. Artificial Intelligence is already being completely

integrated into this process by the sellers - and it seems, it will soon know what we want before we do.

Generally, the act of consumerism by itself is not something bad. For a normal life on this Earth, a person ought to buy and consume many things - this is the objective reality. Nevertheless, when normal consumption begins to become a kind of meaning of life for people, then it does not look so good.

To understand the reasons behind that appraisal we should ask a single question - how morality and decency are integrated into all of this 'consumer culture'? Are they there at all? (Or maybe some sort of philosophy or ideology?). After a thorough research, we find all of the main meanings there: buy cheaper, buy with a discount, buy as wholesale, buy a better quality, buy in split payments, buy a better one than the neighbors and so on. Buy, buy, buy...

Here is basically the whole morality of consumerism. This is its point, its philosophy, its goal and its result. Moreover, the 'buy-morality' sets for many people a direction for education, work and leisure.

All of this would not probably look as bad if it weren't for one question: how does the world of consumerism relate to God, Eternal Life, the history of the Son of God, the lives of thousands of saints and the history of the thousands of God's miracles on Earth? To everything, that interested and concerned humanity for thousands of years. Does the new 'buy-world' not forget about it? As this is important - in any case, one of these days every person would make his last purchase and depart to the world without shops...

It turns out that it does forget, and the subject of God is definitely being avoided there. The world of consumerism never tells its advocates that their consumption will one day end, furthermore, what would await them after this life on Earth. The willingness to talk about the Commandments of the Creator of the world, about the human soul or at least about simple morality cannot really be observed there. This new world only broadcasts to the people the thoughts about eternity and the lack of alternatives to the path of consumption, of its sufficiency for their happy life.

Consumerism is really very jealous - it does not like people thinking about other things. Especially about God who said '***No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.***' (Luke 16:13) Because "money" is the basis (oh God!) of insatiable consumerism.

Priorities

The development of the modern world is happening in many directions. Hence, possibly every person that nowadays enters an adult life comes across an uneasy question - where to apply himself and what to achieve? For the choice is enormous - there are several hundred thousands different professions in the world today.

This number, frankly speaking, is quite impressive. Therefore, it would seem that it is not so difficult for any person to find an

occupation to which his soul or head is inclined. Yet, there is a certain and a very vital nuance that we would like to touch upon, the one we should not miss.

Lord has an important statement with a direct relationship on the matter. It states: “***What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?***” (Matthew 16:26). So, it appears that for God, the Creator of our world, the business we are engaged in is not so important. Much more important to Him is something completely different.

So, if we actually cared about our future, then we should definitely consider this Lord’s statement. And it means we must pay close attention to the lack of deceit, greed, theft and other similar activities in our actions that without a doubt harm our soul. Because this, in accordance with the words of the Creator, will make any other of our efforts and accomplishments useless in our life on Earth.

The time of the Lord’s coming

The development of scientific and technological progress in humanity in ancient times was very slowly. Between the first and second centuries AD, the third and fourth, or, for example, the tenth and twelfth, the rate of progress amounted to only a few percent at most. Beginning in the fifteenth century, thanks to various inventions, the pace of progress started to grow substantially, and in recent years it has reached truly astronomical levels. Today, the speed of progress on Earth is so great that

people's familiar way of life is already changes drastically every few years.

So the question arises: why did God, who could have come to Earth in any century, choose to come specifically two thousand years ago? At a time when people's scientific and technological progress was at its lowest, and then for many centuries barely developed at all?

In fact, this is not difficult to understand. When the Lord came to Earth, He said nothing to people about science or technology (although, of course, He knew far more about it than humanity even knows today). He spoke to people about faith, about the Kingdom of Heaven, about the right path towards it - that is, about what is far more important for every human being. And after these priceless words, humanity had nearly two thousand years to calmly reflect on them and to follow them. Because at that time, no one was distracted by the sticky, often distorted informational environment that surrounds us now.

Yes, over these two millennia, humanity has borne much genuine spiritual fruits. Thousands of saints, countless righteous men, and simply good Christians have attained Eternal Life. All of them followed the Commandments of the Lord, struggled against their passions and cultivated virtues.

Science and technology had nothing to do with this most important work. Furthermore, if the Lord come to Earth today, it is far from certain that many would want to turn away from their screens for His sake. Against the background of bright screen images, computer games, various forms of virtual reality, artificial intelligence and so on, interest in Him would obviously be much lower today. And this is very sad. It appears that smart

humanity has become ‘so smart’ that in many parts of the world it has stopped thinking about its own actual and inevitable future. In fact, the modern technological age is the only one in the past two thousand years during which faith in God has drastically declined.

Did the Creator know about this stage in human development? God knows everything. In the Gospel scriptures from Lord about the *last times*, there are many descriptions of things which can now be seen in reality on our planet. As is known from the Lord’s words, He will come to Earth once more, to determine the fate of all people. And one of His questions from those years, which seems to be more addressed to our generation, already speaks volumes in itself: “***When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on earth?***” (Luke 18:8).

Following the interest

If we want to attract someone’s interest in something, it will be better to begin by speaking of the beauty or the advantages of what we wish to share. For example, when I want to spark someone’s interest in the underwater world — diving is my long-standing hobby — I always begin with its marvels: the fantastic corals, the hundreds of species of brilliantly colored fish, the dolphins, the sea turtles, and countless other creatures of the most astonishing forms and shades. I also mention that diving is always accompanied by a community of kindred spirits — romantics,

enchanted by the beauty of the deep — who create a truly unique atmosphere.

Such stories genuinely attract people. However, if I were to begin by speaking about sharks instead (even though they, too, belong to the underwater world), or about storms, or about the cost of diving equipment, then the number of people willing to experience the depths would have to shrink dramatically. But, if those very same people did come to diving through its ‘beauty’, many of the so-called ‘drawbacks’ would soon have ceased to trouble them at all. And some, perhaps, would no longer be perceived as drawbacks at all. That is why, the manner in which we present something has an immense effect on the outcome.

This logic is quite universal, and it can well be used when introducing people to Christianity. If we begin by speaking of the beauty of Paradise, of the majesty and greatness of God, of His boundless love for each one of us—if we tell of Eternal Life, which awaits every soul who chooses to live by the Lord’s Commandments—then our story will be built optimally.

This kind of information delivery gives a person a powerful incentive to try to become better, to start fighting their passions. After that, many of the trials along the spiritual path will no longer appear as heavy when compared to the attractiveness of the supreme goal. However, if we start our conversation about Christianity with the hardships, then many people's interest may fade before they even learn the most important thing.

Tragedies big and small

Let's try to touch on one, not so simple question. People on Earth very often have various problems and tragedies - to confirm this, it is enough to watch TV. And it has always been like this - there was no television on earth before, yet tragedies and problems definitely existed. What can be said about this?

To begin with, a person often becomes the creator of most of his tragedies. Of course, natural disasters or something similar do simply sometimes occur, however, when it comes to human conflicts and wars, not very spiritual and kind humans are usually the cause of it. One famous righteous man said: *“War - is the ceiling of human ‘culture’. Having hit its head on it, humanity walks around with its head down for a while. And then everything repeats again”*.

It is also worth saying that tragedy for God and for people - are often different things. Many sources provide the possession of people on the subject somewhat clearly. However, the point of view of the Creator of the world and people on the matter, could not be found as often. Yet, considering that God always keeps a close eye on us and that every person will eventually come before Him, all of this is actually of great importance. Especially since it is not so difficult to know what constitutes happiness or tragedy for God is not very difficult - one just simply needs to read His words in the Gospel.

A human life is without a doubt important. Nevertheless, whatever we would attempt to make of it - it is limited and very fleeting. Whether we add one or two decades to it or not, has no serious significance in the multi-million-year history of Earth or

even in the many thousand year history of humanity. The numbers so small are almost unnoticeable there.

But the Creator gave us a path to prolong it. Through His Son He taught us to not attempt to extend our life in this Earthly world - this has no actual meaning. He taught us to improve its quality, to cleanse our souls from passions, to nurture the virtues in accordance with His Commandments. Because for this uneasy and not fast work God will bestow every person the great prize - an actual eternal life. In the most wonderful of places.

Now let's try to look at people's problems from these positions and understand what the main possible tragedy of a person is. Without a doubt, many different tragedies happen on Earth and sometimes they take away the lives of people. However, this is what we see. God sees it differently. For our Creator the death of a person - is just the change of the shape and location for one's soul. The soul, whether we like it or not, was created by Him for spiritual development and the acquisition of virtues as a main purpose.

To put it simply, it looks like this: God takes the human soul, gives it the 'costume' in a form of a human body, and sends it off to Earth. For it to look for and discover the purpose for life, to nurture the qualities that are dear and close to the Creator - kindness, honesty, morality and the rest similar ones. So that as a result, it would return to Him after the Earthly life, while happy, joyful and beloved. Namely, as a real child of his Father.

The greatest tragedy of humanity is that from all these points, unfortunately, it for the most part cherishes above all else just its 'costume'. Despite the fact that the 'costume' cannot be preserved for very long anyway - regardless all our efforts, sooner or later,

we will have to give it back. Thus, the actually important things we unfortunately often miss.

We rarely strive to learn the history of humanity or to rush to consider the purpose of our life. Having many thousands of facts and proofs for the existence of God, we sometimes manage to live through our life yet never to find faith, never to know the important words of our own Creator directed to us. And this is truly a tragedy, worse than which nothing could be. As a result, we miss the most important meaning of life, the main chance and the priceless prize which God is willing to give to every person.

Gaming addiction

Nowadays, there is a vast number of different computer games in the world. However, these games are an area where a serious problem for people, called computer game addiction or gaming addiction, has emerged and today has become widespread.

Generally, games on Earth have existed since the appearance of humans. Without a doubt, there is great benefit in games, especially children's games. They help a child develop, gain first impressions about many adult things. Active games strengthen physical health, a sense of mutual assistance, dexterity, speed, and quick-wittedness. Games help to master many useful skills.

However, with computer games, the situation looks very different. Excessive enthusiasm for computer games inevitably harms a person. More than sufficient information has been gathered in the world to draw such conclusions. And the main problem here is the emergence in a person of a new strong addiction - addiction to computer games. It is this addiction that forces a person to spend long hours on such activities. And this harms the player in many ways at once.

Firstly, it harms the player's physical health. Prolonged sitting at a computer inevitably leads to vision problems, poor posture, back pain, and so on. Long gaming sessions are accompanied by a lack of physical activity, and this increases the risk of obesity and many other diseases associated with a sedentary lifestyle.

Secondly, the psyche of an immoderate player suffers. Hours-long immersion in virtual reality, especially with nervous tension and elements of aggression, inevitably leaves its mark. It contributes to the development of anxiety disorders, depression, aggression, and some other mental problems. Content with violence is especially harmful to a person, as it has a sharply negative impact on the psyche, and this applies most of all to children and adolescents. Furthermore, it forms dangerous asocial views and skills in players.

Where there is gaming addiction and an uncontrollable desire to play, indifference to other most important spheres of life often arises — to work, studies, communication with loved ones and relatives, and many others. It is no coincidence that, based on a huge amount of evidence, the World Health Organization (WHO) has recognized video game addiction as a mental disorder.

Excessive enthusiasm for computer games can also lead to a disturbance in self-awareness — a person may start to feel not like a real individual, but like some character from a computer game. Furthermore, prolonged computer gaming in the evening and at night reduces sleep duration. If a person plays computer games daily, their work capacity usually decreases; it becomes harder for them to concentrate on tasks that require attention and focus.

Excessive passion for online games can lead to social isolation — a reduction in live communication with people, a deterioration of interpersonal relationships. And this is very bad, because virtual communication can never replace real interaction with people. Gamers also usually experience a decrease in normal social activity — against the backdrop of video games, other activities (such as playing chess or football with friends) seem boring and uninteresting to them.

The fight against computer gaming addiction is similar in its methodology to the fight against other, well-known human addictions. The most important condition for a successful fight here is the player's real awareness of the seriousness of their problem. In Christian terms, any addictions are called passions.* It is extremely difficult, if at all possible, to effectively fight passions without the desire or at least the participation of the person. A person needs to realize that his passions are simply stealing a significant part of his life.

* The author has two books — "Once Upon a Time in Heaven. The nets" and "Face yourself. How to overcome your passions" — in which this aspect is revealed in more detail.

As for recommendations for those who want and are ready to return their relationship with computer games to a healthier level, they are already quite well known. So, to avoid the emergence of addiction, it is necessary to set limits on gaming time. According to generally accepted estimates, this is no more than 1–2 hours per day for adults, and up to 1 hour for children. One must always combine computer games with other important activities — sports, walks in the fresh air, live communication with friends and family, and so on. It is imperative to choose only quality games, without crude violence. One should give preference to projects that develop cognitive and creative abilities, rather than cause stress or aggression.

Are there any visible criteria that can help a person understand at a simple level that he does not have a gambling addiction? Well, if a person has not started removing from his life, for the sake of games, things that were previously important and interesting to him; if his live communication with other people has not decreased; if he can calmly not play for a long time, and are also able to stop playing at any moment — then he has no problems with gaming addiction.

Commandments

One of the most important and interesting topics for discussion - the Commandments of the New Testament that the Lord left us. Without any exaggeration, our attitude towards them should be extremely serious, as this is the only appeal of this kind from the Creator of people towards His creations. In essence, one can call these Commandments a sort of instruction for a human in terms of his goals and meanings in life, which was given to us by our Creator. The compliance of the Commandments helps any person to achieve the maximum result - happiness and Eternal life.

Without any doubt, only the Creator of such a complex creation as human, knows everything about him. And He definitely knows incomparably more than any human advisers, even taken together. Therefore, if we truly wanted to discover oneself, to understand our true purpose and capabilities, then we should listen to our Creator first and foremost. There are no other sources of undeniable information about human beings on Earth. With all due respect towards the many talented philosophers and sages - they are not the creators of human. They are also God's creations.

So, let us move on to the Commandments. In actuality, the Commandments contain the most possible beauty of human relationships, the beauty of human thinking. We usually consider them to be strict rules. However, this is not the case - the Commandments are just the optimal path for the beauty to be nurtured within any human.

We often think about how difficult these Commandments are in practice. Yet, let us look at it from another angle - how would

we treat those who would be treating us in accordance with the Commandments. Would we like our close ones and relatives to be honest with us, so that they don't lie or cheat on us? Of course, we would. Furthermore, this is exactly what we always expect from our friends and loved ones.

So, would we like to be forgiven for our mistakes? For example, we did something unkind towards a certain person and we fear that person to abandon us. Yet, that person comes to us and says: "Ok, friend, you have made a mistake, but I can see that you are sorry. Let's forget about it. Try not to do that again." Would we feel good hearing this? Of course, it would.

The situation looks the same with the other Commandments. And it turns out that the observance of the Commandments by other people towards us is fully welcomed by us. In this case, we are ready to vote for this idea with both hands. Yes, the Commandments are magnificent. But, should we become magnificent ourselves, or should we expect it only from others?

That is why, in order for everything in our life to be good and high, so that our life does not end together with earthly life, we must work on ourselves. And be joyful that we have such incredible perspectives thanks to our Creator.

Spiritual blindness

Spiritual blindness and the loss of historical memory in our world, which is now rapidly plunging into an era of total consumerism, are becoming its characteristic feature and a sad fact. Also becoming evident is a serious loss of logic among many people, along with their departure from common sense in matters related to the history of Christianity, the evidence for Christianity on earth, and many Christian meanings. And also in matters of searching for the real meaning of life, searching for the true reasons for happiness and unhappiness.

As the result, a very interesting paradox is emerging. On one hand, humanity has quite enough education, logic, and common sense to, for example, develop artificial intelligence, carry out large-scale space programs, or accelerate trains to the speed of airplanes. On the other hand, for some reason, it clearly lacks the same education, logic, and common sense to remember and apply things that are a thousand times simpler, more obvious, — and the main — more important for every person.

Let us clarify this thought. How many facts and evidence do people need to acknowledge the existence of God? Ten? A hundred? On earth today there are many thousands of such facts and proofs. Let's recall them: there are hundreds of large-scale miracles (miracles are events or facts with witnesses, that surpass the laws of physics) performed by God through His prophets, of whom there were twenty-five. Then, hundreds of miracles He performed through His Son, Jesus Christ. After that, many miracles God performed through the twelve apostles and the

saints, of whom there have been more than three thousand on earth. As a result, there are many thousands of God's miracles on earth.

The level of God's miracles leaves no doubt about His capabilities. These include multiple resurrections of people from the dead, instantaneous healings from grave illnesses, cases of walking on water, levitation above the ground, radiant lights emanating from the bodies of saints, and much, much more. God also performs large-scale natural miracles — for example, the parting of the sea to allow people to walk on the seabed, the extension of daylight by several hours, the consumption of sinful cities by lava and ash, a star guiding people on their way, and so on. Witnesses to these miracles sometimes included groups of people, sometimes entire nations. All these events were recorded in detail and passed down from generation to generation.

Miracles involving the saints on earth have never ceased and continued right up to our time. For instance, God performed many miracles through Saint Seraphim of Sarov two hundred years ago. Or, at the end of the last century, God performed a great many miracles through Saint Paisios of the Holy Mountain Athos. Many witnesses of those miracles are still alive today.

Perhaps the lack of interest among today's people would be understandable, if all this information about God had no practical significance for them. But it is of paramount importance to them. For God did not merely give people thousands of proofs of His existence. He also said through His Son that for a good and moral life on earth, for keeping His Commandments, He will grant such

people Eternal Life in the most beautiful place — Paradise. All material things cannot compare with this in any way.

And here a perfectly reasonable question arises: how does our contemporary, super-intelligent, logical, and highly rational humanity manage to lose faith, forget the facts of God's presence, and consequently miss its only chance to escape death? The answer that perhaps explains everything is blindness. Or, more precisely, the large-scale *spiritual blindness* of people of our generation.

It is only in recent decades that faith on earth has begun to decline. Before that, the number of Christian churches of various denominations on our planet was continuously growing, reaching several million. But in recent years, their number in some countries of the world has begun to decrease, and in some places very sharply — churches have started to be converted into cafes, clubs, and so on. This is happening for the first time in human history. And this sad fact speaks volumes.

It is clear proof that people are ceasing to see the main reality. Important facts of Christian history, the priceless words of God, thousands of miracles on earth, the possibility for all good, moral, and sincere people to obtain Eternal Life — all of this is significantly slipping away from human logic, common sense, and even attention in our day. And this is despite the fact that the logic of those same people continues to function normally in the realms of business, science, or politics. The saints, many centuries ago, gave a name to this paradox — spiritual blindness.

To what can this blindness be compared? We all know that children love to dig in the sandbox and build various figures there.

Their parents are happy about that. But if children, upon becoming adults, continue to sit in the sandbox, then this fact no longer pleases anyone. In the same way, God is not pleased with those people who spend their entire lives only on material things and do not touch what is most important—the spiritual. "*Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth... but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven...*" the Lord said to us during His coming to earth (Matthew 6:19).

God's words to man are essentially the kind, only true "instructions" of the Creator of man, given to His children, His creations. There are no others like them, and there cannot be, since no one else created man.

God knows that on the day of inevitable abandonment of all material things — on the day of their death — every person will remain in possession only of their spiritual wealth, which they were able to cultivate on earth. And if such wealth has not appeared in a person during their lifetime, then regardless of who they were or what they had on earth, that person will become a bankrupt, having missed his greatest opportunity.

(to be continued)

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A collection of the author's reflections on various significant issues. Today the world is changing incredibly fast, but what can be changed in it, and what is important to keep unchanged? What makes people successful and what makes them happy? The author attempts to dive into these and other issues from the standpoint of religion, philosophy and history.