

Review (73): *It's a Wonderful Life*: Loss of Heritage Impact Leads to the Loss of Freedom; Potential Converted into Reality

5- Heritage Impact

- 1) This is the invisible impact of the invisible hero who has blessing by association after death on those he leaves behind.
- 2) This is how the “next generation” is blessed and often prospered although it may not deserve such blessing. The prosperity it enjoys is not by virtue of its own spiritual advance but of those who went before.
- 3) This is the best way to explain the hollow prosperity we enjoy in the United States today. We have a fantastic system based on Anglo-Saxon culture, Western European heritage, and Judeo-Christian ethics. These things form the core of our nation’s history, economics, jurisprudence, law enforcement, government, business, commerce, and religion.
- 4) Men who were believers and understood biblical principles related to the laws of divine establishment ordained this system within the founding documents of our country. Subsequent generations honored, executed, and maintained that system and saw it advance to phenomenal levels of blessing and prosperity.
- 5) For a while each succeeding generation was blessed by the one that preceded and blessed in turn the one following it.
- 6) This process has ended. The next generation that enters into the leadership positions of our nation—in business, government, economics, politics, jurisprudence, media, and religion—will be flawed and degenerate in the sense that it will be disconnected from the heritage that preceded it. The present generation is indoctrinating its children with ideas that are contrary to the principles that previously provided blessing by association from one generation to the next.

These foundational principles are being replaced with human good and evil born from the deformed union of human viewpoint and doctrines of demons.

- 7) Paul Craig Roberts, a nationally syndicated columnist who writes for *The Washington Times*, believes this transformation is well underway. This is evident from one of his columns from which I’d like to quote excerpts. It’s entitled:

PURSUIT OF THE PAST PERFECT

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Paul Craig Roberts
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Whatever a person thinks of Pat Buchanan's third party run at the presidency, he gave a good speech when he announced on Oct. 25. Many of the points Mr. Buchanan hit upon deserve a national debate.

The questions he has raised about sovereignty and the Constitution are likely to be shouted down with charges that he is anti-Semitic. Pat is living in a lost culture. His presidential campaign is going to bring home to him just how lonely he is.

Like Ronald Reagan, Pat Buchanan has a vision of America. It is a good one, full of good people behaving as they used to behave. Pat thinks it is all still there, and that a good president can bring it back. Here and there one can still find pockets of the old America, but not enough remains to make Mr. Buchanan president.

The culture has moved on. That's not to say it has gone in a good direction. Whatever kind of culture this is, it is not Pat Buchanan's culture. I have my differences with Mr. Buchanan. But Mr. Buchanan has asked some powerful questions: "What is a self-governing people doing meekly waiting each week for nine jurists to tell us how we may live and how we should govern ourselves?" Who committed "We the People" to global political arrangements that eventually will compromise our sovereignty and submerge us into a superstate?

Global free trade does not require a global government, but Mr. Buchanan is correct that the same intellectual frame of mind that turned the European Common Market (a free trade zone) into the European Union (a political superstate) is at work among elites in the United States. Among our intellectual elite, patriotism is atavistic. It has been discarded into the trash can of history.

The demise of patriotism disturbs Pat. He sees us becoming an empire and then part of an empire. He is not willing to let this happen without a fight. Pat is sincere and in no one's pocket.

Pat deserves respect for taking a stand, especially in view of the odds against him. After all these years in the media business, he has to know how hard it is to get good information into the minds of a distracted and misinformed public.

Pat is resisting America's transformation from a republic into an empire. His problem is that at first no one recognizes the transformation, and, then, before you know it, everyone is part of it. The person who is resisting goes from being a prophet before his time to a diehard. The America many of us were born into is gone. Pat can't save a country that is not there anymore.

Paul Craig Roberts is a columnist for The Washington Times and is nationally syndicated. All content © 1999 WASHINGTON TIMES

- 8) Loss of heritage impact is what precipitates the cycles of discipline to a client nation as individuals move from an environment of prosperity to one of adversity.
- 9) Heritage impact on an individual basis means the mature believer has invisible post-death historical impact on his loved ones, and possibly some close friends and associates.
- 10) Regardless of their spiritual status the beneficiaries are blessed by association. They can be believers or unbelievers, winners or losers. But this principle provides the answer to the question that puzzled Jeremiah in:

Jeremiah 12:1 - Righteous are You, O Lord, that I would plead my case with You; indeed I would discuss matters of justice with you: Why has the way of the wicked prospered? Why are all those who deal in treachery at ease?

- 11) Answer: Blessing by association with an invisible hero who advanced to spiritual maturity. He has invisible historical impact on his heritage.

IX. The Computer Converts Potential into Reality:

A. Dramatic License Alters the Divine Decrees:

- 1- We must remember from our study of the divine decrees that divine omniscience is God's simultaneous knowledge of all that is knowable, both actual and possible.
- 2- The divine decrees contain God's knowledge of that portion of omniscience that deals with reality only.
- 3- Foreknowledge is that portion of the divine decrees that deals with believers only.
- 4- Only the divine decrees can establish reality and only that which is real can be foreknown.
- 5- Nevertheless, the drama, *It's a Wonderful Life*, allows us to imagine what would have happened if George Bailey had never been born.
- 6- In order to dramatize such a circumstance we must allow God through dramatic license to permit a potential contained in divine omniscience to be inserted into the divine decrees as a current reality.
- 7- The potential that did not occur is the proposition that George Bailey was never conceived and never born, thus he never existed in human history.
- 8- This forces us to consider two very important principles from our study of the divine decrees:
 - 1) No event, no matter how small, can be misplaced in the decrees, or ignored altogether, without having profound impact on all events.
 - 2) If any event should be left out of the decrees then human history would take a different course from its original intent.
- 9- We are about to observe the different course caused by ignoring the physical birth of one individual and the profound impact his absence will have on the community of Bedford Falls.
- 10- Be alert to the comments Clarence makes as he leads George on a tour of what he believes to be his hometown of Bedford Falls but which is now, in reality, a place called Pottersville.