

THE MESSENGER



"... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!" Romans 10:15

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Where John Lennon Missed It

by Dick Blackford

On October 9, Yoko Ono spoke before the United Nations and a recording of John Lennon's IMAGINE was broadcast to 130 countries over 1,000 radio stations to over 1 billion people. The Armed Forces network beamed it to 80 more countries. While one may admire Lennon's ability, right-thinking people must disdain his atheistic communism. Tom Brokaw (of NBC) told us that Lennon began his rebellion against authority when he was 10 years old. The peace he longed for will never come through the philosophy he advocated.

"IMAGINE There's No Heaven, It's easy if you try." Lennon wanted us to believe Jesus was lying by promising us heaven. This would mean Jesus was not the son of God. Jesus taught us to live morally and righteously that we might spend eternity in the place he has gone to prepare and where he now reigns (John 14:1-3).

"No Hell Below Us, Above us only sky." As an act of friendship, Jesus warned us against hell. "And I say unto you my friends, . . . Fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Luke 12:4, 5; Matt. 10:28). Not many believe in hell because it hampers their lifestyle. Lennon taught and practiced self-indulgence. Jesus taught self-denial and called us to a higher and nobler life of faith in Jehovah God who holds the future. If Jesus was right about hell then Lennon was no friend to man.

"IMAGINE All The People, Living for today." Charles Smith, former president of the American Association for the Advancement of Atheism (4A Society) said, "happiness here and now should be the motive of our conduct." Neither Smith nor Lennon believed in a hereafter – no heaven or hell. Just do what will make you happy NOW. For over two decades a large segment of society has been doing that. And when we look at the AIDS plague, other epidemics of VD, the abortions, unwanted and unloved children, drug addicts, suicides, etc., we are caused to ask, "Are we having fun yet?"

"IMAGINE . . . No religion too." Eliminating Jesus and His teaching about heaven and hell does not eliminate religion. It exchanges one religion for another; from a religion of self-denial to a religion of self-indulgence. Lennon's religion of self-indulgence makes self into a god. The worship of self is the most corrupt religion a man can have.

"IMAGINE All The People, Living life in peace." If you can imagine this from a life of self-indulgence you have too big an imagination. Lennon admitted advocating drug use (self-indulgence) in some of his songs. The drug culture has brought us anything but peace. We have seen its blight on America's most precious natural resource – her youth. It has ruined the health of many. It has caused many to turn to a life of crime,

prostitution, etc. It has caused some to turn away from life to suicide. Lennon suffered the consequences of his own philosophy. One of his fans, who was a drug user, shot and killed the rock star. And if there is no God, who can say he did wrong?

Christians deplore both the crime and the philosophy that led to it (no God, self-indulgence).

“IMAGINE No Possessions . . . People sharing all the world.” Christians of the first century shared their possessions with their brethren by choice, out of love, as Jesus taught (Acts 2:44, 45; 4:32; and John 13:34, 35). But Communism tried to force people to work according to their ability and receive according to their needs (no choice, without love). The work ethic was destroyed and many now live in poverty.

It would help if the multi-millionaires like Lennon and many other advocates of this philosophy would lead the way instead of pointing the way. Lennon, Jane Fonda, etc. retained their millions while making a token contribution now and then. Communist leaders lived lives of luxury while the people starved. They want everyone else to give up their possessions but they haven't shown us how it's done.

“You May Say I'm A Dreamer . . .” Yes, because what Lennon dreamed (communism) became a nightmare that didn't work. Atheistic communism is not the answer to man's plight. The reason we could never have the peace of which Lennon dreamed is because it doesn't exist.

Enslaved to Sin

A boy visiting his grandparents was given a slingshot. Since he had never had a sling shot before he went into the woods to practice. He shot at branches, boulders, and birds, but he never came close.

Discouraged by his lack of accuracy, the young boy returned to his grandparents. As he entered the back yard, he spied grandma's pet duck. He took aim and let it fly. The stone struck, and the duck fell dead. The boy panicked. Quickly he hid the dead duck in the woods beyond his grandfather's woodpile.

As he returned to the back yard, thinking he had hidden his crime, he looked up at the porch. There was his sister Sally. The grin on her face told she had seen the whole thing. As the boy came on the porch, his sister said nothing. She only gave him that all-knowing grin.

After lunch, Grandma asked Sally to help with the dishes, but Sally said, “Johnny told me he wanted to do them.” She gave Johnny that grin again. So Johnny did the dishes.

Later, Grandpa asked the grandkids if they wanted to go fishing. Grandma replied that it was Sally's turn to help with supper and she could not go. Sally with that grin looked at Johnny and said, “Johnny told me he wanted to help with supper.” Johnny stayed and Sally went fishing.

After several days of doing both his and Sally's chores, Johnny could no longer take it. He went to his grandmother and confessed to killing her duck. “I know,” his grandmother said. Giving Johnny a hug, she continued, “I saw the whole thing through the window. I was wondering how long you would let Sally make a slave of you.”

How many of us allow Satan to make a slave of us simply because we are too proud to confess our sins to one another (if necessary) and to God?

Richard Hoefler, Will Daylight Come?

News and Notes:

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.

“...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” James 5:16