

What in the World? Episode 3

Welcome back to the companion piece for our What in the World? series!

As you know now, we're taking a little break from our in-depth look at apologetics to let your brain rest and reset, by taking a look at the news each week and trying to apply the Christian worldview to it!

We also have our now recurring spot at the end of the episode, 'Playing the Trump Card', where we review at any news relating to Trump.

Always a good laugh.

This week's news was largely depressing and, as you heard in the episode, pretty much just sent me into a fit of disbelief and anger.

Due to this, this companion piece will likely just be me sharing the links to the articles I'm raging at, so you can be as horrified as me.

I'll put some notes here, along with any scripture I quoted without referencing, so you can be more informed about what I discuss.

First off, we have the disappointing news that lockdown measures look to be going somewhat backwards.

Thanks (I think) to Sara for bringing this to my attention when she sent me [this article](#) detailing the new plans, as of September 14th (the day after this airs) to reduce group sizes down to a maximum of 6 people.

There was a bit of a tizz about the office hoping this didn't mean all the progress we had made the last few weeks getting church and the groups all ready to go back to meeting up would be wasted.

UPDATE: Having written this companion the day *after* I recorded the podcast, which is unusual for me, I can confirm that, as it stands currently, there is no risk to us still meeting up! So, as far as I'm aware, I'll see you Thursday!

But anyway, as I said in the podcast, there's only a couple of worldview type things we can draw here.

The first is that we need to still cling onto God's promises for us, promises for good and not harm (Jeremiah 29:11), in the face of what seemed, at first, to be bad news. We've talked about that a lot recently, however, so it's not worth going over again here.

The second, in contrast, is something we haven't really spoken about before – what is our duty in relation to the government?

As I said in the church talk last week, in Acts 5:29, when confronted with the Saducees, Peter said we are called to obey God and not men. So, you might think, this means we should ignore the advice and simply go on worshiping and meeting as always! Afterall, that's what those crazy American Christians are doing!

I think we also need to explore something of what Jesus says in Matthew 22:17-21 and what Paul says in Romans 13:1-7 – namely, obey the government as they have been put in place by God, and give to them that which is owed.

As much as it galls me to say, we should probably just err on the side of caution and obey the government, unless our spiritual leaders, in the form of the leadership team, say they feel strongly that God wants us to disregard it.

If it wasn't for stupid COVID-19, none of this would even be an issue though, so just the easiest thing to do is pray that ends ASAP.

Speaking of stupid COVID, we then had a look at [this article here](#) about the likely upcoming lockdowns in Birmingham and Solihull.

I won't go into this to any depth or detail, but suffice to say this is a spanner in the works, should those lockdowns advance beyond the borders of those two cities as they are, believe it or not, quite close to us here at Chawn.

Moving on, our next article was [this extremely aggravating article](#) about a hooded man who tried to abduct a 14 year old girl in Staffordshire.

The reason this is relevant to is that we are, of course, part of the county of Staffordshire (or, if we aren't, we're mega close – I passed the sign saying 'welcome to Staffordshire' on my way here today).

In the episode I strongly encouraged you guys to *never* walk anywhere with your earphones in or, if you do, routinely take them out and just have a listen and look around. Definitely don't walk around with your earphones in, staring at your phone. You need to be aware of your surroundings because, as we see in this article, there's bad people everywhere.

Here's an interesting video showing how people who walk around like this are totally oblivious to being followed (you can disregard the self-defence bit):



I haven't linked that because I want you all to become kung-fu masters or anything like that, but rather to get you to see that it's a very common thing, to walk around oblivious, and see that we need to be more aware!

From the perspective of the Christian worldview, however, we see the depravity of the human condition.

As I say in the episode, I often hear people say thing like 'how can a just and loving God send anyone to Hell?'... I have to say, I do not struggle with that idea, personally. What confuses me more is how can a holy, righteous, just God send *anyone to Heaven?! If I were God I would want nothing to do with us.*

In Genesis 6:5 it says, of the human condition, "*The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the*

human heart was only evil all the time”.

This is the condition we are in, this is what is being seen here – the desires of our heart, when we are unregenerate (that is, a new creation in Christ), are just evil!

The only thing that changes this is Jesus Christ. It’s all about Jesus.

Without Jesus changing hearts and the Holy Spirit convicting people, then this sort of thing continues. I read lots of news articles when I’m recording these podcasts, and in the days prior to see if anything particularly sparkling stands out, and I have to say – more than half of what I read is so shocking and disgusting I wouldn’t dare share it here for fear of ruining your innocence. Just today I read a story that made me want to cry. It certainly made me pray for the victim of the event.

This world needs Jesus, that’s for sure. That’s why I keep equipping you guys for the secular world, so you can take Him to those who need Him and be the change!

Let’s move on.

We then moved on to the tragic story of being told we shouldn’t sing happy birthday anymore.

I’m just going to link the [article here](#) and move on, because it’s nonsense.

Finally, we come to our favourite weekly segment – ‘Playing the Trump Card’!

This week’s Trump news is that he has been nominated for a nobel peace prize.

No, [I’m not kidding](#).



Now, I’m not going to spend ages on this because, frankly, it feels beneath what the point of the companion piece is for, but I will make three observations and then leave it with you:

1. It does seem to me that he has fulfilled the criteria, as we see it in the article and on the specifications for nominations for the peace prize

2. It's not unheard of for a president to get one of these – Obama got one a few months into his presidency, before he had actually done *anything*, so if he can have one, I see no reason Trump doesn't deserve one as much if not more
3. This is hilarious. If this is a troll play by this Norwegian politician then he deserves a medal, because it's genius

There we go, I'll just leave that there, like a hand grenade with the pin pulled, and walk off into the sunset.

Let's review our Bible for this week, shall we?

Psalm 139:23-24 – *“Search me, O God, and know my heart!*

Try me and know my thoughts!

And see if there be any grievous way in me,

and lead me in the way everlasting!”

This is a wonderful verse where the author is saying “Lord, I want you to know all my thoughts and desires, I want you to know everything about me, I want you to spot where I am not chasing after you and remove it and replace it so I can chase after the way everlasting”, which is chasing after God and His will.

Isn't this what we all need?

If everyone had the humility and clarity of thought to say “hey, I do and think some dodgy stuff. I should take this to God and ask Him to change my ways for the better” we would have such an amazing society.

No more people snatching 14 year olds. None of that.

Let's take some time today to meditate on this word from God, and see if God can show us where we are not chasing down 'the way everlasting'.

Anyway, that's enough of that for this week!

As always, don't be afraid to get into the youth whatsapp chat and let us know how you are, what you're up to and what you're thinking. Get your prayer requests ready for Thursday and get involved in our Bible study! And you can grab us on Instagram @chawnyouth.

Speak to you next week!