

Right On

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BRING IT DOWN

HE WHO WOULD CHANGE THE WORLD MUST FIRST...

A prominent communist theoretician has written the following: "He who would change the world must first interpret the world fundamentally and without error." There is no changing a diseased world unless we have first diagnosed it correctly. The apathetic or uncommitted person, is of course, relatively content with the status quo. For the most part, he seeks no interpretation, no change. We shall concern ourselves here with the Marxist interpretation and the Christian interpretation of the world. Keep in mind that there are two radical youth movements in America today — the "peace" movement — (more radical on some cam-

pus than others) and the action of the people who know Jesus.

The Marxist sees the environment — the system — as the basic cause of man's problems. Man is seen as a product of his environment. A man's actions can be traced to his political upbringing and the existing economic system.

From this it easily follows that a man is not himself responsible for such things as murder, theft, arson, rock-throwing, rioting, etc. — rather the society which fixed the man's environment is to blame. From this basic interpretation of the world, it is clearly seen why the Marxist seeks to change economic and political systems in his effort to save mankind.

The Christian sees decaying mankind not as the product

of bad environment, but rather as the sum total of decaying individuals. The problem is with each selfish, ego-centered person, the way a man just basically is. A lot of screwed-up people living together results in a screwed-up society. Can you see the difference in the Christian and Marxist interpretation of the world now?

In very simple terms:

A Christian says — bad men make the good environment bad.

A Marxist says — bad environment makes good men bad.

Now let's talk about solutions. The Christian will concern himself with individual people, whereas the Marxist will continue to plug away at the environment. The Christian knows that our gracious

God has, in His great love for men, provided a means of regeneration for each person. God, in sending His Son, Jesus, to our planet, clearly showed His concern for the state of a troubled world. And Jesus stated the purpose of his mission to earth over and over:

"The Son of Man has come to seek and to save the Lost."

"For God did not send His Son into the world to judge the world; but that the world might be saved through Him."

And Jesus made it personal when he said:

"Behold I stand at the door and knock; if any man hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and make my abode in him."

So what is the ultimate end for the Marxist? If he is successful in overthrowing existing systems and bringing in

new "improved" systems, he will find the same problems existing in his new system! He will find selfish men still taking advantage of other men for their own gain. Yet the Christian knows the reality of the following statement made by John, disciple and close friend of Jesus:

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God."

And so large numbers of Christians, with the love God has given them, continue to live together in peace, and to set the pace for observant revolutionaries the world over.

The correct basic interpretation of the world has been evident for thousands of years — let's get out and change the world.



Editor's Note:

From time to time Right On will be including a column on Biblical prophecy as it relates to the condition of the world today. Thousands of years ago, the Jewish prophets of the Old and New Testaments foretold the events which would happen in the distant future. Today we are living in the age when many of these predictions are coming to pass; they are living testimony to the Divine inspiration of the Bible. A few examples follow:

The Russians are Coming!

This month, on the third anniversary of the Arab-Israeli War of 1967, Israel's foremost military strategist Moshe Dayan warned his nation that "The next war will not be

with the Arabs, but with the Russians." It is a well known fact that the Soviets have been supplying the Egyptians with materials, advisors and pilots for some time now. This is the beginning of a great military thrust to come.

In 650 B.C. God guided the pen of Ezekiel to write about Russia (whose ancient name was Gog). The Old Testament says, "...prophecy and say to Gog, Thus says the Lord God: On that day when my people Israel are dwelling securely, you will bestir yourself and come from your place out of the uttermost parts of the north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great host, a mighty army; you will come up against my people Israel, like a cloud covering the land". (Ezekiel 38:14-16)

Earthquakes

In early June a series of brutal earthquakes ripped Peru, covering many small villages and tearing the ground. The death toll was estimated at 50-75,000. In the past several decades many violent quakes have claimed thousands of people and swallowed up great cities. Scientific records show that quakes have never occurred with such regularity or violence as they have lately.

Jesus Christ spoke of the generation which would witness the end of the world and give them some signs, saying, "For nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places; All this is but the beginning of the sufferings". (Matthew 24:7,8)