

## **SEEING THE WRITING OVER TIME**

On Monday night my daughter Coral forwarded me an essay she had just finished writing so that I could proofread it. I was under a tight timeline because I was in the process of helping Nadine wash down our walls in the living room because we had a painter coming on Tuesday morning. I received the essay around 9:30 p.m. and it had to be submitted to her professor before midnight.

I sat down at the computer with a coffee beside me and began the task of proof reading. I love reading her essays because they are often on topics I do not know much about, so I come away afterward having learned some new things. I do my best when it comes to proofing, and usually will indicate the corrections I have made to her spelling or grammar by highlighting them in "red." After I finish, I usually reach out to her to tell how impressed I was by what she had written, and I take time to discuss some of the things that intrigued me as I proofread. Of course, it does not surprise me to hear from my daughter a few weeks later that she got a high mark and many compliments from her professor on her essay.

After reading my daughter's university essay on Monday night I read something else done by her on Tuesday morning. Before the painter arrived, Nadine and I started moving furniture around so that he would have plenty of access to our walls. When we placed one of our coffee tables upside-down on the couch, we discovered some things Coral had written underneath when she was between the ages of 4-7. She would often climb under the coffee table at this stage in her life and write things underneath. It was a trip down memory lane for Nadine and I to see some of the things Coral wrote. Nadine took a picture of it on her phone and forwarded it to Coral later that day. Coral admitted she had forgotten about doing that and liked seeing this reminder from her earlier writings.

I found it interesting on Tuesday morning to reflect upon my experiences with respect to Coral's writings over the previous 12 hours or so. One difference I reflected upon was how she would write with markers and pencils as a youngster and now she writes on her laptop. I also pondered how her love for writing has evolved to now writing 2,500-3,000-word essays with sources cited, instead of just short words or sayings on the bottom of a coffee table. As I reflected upon this, I was reminded how, just a few days earlier, I read something God had written Himself.

While researching a future sermon I came across the story where God finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai and gave him the stone tablets upon which were written the Ten Commandments. The exact passage in Scripture tells us that the **stone tablets were inscribed with the terms of the covenant, written by the finger of God.** (Exodus 31:18.) These stone tablets contained God's instructions about how the Israelites could live in a proper relationship with Him as well as with one another. God's laws and commandments were unique from other cultures at the time because:

1. They alleviated the harsh judgments endorsed by other cultures,
2. They were egalitarian in nature because both the poor and the powerful would experience the same judgment,
3. They did not separate social and religious law because all law rested or came from God's authority.

Basically, these commandments were meant to lead the Israelites into living a life of practical holiness because in these laws they not only could see the nature of God but also see His plan for how they should be living their lives. One thing that Moses told the Israelites when it came to the commandments God wrote for them was:

**Do not add to or subtract from these commands I am giving you. Just obey the commands of the Lord your God that I am giving you.  
(Deuteronomy 4: 2)**

Even though these commandments were written so long ago by God they are still very applicable to our lives today. We need to remember these laws were designed to reveal to us a lifestyle that is endorsed and encouraged for us by Him. They are the perfect expression of who God is and how He wants us to live by pointing out sin and the proper way to deal with it.

I identified earlier when it came to my daughter's writing that over time we may change with respect to the means by which we write, and the messages we want to express. While this may be the case with respect to our writings, hopefully this is not the case for us when it comes to God's written laws. Hopefully we are still obeying these laws written by God and keeping all of them as a guide for how we can live our lives best for Him.

Keep safe and God bless,

Pastor Dean