

89 View from a drone 2

(I've already drafted 'View from a drone 3', and I'm amused by the double entendre I've created: 'drone'! But what I mean is that it's helpful to take the big picture, to see what God is doing.)

I've recently realised [87] what a very privileged position God has put me in, work-wise, but I believe that God has also led me on a journey in my personal life, especially in the past couple of years, and I can now see some parallels.

In my video 'The making of a macro maniac' (https://youtu.be/Q8jRKp_7sb0) I explain how I have (at least!) three character faults: being an obsessive-compulsive problem-solver, being a terrible show-off, and being devious. (The last probably comes from my dysfunctional family upbringing, where I was clever at manipulating a situation to get to my desired goal.) But I mentioned in the video that those flaws have been redeemed (I stopped short of saying 'by God'!) to put me in a privileged position where I can generate computer tools that people really value.

But today, my drone's eye view is on my personal life, and it shows someone who has always been somewhat dogmatic – a very difficult fault to redeem, as you'll have noticed if you've been following my journey these past two years. For example, when I 'discovered' the Trinity – God as relationship – I immediately set about convincing you of this wonderful truth. And what am I now doing in my writings? Trying to convince you of the latest idea that I've just discovered!

You see the problem I've got?!

But to be fair to myself, it is a really difficult fault to avoid, isn't it? We're Christians, right? And we've been given the Bible – what a precious gift! The Bible gives us the truth – the absolute truth about God. And it's desperately important to everyone on the planet, right? And it's our responsibility to tell people – if we don't tell them, who will?! We don't want people to go to hell, which they will if they don't believe in Jesus and accept him as their personal saviour.

You see the problem we've got?!

Allied to that is our need to be salt and light in society. Think how many ways in which society is going wrong; it's moving away from God's plan for how humans should live. And it's our responsibility to tell people – if we don't tell them where they are going wrong, who will?!

You see the problem we've got?!

And another line of thought that I've probably mentioned more than once is the media's view of Christians. If you're watching a murder mystery (which Sue and I do quite a lot), as soon as a character appears who is a Christian, you know that they aren't going to be "a nice helpful person who loves other people and will do anything for anyone", but rather they are probably bigoted and judgemental... and it's probably them that did the murder!

You see our problem.

But on a more positive note, the other thing you'll probably have picked up about me is my growing concern for unsaved partners: people (95% women) who go to church but whose partners can't or won't come – not often, anyway. I currently have 25 couples on my prayer list. What is God saying to me? to us? How can we witness to them? But because they know us well (too well?), they'll know if we're being dogmatic.

You see my problem.

OK, I'll come clean. In what I've written above, I'm deliberately trying to lead you down a wrong track – exaggerating for effect.

In all of the above, I'm effectively leaving God out of the picture – it's all down to me (us). If *we* don't tell people, persuade people, witness to people, they'll go to hell.

Yes, we're called to be witnesses – to the very ends of the earth – but it doesn't *depend* on us. God is far more concerned about my unsaved friends and relatives than I am, and God is far more concerned about some of the terrible things happening in the world than I am.

As Paul says in Romans (which I hope to get on to, but keep getting distracted!), 1:17 *For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by **faith from first to last**, just as it is written: "The righteous will **live by faith**."*

Live by faith, trust in your relationship with your loving heavenly Father, trust God to work in and through you. If you allow yourself to be led by fear and by guilt, it can so easily lead to dogmatism. Trust me, I've had 50 years of experience!

So don't let your life be dominated by fear (for unsaved loved ones – check out 1 Cor 7:14) or guilt (for not speaking out, for not 'preaching the gospel'). Instead, rejoice in God's love (for you, for your loved ones, for 'God so loved the world') for *There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.* 1 Jn 4:18.

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