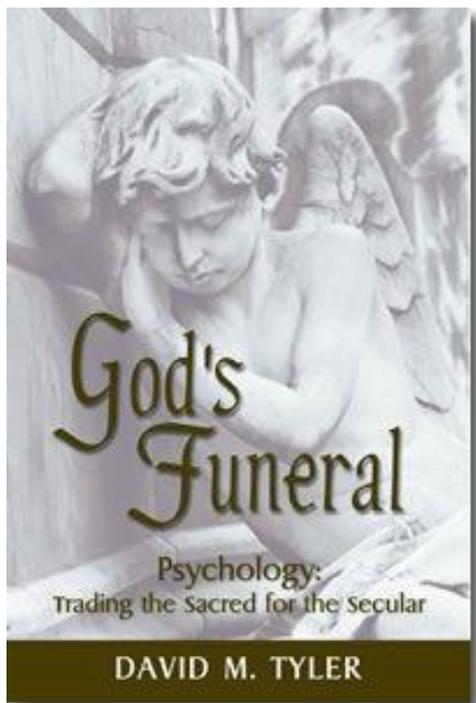


<https://www.davidtylerbooks.com/>

Copyrighted Material

A Portion of Chapter One

God's Funeral: Psychology Trading the Sacred for the Secular



Our culture is in trouble today. The weakness of the evangelical church, which has been disemboweled of its theological character, is even more troubling. The shaping of the church's mind has been left to the psychologists. Its taste for anything psychology related appears to be insatiable and has led the

church, with disastrous consequences, down the road of accommodation and compromise. Today's theology is a hybrid, a blend of two antithetical worldviews, in which what is popular and psychological eclipses what is sound theologically. Rooted in atheistic Darwinism, the biblical model replaced by the therapeutic leaves no space for man made in the image and likeness of his Creator. We have surrendered to psychology's biological fate and describe ourselves in terms of genes, self-image, gender, sexual orientation and a host of disorders. The theological concepts of sin, guilt and responsibility have lost their relevance. To say we have disemboweled or eviscerated evangelicalism's theological character is to say it has been gutted of its biblical substance and meaning. We have traded sacred for secular. Instead of spiritual beings set apart for a sacred purpose, we are seen as material beings, and life is a series of problems to be solved by

professionals. Today, when faced with problems we seek a therapist. In the past, when faced with the same problems, we would seek God. Now we think secularly about the most sacred things.

The Apostle Paul wrote, "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness" (Romans 1:18, emphasis mine).

Simply stated, we cannot have righteousness without godliness. It is a fallacy that we can shed ourselves of God and at the same time we hold on to righteousness and morality. The order is important. Paul puts ungodliness first and unrighteousness second. Ungodliness flows naturally into unrighteousness. An ungodly people will be an unrighteous people. Once you have godliness, righteousness and morality follow. Today we are trying to have righteousness without godliness and the facts demonstrate it cannot be done.

"'Ungodliness' refers to perversity that is religious in character, 'unrighteousness' to what is moral; the former is illustrated by idolatry, the latter by immorality." 'Ungodliness' focuses on man's attitude toward God. It means simply to live as though God does not exist. It means disregard or defiance toward "God's Person." On the other hand, 'unrighteousness' focuses on man's attitude or actions towards others. It is wrongdoing. Paul maintains this distinction through the rest of the chapter. The consequence of ungodliness is unrighteousness, but the consequence of unrighteousness is bad feelings. Behavior affects the way a person feels. It is a principle found first in Genesis 3, and throughout the entire Bible. Ungodliness leads to unrighteousness which leads to guilt, depression, anxiety, fear, shame, and so on. Bad behavior triggers unpleasant feelings to warn us that we have violated God's standard. Emotional "pain" should be viewed as a symptom in the same way abdominal pain that warns a person of an infected appendix.

To deal with these uncomfortable feelings and the problems that accompany them society takes on a psychological mindset. God is pronounced dead or at best banished into some Romans 1:18-32 Ungodliness Unrighteousness vv.18-23 v. 24 v. 25 vv.26-27 v. 28a v. 28b 4 God's Funeral B B far-off secluded place in the universe. Unfettered by divine influence, man concocts literally hundreds of "healing" theories and therapies. With therapeutic warmth and acceptance, value free diagnoses are made of people's wounds and hurts. Sin is domesticated in order to support these secular notions about man and his problems.

Psychology has spread like wildfire throughout America. We find it in the schools (public, private, Christian and home), workplace, legal system, and politics, to name a few. What about the Christian church? The church would seem to be one area where the psychological mindset would be absent. After all, Christianity promotes ideas such as self-sacrifice, moral absolutes and truth, which are antithetical to a psychological worldview. Nevertheless, Christianity now incorporates at least some elements of psychological ideology. God is assigned psychiatric capabilities, and is more like a counselor who responds to individual needs and feelings than a judge who condemns sinners and blesses the faithful. This is clear among American evangelicals (some of the most conservative Protestants), who have embraced a psychological worldview.

Psychology, which promises people a good life and how to live it, has replaced traditional beliefs. Those who once took comfort from the words of God and worshipped at the altar of Yahweh, now take solace and worship at the altars of Freud, Jung, Rogers, and a host of others. The words of Jesus Christ was once the common focal point, but today it is the theories, therapies and psycho-

language of Dr. Feelgood who promises personal change, peace of mind, development of potentials and more satisfying sex.

<https://www.davidtylerbooks.com/>

