

The  
Emperor  
Has No  
Clothes...

Commentaries by Dennis Peacocke

# The Emperor Has No Clothes...

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Strategic Christian Services  
P. O. Box 2709  
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To those who encouraged me over the years  
to write *The Bottom Line*, and who helped'  
feed me articles and insight  
as I have journeyed;  
to my faithful editors who smooth out  
the jaggedness of my raw observations;  
and to my dear brother in heaven, Ray Miller,  
who laughed and cried with me  
over the often absurdity of it all...  
thank you very much.

To those men and women  
throughout history  
who loved the earth and its people,  
and who both marveled and protested  
against the curse  
of our stupidity and blindness.

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## REFACE

I was raised in a home where my dad and mom cared deeply about what was happening in the world and, as a result, from an early age I was exposed to many, many conversations about public issues, the news, and the condition of our beloved nation. They stimulated in me a deep sense of caring and interest in leaders, and how they were managing “their watch” as guardians of our freedoms and the values which undergirded them.

That passion took root, and my college days were filled with awe and anguish as I lived through the tumultuous 1960s and what they brought to us all as a people. Misguided as I was, my heart reached for justice, an end to racism, and an abating of the common nonsense passed off as “politics” and “truth.” More often than not, what I saw seemed to perpetuate the same un-thought-through concepts and prejudices which they attempted to resolve.

Becoming a Christian, in some ways, complicated the process because the condition of much of the church only seemed to add to our common problems. In the mid-1980s I began my monthly commentary, *The Bottom Line*. It became one outlet among several that allowed me to comment, critique, and generally add my own sense of anguish, insight, and humor to the public discussion. It has been a “safety valve” of sorts and a lot of fun. Often it has been an exercise in self-preservation because it’s easier to laugh at the absurd rather than cry about it.

We trust that these short essays will add a little humor to your life amidst whatever insight they may carry. I have cried for a real national debate over what I perceive to be the real issues so seldom brought to light. May that debate yet come, and may each of us add our own particular wisdom to it.

Enjoy.

In Him,



Dennis T. Peacocke

Fall 2002



## FOREWORD

*All people—without exception—have a worldview, whether they realize it or not. Their worldview not only affects what they think about, it determines what they do. Writers write from the perspective of their worldview. Painters paint from the palette of their worldview. Politicians pass laws in accordance with their worldview. Teachers teach from the framework of their worldview. Their worldview shapes their perceptions, preferences, prejudices, and priorities. It is not possible to separate what we do from how we think. We simply cannot escape from our worldview.*

*The term worldview, translated from the German word *Weltanschauung*, means “life perspective” or “way of seeing.” It refers to the way we look at the world. It is the means by which we interpret the situations and circumstances around us. It is what enables us to process the information that comes to us through our senses. It determines our basic outlook on life and faith.*

The preceding thoughts come from my own book, *The Absolutes: Freedom’s Only Hope*. I have restated them because Dennis Peacocke is a man whose worldview is in harmony with the world’s Creator—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; the God of the Bible. His heart beats consistently with the heart of God.

All the areas he touches on—personal growth, family, the church, social justice, politics, and economic issues—reflect a biblical worldview. As the only reliable view, a biblical worldview must be reintroduced to people everywhere who hope for freedom’s survival. We must reshape our thinking to correlate with what the Bible declares to be truth.

Dennis Peacocke is a man originally prepared in the crucible of the world yet set free by the gospel of the Kingdom and a profound conversion experience. His definition of freedom goes beyond the right to do what we want, but calls all people to do what we should. Dennis has a message that will benefit all who

have ears to hear and courage to act, first to change their own heart, and then to change their world.

Read the words on these pages carefully and prayerfully and trust God for the renewing of your mind.

JAMES ROBISON

Founder and President  
LIFE Outreach International  
Fort Worth, Texas

# Section One

## THE CHALLENGE OF PERSONAL GROWTH

As most Christians know, the scriptures are full of admonitions concerning our need for counsel and perspective relative to our decision-making process. That biblical advice falls generally into four broad categories:

1. Don't follow advice from people living in opposition to God and His Word.
2. Factor your own fallenness and sinful motivations into your decisions before you foolishly follow them.
3. Get biblical advice from more than one source, i.e., a "multitude" (Prov. 11:14).
4. Obviously, seek God for His guidance. Since life is full of the necessity of making decisions, and those decisions either bless or trap us, knowing how to go about making them, and from whom to seek counsel in the process, is no small essential skill.

Unfortunately, few of us ever have been systematically trained by competent people to use any reliable gridwork by which to make those decisions. Few parents give this integral training to their children, and Lord knows, our school systems and social institutions major in dispensing information, often tainted, rather than any usable wisdom. The sad result is that "life," meaning our mistakes, usually ends up "training" us by beating the stuffing out of us.

The art of decision making, as we can readily see, must rise close to the top of our list of transferable skills we should be passing on to our children and others wise enough not to want "life" to train them in the school of "hard knocks."

Permit me therefore, as one who has been trained in measure, both by design and mistakes, to offer some rigorous, random remarks on the subject.

Firstly, advice given by God can come from anywhere or anyone, but it always has a “sound” to it that resonates in our hearts. However, to hear this, we truly must want to do what God wants us to do, not what we want to do. We hear clearly in direct proportion to the degree that we truly desire to obey truth, not our own will or wisdom. Having “ears to hear” means listening with a yielded heart.

Secondly, the person with real wisdom, born of experience, shares counsel that also resonates in our hearts. Advice from novices or those who really do not understand the issues lacks in depth and sounds as if it is coming from someone who “needs” to give advice more than one who gives an “answer” only if he truly has one. Knowing how to recognize that difference is a learned art and a gift.

Thirdly, we should listen to advice, as a general rule, by this criterion: Does the person giving me advice have “chips in the game”? If the one giving advice stands to gain or lose something himself when I follow his advice, it means more to me than if it is “free advice.” Will you stand with me in the consequences of your advice, even to your own hurt? That is the question. Street wisdom often really is wisdom. As the saying goes, “Talk is cheap.” Advice backed up by sacrificial life is the “sound of God,” methinks, and *that is the bottom line.*