

PLAIN SPEECH

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“Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech” (2 Cor. 3:12)

By Scott Parker

SUPERMAN’S FLAWED THEOLOGY

Recently an article appeared on espn.com entitled, “*Superman Predicts Divine Intervention for NBA Finals.*” Said article, written by Chris Sheridan, focused upon the then pending NBA Finals between the L.A. Lakers and the Orlando Magic. “Superman” is the nickname of the Orlando Magic’s all-star center, Dwight Howard. Note the following quote from the piece:

“Earlier, in the locker room, I had asked Howard to give me one or two reasons I should consider picking the Magic to defeat the Lakers. ‘God’ was his answer, which was met with the counterargument that the Lord probably has better things to worry about than who wins a basketball game, and besides, religion and politics are usually best kept out of sports stories. ‘That’s the reason, I’m telling you,’ Howard replied.”

It’s great to see that Dwight Howard likes to bring up God. However, poor Dwight Howard, like so many others out there, is totally wrong in his thought process about how God intervenes in the affairs of His creation. We can infer from his statement that Howard believes God is some sort of puppet master who predetermines every little thing that comes to pass – even to the point as to whether or not one NBA team edges out another for a golden trophy. Wow!

Listen, the common concept that God, from all eternity, preordained each and every thing that comes to pass in the lives of men (whether it’s a sneeze or a three point swish) is a false concept. It’s a concept at odds with scripture! How so? Let’s see why.

Dwight Howard’s theology negates man’s free will. Per his Calvinistic mindset, if one sins or exemplifies righteousness he is not responsible. Indeed, he had no say so in the matter since all has been unchangeably predetermined by God. Like puppets on a string, individuals do His bidding. Said thought process negates the free will of man and thus is at odds with many portions of scripture (cf. Dt. 30:15-20; Josh. 24:14-15; Jdg. 10:11-14; Ps. 119:30-31; Prv. 1:24-29; Js. 4:17; et al).

Dwight Howard’s theology also makes God a respecter of persons; i.e. one who is partial; one who plays favorites. Howard has God a Magic fan. Thus, He pulls one puppet string and Kobe misses a buzzer beater. He pulls another puppet string and “Superman” throws down a dunk. Aside from hoops, God pulls puppet strings and some land in heaven and some land in hell simply because He arbitrarily says so. Scripture affirms that this simply is not the case (cf. Rom. 2:11; Ax. 10:3-35).

Dwight Howard’s theology ends up making God a sinner. Here’s how: partiality is a sin (Js. 2:9). Yet according to Howard, and the many others like him, God is partial. Therefore, God is a sinner! Any doctrine that ends up convicting God of sin has to be discarded (Js. 1:13; 1 Jn. 1:5).

Dwight Howard’s theology makes God contradict Himself. Per Howard’s mindset, God predetermines everything that comes to pass. Yet, God has plainly stated that some things should never come to pass. But they still do. Thus, God is contradictory against Himself! For instance, in the long ago God told the Jews, they were not to murder (Ex. 20:13). Yet, plenty of murders occurred amongst the Jews under the Old Testament dispensation. If God preordained those murders then He becomes a giant contradiction!

Dwight Howard’s theology makes God a self defeatist. How so? First read Gen. 6:5-6. Now follow me on this: (1) God creates man, (2) yet God unchangeably decreed that the wickedness of man would eventually be great on the earth, (3) God was grieved in His heart because of His own choice to create man to be wicked?!?! If that is not self-defeatism I don’t know what is.

Dwight Howard’s theology makes God unjust. How so? God unchangeably ordains mankind to do things that are in absolute and direct violation of His will (e.g. homosexuality – cf. Rom. 1:24-27) and then will send mankind to hell for doing the very things that they were unchangeably ordained to do. Are you serious?! God is going to eternally punish man for doing what he could not avoid doing? Oh what a mess! Listen, God is just (cf. Isa. 45:21).

There’s much more that could be said. Howard’s theology has more wrong with it than can be noted in this limited space.

Superman needs to more carefully study the Bible and quit tossing up spiritual “bricks” if he wants to win the real prize!