



August 2017

Dear Friends and Partners of CWR/PTM,

Eternal conscious torment in hell, the unbiblical, fabricated teaching of Christ-less religion, is designed to effectively keep its followers in line. In fact, motivated by the fear of the hot coals of hell, “believers” respond in two ways: 1) fear of being consigned to the fires of hell keeps the followers of Christ-less religion slaving away in religious salt mines, and 2) ironically, it gives those who are religiously devout “hope” that God will see to it those who do not seem to “toe the line” as they do will get what they deserve.

This “hope” of seeing others “get what’s coming to them” is not only reserved for the more traditional and conservative denominations of Christendom—many deeply religious Muslims have a similar “hope.” Pleasure experienced by seeing and knowing of the suffering of other people is best described by the German word *Schadenfreude*—*Schaden* meaning damage and *Freude* describing joy. *Schadenfreude* seems like a sick and demented reaction—and while Christ-less religion often causes people to react like they have a bad case of *Schadenfreude on steroids*, the emotion of enjoying the suffering of others is a common, normal human response.

Let’s discuss why we react the way we do when bad things happen to other people. I warn you—things are going to get ugly and uncomfortable, so fasten your seat belt and make sure your tray table is in its upright and locked position—we’re headed for emotional and theological turbulence!

The discussion we undertake is a walk on the dark side—if you keep reading you are going to face the disgusting reality that there are times when you derive satisfaction when you see others get what you consider to be their “comeuppance.”

Gloat is probably the closest English word to *Schadenfreude*—gloat is about gratification and delight one experiences when another party experiences misfortune. Gloating describes the delight that people experience when a rich or famous or powerful person is publicly humiliated—when such a person is arrested, or when their marriage flames out or when they check into a rehab facility—many avidly watch their televisions and devour the tabloids that cater to their desire to gloat and revel about the misfortune of the rich, famous and powerful.

But *Schadenfreude* goes deeper than mere gloating. *Schadenfreude* is malicious and sadistic because its pleasure is derived from pain and suffering experienced by another, rather than merely being delighted and gratified about the misfortune or embarrassment or failure of another. *Schadenfreude* is a lethal cocktail combining pride, envy, anger and malice.

Remember—I warned you to fasten your seat belt because this conversation is getting ugly—it is extremely embarrassing and disconcerting to admit that our nature can take perverse pleasure in the suffering of others. BUT IT GETS WORSE!

Christ-less religion ramps up the normal human response of *Schadenfreude*, pandering to this malicious emotion for its own diabolical motives. Christ-less religion plays upon this natural human

emotion that causes us to delight in the sufferings of others and elevates it to a spiritual art form. As I mentioned earlier, Christ-less religion is *Schadenfreude* on steroids!

Christ-less religion baptizes and legitimizes the coarse human emotions of envy, hatred, anger and animosity by convincing religious followers when they delight in the suffering of those they deem to be wicked that they are displaying “righteous indignation.”

We saw religious *Schadenfreude* when candy was exchanged in the streets of some Islamic countries when news of the savagery of 9-11 became widely known.

Religious *Schadenfreude* is the future gratification many anticipate, when what they call the “Rapture” happens (a time/event when they believe they will be whisked away to safety while a great tribulation such as the world has never seen envelops the whole earth in horrific anguish and suffering).

Religious *Schadenfreude* happens when some who hate Catholics seem to gleefully welcome news of the widespread sexual abuse of children among Catholic priests—it seems some are more delighted that this horrific abuse has happened within the Catholic church than they are vexed and concerned for the abused children who have suffered so much.

Religious *Schadenfreude* is the belief that many have about the joy they are told they will experience in the afterlife as they observe sinners—even their own family members—tortured, forever and ever, in the hot coals of fire.

Religious *Schadenfreude* was the reaction of many in a frenzied crowd, fueled by religious antagonisms as they demanded of Pilate, “Crucify him.”

***Schadenfreude* is one of the most base and lowest places human nature can take us, but here’s what’s really sick and demented: Christ-less religion insists this wretched aspect of human nature (which takes pleasure in the sufferings of others) is actually one of the characteristics of God!**

Christ-less religion characterizes God himself as satisfying his own wrath when sinners are eternally tortured in the fires of hell. Christ-less religion twists and perverts a loving God into a god it creates in its own image, a god who is filled with and fueled by *Schadenfreude*.

Christ-less religion portrays and proclaims God as righteously exacting revenge so that he can see justice done (ironically, the human definition of justice is one and the same, according to Christ-less religion, as divine justice). The *Schadenfreude* of Christ-less religion diabolically describes God as being satisfied as he balances the scales of justice, even as he hears shrieks of pain and suffering resound from hell, forever and ever.

The stubborn insistence of the Christ-less perspective of Christendom at large about the appalling fabrication of eternal torture in hell as a just punishment for sinners is one of the most evil, reprehensible and diabolical of all dogmas and teachings—all in the name of God!

What is a Christ-centered response to *Schadenfreude*—whether that caused and produced by our human nature, or whether of religious *Schadenfreude*—***Schadenfreude* on steroids?**

When the grace of God brings the Light of Christ to the dark religio-centric perspective of Christ-less religion, compassion, forgiveness, mercy and an inclusive love of the entire world is illuminated and proclaimed, as defined and illustrated by the life and ministry of Jesus. *Rather than taking delight in the downfall of enemies, Jesus empowers us to love our enemies and pray for them.*

The gospel of Jesus Christ is proclaimed in the Old Testament in the book of Jonah, where we learn that Jonah's hatred for the Assyrians was so intense that he was disgusted by God's decision to have mercy on the city of Nineveh. Jonah was angry with God because God denied Jonah the pleasure—the *Schadenfreude*—that he would have had if the inhabitants of Nineveh had received the destruction Jonah felt they so richly deserved. The book of Jonah is a parable about the grace of God overcoming *Schadenfreude*.

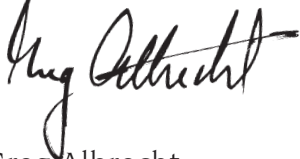
How does Jesus lead us through the darkness of this oh-so-natural, yet so very diabolical and un-Christ-like emotional reaction of *Schadenfreude*?

As we yield to him, Christ in us empowers us, when we are tempted to taste of what might seem to be the sweet waters of *Schadenfreude*, to realize that those waters are filled with bitterness and poison. As we grow in his grace and knowledge, we mature in love and reject revenge and retribution.

Christ in us fills us with hope—not just hope for ourselves, but hope for the entire world. Conversely, *Schadenfreude* gives followers of Christ-less religion twisted and perverted “hope” that others, who are not part of their religion and who do not practice the same faith and who do not believe in the same dogmas, will one day be tormented and consciously tortured for all eternity. As Christ-followers, our hopeful faith is that God is now (and that he will, in his way and in his time), in his compassion and out of his lavish love and grace, making a way for ALL to know and love God—rejecting revenge, retaliation and retribution. May God speed that day and time!

With grateful thanks for your faithful and consistent prayers and contributions for the ongoing proclamation of the love of God through the ministries of CWR/PTM—sharing the abundant hope we all have been given, in Christ, by grace, I am...

Your brother in Christ,



Greg Albrecht

President, Plain Truth Ministries

P.S. We share this note of thanks from someone who is being blessed by the ministry of CWR/PTM which **you help to provide** through your generous offerings and faithful prayers.

I have virtually no discretionary income, and so most of the time I cannot support PTM financially. However, I rely on you guys for my spiritual nourishment, and you never let me down. I won't burden you with all my woes, but I will tell you that the daily radio programs, Greg's weekly sermons, his monthly letters plus the two magazines, the blog and so many other resources are my spiritual lifeline. I am so thankful that many others who can give are willing to do so to keep this ministry alive and cranking out the Christ-centered inspiration. Thank you, thank you, thank you!
—Michigan

CWR/PTM Prayer List—August 2017

These requests for prayer represent just a few of the thousands we receive and pray for. We invite you to join us in praying for these and the others that space does not permit us to include here. Thanks for joining with us as a CWR/PTM Prayer Partner.

Thanks for your prayers for me. I had my last chemo treatment and I'm feeling better.—Arizona

My wife recently had a seizure because of her dementia and was hospitalized. Please pray for her comfort.—Nevada

I need continued prayers as I suffer with sciatica and an irregular heartbeat.—Mississippi

Pray for my little great-granddaughter. She has sleep apnea and needs constant monitoring.—Saskatchewan, Canada

Please pray that my lungs get better. I'm losing weight and I need rest.—Florida

Pray that God will tuck my son under His wings since his wife left him.—Maryland

Please pray for my friend who is in the hospital with severe COPD.—Arizona

I am requesting prayers for my back problems and headaches.—Wisconsin

Please pray for our daughter who has severe arthritis in both knees. She is taking care of a seven-year-old son.—Missouri

Please pray for our son whose seizures returned after about 20 years.—California

My oldest brother died, and my sister-in-law is having a hard time adjusting. She has macular degeneration and will be isolated if she can't drive. Please pray for her and for myself, as I also suffer from macular degeneration.—Florida

Please pray for my friend who recently had a stroke which left him blind and unable to walk.—Pennsylvania

Please pray for me as I recover from ear and sinus infections, cataracts and mobility difficulties.—New York

Please pray for my sister who has breast cancer which has spread to her bones.—Arizona

My husband suffers from diabetic depression and my daughter is bipolar and her husband is schizophrenic.—Mississippi

Please pray for me, as I slipped and fell. My back and ribs are very sore.—Nevada

Please pray that my high blood pressure will be healed or controlled.—Saskatchewan, Canada

I am requesting prayers for my daughter, who is bleeding internally.—California

Please pray for my wife who has increasing hip and back pain from arthritis.—Florida

Pray for my neighbor's newborn daughter (her 4th child) who was born prematurely, weighing only 2 pounds.—Georgia

My friend just had an operation for brain cancer. Please pray for his full recovery.—Michigan

Please pray for my friend, who is 93. She has fluid problems in her legs due to lymphatic systemic failure.—New Jersey

Please pray for my husband who is suffering from Alzheimer's and dementia.—California

Please pray for my right shoulder as I take dialysis. I got a cellulitis infection that causes great pain.—Ohio

Please pray for my son who is trapped in a personality disorder. He needs balance and God's peace.—Florida

I'm 68 years old and I just had total hip surgery, but thank God I'm doing well. Please pray for my sister, 70, who had a stroke while I was in the hospital for my surgery.—Tennessee

Please pray for my youngest brother who has been diagnosed with prostate cancer.—Saskatchewan, Canada

Dear God: We bring you many requests and needs. You know each of these individuals, and we thank you in advance for the answers you will provide for each request. With thanksgiving for your love and grace, we pray in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ—Amen.