



Jeff Sweeten

Thus Saith the Lord
is presented by the

Park Heights Church of Christ

1300 E. Boynton St.
Hamilton
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Schedule of Services

SUNDAY

9:30 a.m. Bible Class
10:25 a.m. Morning Worship
1:30 p.m. Afternoon Worship

WEDNESDAY

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

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ACRONYMS

By Jeff Sweeten

Full disclosure: I hate acronyms. They are the bane of my existence, a horrible way to “communicate” and wholly dependent upon audiences familiar with the “code.” Worse, they can be easily misunderstood even by those inside the in-the-know bubble. For the longest time, I thought “LOL” meant “lots of laughs”; so, it’s “laugh out loud.” “MB” (My bad! Slang for I apologize... kind of). How about “language of losers” (lol... sorry; it’s just frustrating).

My first introduction to their use was in the Navy. At first, I attributed this convention of communication to laziness but, as it turns out, it can be a short-hand that works well when bullets are flying over your head and you don’t have time for a casual conversation. I was an MM (Machinist Mate), went to GQ (General Quarters calling sailors to man their battle stations) and focused most of my time on my EAOS (End of Active Obligated Service, i.e., getting out of the Navy). Some acronyms became common enough to be understood outside their military origins, such as AWOL (absent without leave, not exactly a correct acronym, but military) but for the most part, they remained a mystery to non-military personnel.

Until the onslaught of texting! So, you can imagine my frustration the first time I began to text seriously. Texting, by the way, is an inherently limited form of “communication” and regularly uses acronyms that further complicates an already foreign language (“teen-speak”). I’m beginning to believe that the Tower of Babel has been resurrected. Then, there’s what a popular comedian called: “The Alphabet People.” Now, I can understand why that might be offensive to those who ignore the real issue, as it lumps all their perverse proclivities into one single category. However, the acronym, LBGQT... XYZ, actually does represent a unary conglomerate and the unifying element is: **condemnation**. Rattling off the letters is often used as “code” for the promotion of or deference for sexual deviations that are condemned in the Bible. Worse, exposing such unnatural conduct is a “trigger” that sets the sinners, as well as the virtue signalers, into a self-righteous rage.

Friends, God doesn’t use acronyms. He is plain-spoken, precise and specific. I would argue that this is the problem. If one doesn’t want the truth, one certainly doesn’t want clarity. Note Paul’s synopsis of the Roman “condition” and watch for the parallels with American culture today.

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ... but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for a lie ... as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge ... who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.” Cf. Romans 1:18-32 There is nothing new under the sun (Ecclesiastes 1:9) and such clarity defies acronyms.