

## CHRISTIAN LITERATURE THAT SHOOK THE WORLD

...a brief study of some Christian writings that profoundly impacted society of their times with considerable influence following. An inquiry into the characteristics of literature that enable it to make a mark on its and successive times based on the rambling thinking of T. V. Taylor...for which these notes constitute an outline of what will be said.

### I. SOME INTRODUCTORY THOUGHTS

#### A. The Origin of our study

Part of it grows from the feeling that a recognition of the social studies is needed in any inter-disciplinary study and that such study is often overlooked in the world of more interesting technicalities and academic distinctions. Another part springs from the sort of literary stuff that is turned out by Christian authors today...a great mass of it in my judgment that is singularly undignified by any lasting force or impact on our world. I can't seem to produce much myself, you see, so the logical thing is to turn to the criticism of those who do produce!

#### B. A quick note on Media and Media changes

Literature in book and pamphlet form is far less impressive today than the visual media. I think, therefore, that those seeking to make an impact on our world need to bear this in mind and have a media level that is most effective for their circumstance. A television program, well constructed, might have a much greater effect than many books although some written form would be necessary to give it permanence. Because of the general glut of literature it may not be possible to produce the sort that impacts the world powerfully but the general stance of Media is much advanced today and the opportunity to impact the minds of people through multiple media use is enormous.

It is hoped that our literary model as noted in this discussion will give us some encouragement in the wider impacting of our society.

#### C. Our Selections

While not all of the following had the same career, each produced a society effect of considerable force. I am not saying that others did not do this as well...it is just that one must choose a certain body of works to work with. Nothing has impacted society like the Bible, of course, but we are now speaking of works derived from its message and the four I have chosen are these:

1. Lex,Rex by Samuel Rutherford...a work of political theory in a Christian orientation and addressed to all parties interested in the contracts of government...but essentially to the "thinkers" and "constitutionalists" of any given time.
2. Pilgrim's Progress, John Bunyan's allegory of Christian life and values, a book addressed to the total church but especially to those seeking "short-cuts" to spiritual acceptance.