

Influence or Presence?

Everyone has had one or more particularly influential people in their lives. Teacher, S.S., parent, uncle, acquaintance. For me CAC. Pres of bank, gun in desk. Magician for 2 grandsons, 1 letter when entered ministry, spankings. Influence of impt of money, use of it, straightforwardness, honesty, wholesome spirituality. Great influence, but Eliz will never know except thru my character. Inf soon dies after person does. But if she could have lived with him 1 month then would have known. Continuing influence requires presence. Switch illus. Spirit of FDR lives on in Yalta papers. But if come back from Hyde Park and FDR lives again and has called on JFK every Dem. delirious. Tho his inf lives on it's not the same as if he were in the White House. Force of inf soon dies after person does. Easter to too many is simply inf of JC living on. But think of logic of it--60 generations after his inf greater and more widespread than when He was here. This couldn't be inf influence. Central message of Easter is not inf or truth livign on but He lives. Presence real and living.

If only an inf then think of logical consequences--

1. No responsibility in present life. Not afraid of CAC spanking. No need to consider NT passages concn discipline, fruitlessness, believing.
2. No accountability later. If no res will never see CAC. But if there is res of JC then all judgmt into hands of Son means something. His living presence ought to make us different not going along with crowd and that's easy to do as Xns.
3. No help now. Nice to have bank pres as Grfather, But no help after he dies except respect when walk in as long as there are employees who remember him. If X only an influence no help in this complex life. Why pray in name of an influence? 1 Cor 15:32.
4. No hope in future. Of seeing Him, of having heaven and eternal life. 1 Cor 15:16-19. If no res of JC no forgiveness of sins but res proved that God accepted His work, Rom 4:25.

But if JC alive then 1-4 true. In USA not enuf distinction bet inf and presence. Inf of movies and TV teaches kids how to play cops and robbers and variations. Bang, bang,

But real noise in hall, then what? Diff story.
Can play with inf but can't fool with real
living presence of robber. So in rel--
can play with Xnty if His res means only that
His inf lives on but can't play if living
presence. No phantom whose inf can be used or
ignored at will. Living presence means
resp, acc, help and hope. And 1 other thing--
reliability. Matt 28:6. As He said.

Predicted where, by whom, how, accompaniments,
why die and how long stay dead. Therefore also
true when He said--

He that bel not is condemned already bec he hath
not beld on the name of the only begotten Son of God.
Jn 14:6 and Rev 3:20. This is Easter message--
a living person who is here today.

Pilots. X+Women Phil. Ocean City Summer