

# RCC Library Newsletter

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January 2009

Editor: Anna Tooze

### Misty Worldview:

#### A Review of *Table in the Mist* by Jeffrey Meyers

“Vanity of vanities, all is vanity.” Who hasn’t heard this verse quoted? Usually, it is interpreted to mean that all is meaningless, empty, void. But, in *Table in the Mist*, Jeffrey Meyers contends that the Hebrew word “hebel” should actually be translated “vapor” as in mist or breath. Life is not meaningless (vanity); it is simply uncontrollable by us because we can no more control our lives than we can direct the fog. This and other observations by Mr. Meyers helped me understand Ecclesiastes much better and to really appreciate the book as I never had before – it changed my world!

The first point that really hit home with me was the reminder that God is in control. I’m not. I can’t use the proper techniques to *force* Him to bless me as I see fit. Tragedy strikes. Lives change. Inexplicable, heartbreaking things happen. But God “has made everything beautiful in its time.” We can’t understand how and possibly we never will. Knowing that God’s plan is unshakeable and ultimately just and good (whether we live to see its benefits or not), notwithstanding our poor, muddled, sinful human ways, allows us to relax and trust God. Only because our world is unpredictable and uncontrollable, are men able to “be joyful and to do good as long as they live; also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil – this is God’s gift to man.” (Ecclesiastes 3:12) If everything hinged on my actions, how could I ever sleep, let alone be joyful?

Another point Mr. Meyers made that was particularly salient to me was in the discussion of sacrifices and vows in Ecclesiastes 5. He’s talking of foolish verbal sacrifices that we offer to God under the category of “look-at-how-pious-I-am radical resolutions.” Meyers says:

I have been dismayed by this kind of talk particularly among young parents who are eager to set themselves apart as more holy than those parents who have older children. The verbal offering of look-at-how-pious-I-am radical resolutions comes too easily to their lips. Beware of the words *never* and *always*:

“I’ll never send my children to day care.”

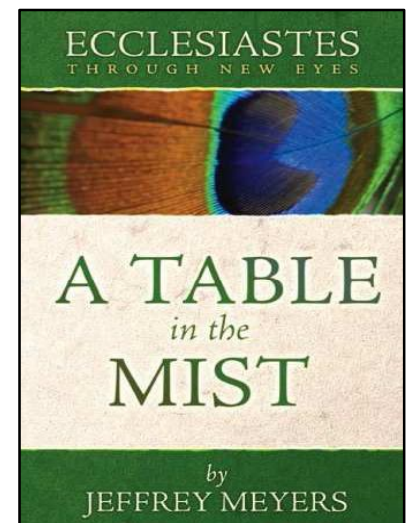
“I’ll never put my children in a public school.”

“Well, I will never allow my teenagers to do such and such.”

“I’ll always homeschool my children.”

Finally, regarding wealth and possessions, his words expositing Eccl. 5:10-11 were striking: “Do you really want more wealth, more ‘goods,’ more land and cars and houses and everything else? *Really?* Do you realize that when wealth increases responsibilities increase as well? Do you think you can have one without the other? It is a foolish dream.” That classy furniture I covet, that lovely hardwood floor, beautiful deck furniture, nice car – all have to be protected, maintained, cared for. And because they’re more valuable, they have to be protected, maintained, and cared for *more* than my used furniture and torn linoleum. *This*, I need to be reminded of more often.

These are the points that really stood out to me as I read *Table in the Mist*, but there are many more things to ponder in Meyers’ book. So, check it out, buy it, or borrow it: it may not change your life, but you’ll never see it the same way again!



--Review by Elaine Lortz

# Run, Kevin, Run!

By Piet Prins

This story is about a teenage boy named Kevin Robbins and his dog, Hobojo. Kevin is orphaned and lives with his aunt and uncle who are Christians, unlike his parents. Unable to adjust to his new home, and in despair because of the loss of his parents, Kevin decides to run away to his old hometown.

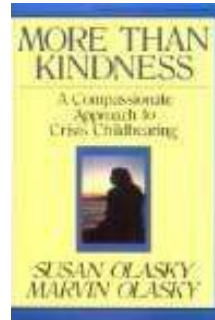
On the very first part of his journey, he meets an abandoned dog, gives him some food, and names him Hobojo. They continue on together and find shelter at a farmhouse where they work to earn money and food. Eventually they leave and are given lots of provisions for their journey.

Later Kevin and his dog find shelter in an old house. The next morning, they discover two men in another room. Kevin tries to get away, but they kidnap him! Soon after, the men try to get him to help with a robbery. After they enter the mansion, Kevin finally realizes what is going on and runs away. Kevin later becomes a Christian and tries to go back to his aunt and uncle, but he is recaptured by one of the robbers on his way back home!

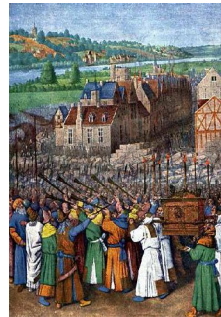
I like this story because it is very adventurous, the boy becomes a Christian, and there are lots of cliffhangers. The ending is also very good and doesn't leave you wondering what happens to Kevin. It's one of the best books I've ever read.

--Review by Elizabeth Adams

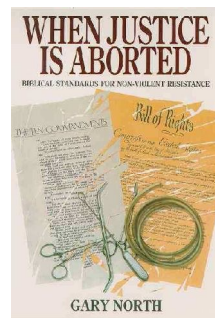
Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, is **Anti-Abortion Day of the Lord**. If you would like to read more about this present day issue, here are some books/DVDs you can check out.



*More than Kindness: A Compassionate Approach to Crisis Childbearing*  
by Susan and Marvin Olasky.



*The Holy War in America Today: Some Observations on Abortion Rescues*  
by James B. Jordan



*When Justice is Aborted*  
by Gary North

See also: *I Was Wrong--A Documentary on Abortion & Roe V. Wade* (DVD)

If you have any questions about the church library please contact Alice Barnard ([alice@dranrab.com](mailto:alice@dranrab.com)) or Dan Drinkwater (who is available on Sunday afternoons or at [Drinkwat@hotmail.com](mailto:Drinkwat@hotmail.com)).

If you or your child are interested in writing reviews on material in our church library, please contact Anna Tooze ([annabanana171@hotmail.com](mailto:annabanana171@hotmail.com) or in person at church). Thank you!