



Ideas Born in the Echo-chamber

By Pastor Jason Triplett

I spoke about this in a message in Church a few weeks ago and wanted to elaborate on it.

echo chamber: *an environment in which a person encounters only beliefs or opinions that coincide with their own, so that their existing views are reinforced and alternative ideas are not considered.* (<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/echo-chamber>)

2 Timothy 4:3-4 (ESV) "For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths."

In the scripture above, the Apostle Paul warns of a time when people will only listen to sources of information they agree with over those who convey the truth. These "seekers of information" will want to learn, but then rebel once reasonable teaching is given. They will construct for themselves realities of their own choosing. They will seek and accept only those voices around them which echo the affirmation of their opinion back to them.

Imagine a world where ideas are only accepted by people if they are already believed by people. It'd be a world where intellectual growth is stunted, mental health is compromised and cultural (or personal) healing is impossible. The result would be chaos and insanity.

This is the reason God destined His Church to struggle in this world. By opposition, our faith is purified. (1 Peter 1:7) By suffering, we are awakened to God, challenged to keep the faith and be healed of our wounds by Christ. But in the echo chamber, there is no growth, healing or sanity. There is absolutely no space for faith because there is no challenge to ideas. The internet and social media are the prime sources of echo chambers in society.

We are seeing the dividends of this now. We find ourselves culturally in the place where entire ideas have been born in the echo chamber. Here's how we can determine if the ideas presented to us have been born apart from good healthy scrutiny.

The ideas aren't allowed to be challenged by opponents. If they are challenged, the reaction by those who support the idea can be visceral or even violent. (marginalization, internet tirades, blacklisting, mobs and rioting, etc.)

These ideas will spiral with increasing distance away from the truth or reality. (People are self-identifying as animals, different ages, genders, races, ethnicities, etc.)

Ideas born in the echo chamber will grow feet into movements of people which divide instead of unify, damage versus heal and deceive in place of living in outright transparency. (Basically anything political right now.)

This happens on the left and right, in red and blue states with democrats and republicans. This problem cannot be located to any one race, gender, ethnicity, nationality or, worst of all, religion. Bottom line folks, it's dangerous to develop, propagate or follow ideas that avoid scrutiny. Without scrutiny, how would you know if you're wrong?

This warning that Paul gives to his protege Timothy is to encourage the young pastor to continue steadfastly in his ministry of preaching the Gospel and teaching the truth. When we identify ideas born in the echo chamber our reaction should be the same. Speak the truth of Jesus with love. Don't be afraid to have your faith challenged or be "outed" as a Christian. Through challenges to our faith we come to know it as the reality. We come to learn God is real and worthy of our entire devotion when we live outside the echo chamber.

RCC Gatherings in August

RCC Big Tent Gatherings



AS YOU ATTEND THIS GATHERING, READ THIS! Social Distancing Goals:

- Parking attendants will guide vehicles where to park.
- We ask that each family please bring enough chairs or seating for your family.
- Please make every effort to keep your children with you in your family group, no running around. *(There will be no Children's Church)*
- Be kind and courteous using the 'etiquette of permission' for social interaction. *(Ask before you do)*
- To be safest, Communion for this gathering is B.Y.O.C. *(Bring Your Own Communion)* We will be taking the Lord's Supper as a large group in unison during the service.

Continuing through August @9:45am

On the RCC Church Grounds
717 East Adams Street, Rushville



Rescheduled

CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

Aug 9 Following the service

Men's Bible Study

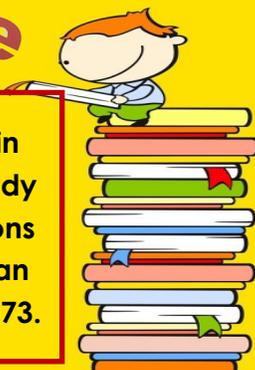
Every Thursday at the Church

7:30 - 8:00 pm Check in
8:00 - 9:00 pm Study

Join anytime! Rotating Teachers

Book drive

Our Children's Library is in need of more books! Mindy Crum is receiving donations for a Book Drive . You can contact her at 217/473-3473.



Return Your PRC Baby Bottles!

This is a great way to help our local PRC

Please Return your PRC Baby Bottles
to RCC or the PRC by August 2nd
Center Address: 213 W. Washington St. Rushville



Prayers & Praises

Updated: 08/5/2020

As our schools face many new & daunting challenges this year in light of Covid 19, let's remember to lift up all involved:

- ⇒ Administrators
- ⇒ Teachers & all support staff
- ⇒ Students & families
- ⇒ Bus drivers
- ⇒ Coaches & athletes

Amanda Trone's dad, Steve Young is in ICU in Macomb

Teresa Boyd - Scheduled to start tests at Barnes Hospital for liver transplant

Marsha—surgery on calf - pray for successful procedure and no infection

Sandy Heaton - Prayers for her sister-in-law, Denise - her boyfriend, Randy, passed away after only a month of being told he had a brain tumor. Also for his family.

Mike Statler - Praise for life change

Lamoine Christian Service Camp

Allen & Jane Wright - health

Nate & Kristen Campbell - Pregnancy health

Thelma - Praise for good health

Rose Crook - Praise for good health

Aaron Trone - is home!

Still need: Nursery Point Person

Still need: Financial Point Person

Jeryl & Jim Ploeger (Alisha's grandparents) health)

Ryan Combest - deployed to Afghanistan

Donovan Anderson - will be starting Proton treatments (a new form of radiation) in Chicago

Jan Anderson - (Donovan's mom)

Carl & Carolyn Wiggins - relocated closer to family

Shannon Hughes (cancer)

Brian Wallace

H.S. & M.S. ministries

Associate Pastor search

Church Building Need

Abigail Norton - deployed

Tony - ICU cancer

Jessica (Paul's niece) - Cancer

Liz Wood - cancer

Rick Ashcraft - chemo

Charles Slaughter - cancer

Dan Norton - stroke recovery

CHURCH OFFERINGS:

July 5 - \$ 4416.80

July 12 - \$ 2431.30

July 19 - \$ 3506.05

July 26 - \$ 1387.00

Prayer Requests can be submitted and updated through the online Prayer card. Find it at rushvillechurchofchrist.com

