

The Christian and the World

The final word :-)

December 9, 2014

Dear friends in “The Christian and the World” Sunday School class,

This is a hard note to write. As you know, this was planned to be a full-year adult Sunday School class.

My original plan, outlined in the course syllabus, was to spend the first half, up to Christmas, on the biblical basis for the theme “*in* the world but not *of* the world.” After the holidays, I was planning to present guest speakers, from both the FPC membership and outside the church, to describe their challenges, successes and failures of living as a Christian in their particular “world.” I had even spoken to some of the potential speakers about their participation.

Unfortunately (or fortunately, actually), human plans are not necessarily the final plans. Since starting the class in September I have suffered what I call a relapse in my recovery from the back surgery I had at the end of 2013. At this point, my wife and I have been to New England Baptist Hospital in Boston three times for medical appointments and tests (MRI and EMG). The test results and a consultation with my neurologist indicate that further surgery is necessary, although I will not get the final word on that until December 17, when I meet with the surgeon who operated on my back last year.

The likelihood is that I would have to miss at least a month of classes in early 2015, and would find it very difficult to make firm arrangements for speakers and finish out the rest of the year. Rather than try to squeeze in a few classes and then be forced to stop, it seemed wiser to inform the Christian Education Committee of the problem early enough so that possibly another half-year class can be substituted for mine.

I am very sorry to disappoint you, especially those who urged me to teach again this year and who seemed to be very involved in what we’ve studied. But I believe I can count on your understanding and, of course, your prayers.

Who knows? Maybe I’m not completely “over the hill” yet!

With love and esteem,

Roland

P.S. We will be having our last class *next* Sunday, Dec. 21. Please come!