**Monday, January 12**

**Today’s Readings**
- Fee & Stuart, *The Need to Interpret* (in *DCM Reader*)
- Levinson, *Chance, Luck and Statistics*, Chapters 1 and 2

**Class**
- Devotions
- Quiz and Discussion
- Intro to Statistics (including taking some surveys)
- Preparing for Tomorrow (Cultural Mandate)

**Tuesday’s Readings**
- *DCM Reader* Chapter 3 Introduction
- Niebuhr, *Christ Against Culture*
- Clapp, *Why the Devil Takes VISA*

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**Introduction to Statistics**

**What is Statistics?**

See the course web page for several definitions, each of which shares four key components:
Outline of a Statistical Study

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

Three key measurement issues

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Getting Ready for Tomorrow’s Readings

1. This discussion item is intended to get you thinking about this issues of culture in the specific context of television.

   (a) Do you think television is inherently bad/evil? Can you imagine someone disagreeing with you? What would they say to you about this if you discussed it with them?

   (b) How would you characterize the influence of television as it actually exists?
   - on balance it is a negative influence
   - on balance it is a neutral influence
   - on balance it is a positive influence

   (c) What sorts of responses could Christians have toward television? How do you those responses relate to the assessment of television’s influence? other aspects of one’s world view?

2. What kind of music/movies/television shows/books should Christians buy/read/watch? Which answer comes closest to what you think?

   (a) You should fill your mind with the gospel. It’s OK to listen to any style of music so long as the message is Christian. But you should usually avoid purchasing and listening to music with a non-Christian message. The same goes for movies, TV, books, etc.

   (b) Christians are often too legalistic. They shouldn’t worry so much about what they can and can’t listen to. Some music is obviously bad, but a mature Christian can listen to most things and filter out what’s bad from what’s good. So listen to what you enjoy so long as it’s not too extreme. The same goes for movies, TV, books, etc.

   (c) You should listen to the best stuff: classical music and jazz, great novels, classic films, high-quality television. Popular culture has a little bit of good stuff, but most of its dreck. Avoid it. As a Christian, you should concentrate on the art and music that you know is good quality.

   (If you don’t like the answers above, how would you answer the question?)

3. North American society is rich compared to much of the rest of the world. There are lots of things we can buy and enjoy. Which of the following comes closest to what you think about that?

   (a) Christians ought to be stewardly with their money. When you buy homes or cars or televisions or clothes, don’t waste money buying the most expensive or stylish. Buy things which are useful and long-lasting. That way, you can save some of your money and give some away to those who have less.

   (b) Its not enough for Christians to be frugal. North American culture is way too materialistic, almost to the point of idolatry. Christians ought to live simpler. We don’t need so many big houses and gas-guzzling cars or expensive clothes or rich food. If we live more simply, we can live more spiritually, avoid some of the temptations of wealth, consume fewer natural resources, and have more to give to the poor.

   (c) Many Christians are too uptight about money. God has blessed our society with a lot of good things, and we shouldn’t begrudge those good gifts. Instead, we should work hard, enjoy the good things that God gives us, and be thankful for them.

   (If you don’t like the answers above, how would you answer the question?)
Looking Ahead

For Wednesday

- Readings:
  - Carlson, *The Truth, But not the Whole Truth*
  - King, *What Are They Thinking?*
  - Salsbury, *The Lady Tasting Tea*, Preface and Chapter 1

- Administer *A Little Survey* to at least two subjects. I’ll have you record the results in class Wednesday.

- Design two versions of a survey question intended to bias the responses in opposite directions. Then try it out on at least 20 subjects. Use a coin toss or some other random means to decide who gets asked which version of the question, but ask the same number of subjects each version so that the results are easy to compare.

Prepare a brief summary where you

- Give both versions of your question.
- Give the distribution of responses to each version of the question.
- Compare the two distributions and comment on them. Were they more similar or dissimilar than you expected? Did you learn anything else in the process?

This will be collected on Wednesday.

The Mission

- *The Mission* will be discussed in the plenary lecture and in the our section on Tuesday, January 17.

- Viewing times for *The Mission*
  - Friday, 1/13 7:30 PM. Commons Annex Lecture Hall (holds about 200 people)
  - Saturday, 1/14 2:30 PM. FAC Auditorium
  - Monday, 1/16 9:00 PM. FAC Auditorium

- Things to watch for in *The Mission* (suggested by Roy Anker, the plenary speaker for that day):
  - What does the waterfall symbolize in the movie?
  - There is very little dialogue in this film compared to other films. How does this film communicate story with images instead of words?
  - You might also like read *Redemptive Themes in ‘The Mission’* by Roy Anker (*DCM Reader*) before or after viewing the movie.