Thursday, January 11

Today’s Readings

• *Evangelical Climate Initiative*
• Film: *An Inconvenient Truth*
• Salsbury, *The Lady Tasting Tea*, Preface and Chapter 1
• Carlson, *The Truth, But not the Whole Truth*

Other Items Due Today

• Results of Little Survey
  – *During the break*, go to the course webpage and enter the data from your 3 little surveys.
  – You will need the numeric code on the bottom of the page to get started.
  – When asked for your section, enter dcm07 (no capitals).
  – Enter your name each time so that you get credit for doing the assignment.

• Results of biased question survey.

Class

• Devotions
• Quiz
• Discussion of film, readings
• Preparation for tomorrow/Monday
• More Probability Problems (as time allows)
Discussion Questions

1. You are driving on the highway. The speed limit is 70 mph.

   (a) How fast do you usually drive? (Perhaps imagine you have cruise control, what speed do you set it for?)

   (b) Does it matter whether you are on a long trip or a short trip?

   (c) Now imagine you are driving down the highway (at the speed indicated above) and you see a police car half hidden to the side of the roadway up ahead. What is your initial reaction? Why?

   (d) You continue driving. In the last half hour you have seen several cars pulled over by police officers. Does this effect your driving?

2. 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) It’s not enough for Christians to be frugal. North American culture is way too materialistic, almost to the point of idolatry. Christians ought to live more simply. 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. We should also give to the poor, of course, but that shouldn’t preclude us from enjoying our material blessings at the same time.

   (d) Our wealth comes at the expense of other people groups. By accepting this wealth, we are condoning the evil actions of corporations and governments that take advantage of these other groups for their own (and our own) benefit. There is not much difference between the current situation and the practice of slavery in the first century of our country – except that our “slaves” are half-way around the world, so we can choose to ignore them more easily. We need to actively protest against this or future generations will look back at our complacency they way we look back at those who did not fight against slavery in this country or against Hitler in Germany.

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

Readings

- Plantinga, Ch. 4, *Redemption*
- *DCM Reader* Chapter 3 Introduction
- Garber, *To See What You See*
- Clapp, *Why the Devil Takes VISA*
- Niebuhr, *Christ Against Culture*
- Film: *Darwin’s Nightmare*
- Film: *The Mission*
  - Anker, *The Jesuits and the Guarani*
  - Anker, *Redemptive Themes in the Mission* (optional)

Things to Watch For

- Things to watch for in *The Mission* (suggested by Roy Anker)
  - 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 the optional reading *Redemptive Themes in ‘The Mission’* by Roy Anker (*DCM Reader*) before or after viewing the movie.

Response

1. Make good reading notes for the Niebuhr reading. These should be typed and clearly indicate the structure of the argument he is making.

2. Write a written essay (max 2 pages) responding to one of the following:
   
   (a) Why is it that, today, many people “naturally” jump at the opportunity to make more money by working longer hours? Do you think, like Clapp, that this is, in fact, an unnatural way to respond?

   (b) In what ways, according to Clapp, has Protestant (even Calvinist) Christianity served to enable consumerism? Do you agree with his assessment? Is the pursuit of pleasure for its own sake one of the sicknesses of our culture?

   (c) Clapp speaks of Christians “beginning the resistance.” What does such resistance entail? How, following the ideas of opening plenary session, can one’s education contribute? Must the resistance entail a withdrawal from culture?