

THE STEWARDSHIP PAPERS

This paper was originally published on May 22, 1979. Even so, it's amazing to me how apropos it is with regard the "direction" that the Episcopal Church has taken during the last couple of weeks. Therefore, if they say to you that it is OK to go against

"...the laws, customs and rules which Yahweh laid down between himself and the sons of Israel on Mount Sinai through the mediation of Moses," [Lv. 26:46],

do not go there; for Jesus said

"I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, not one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved." [Matt. 5:18]

August 13, 2003.

In the Direction Of...

Once upon a time, not so very long ago, a grandmother visited the Washington Cathedral; and while she was there, she purchased a cross for her young grandchild to hang in his room. Now, this was no "ordinary" cross, for it was made in Bethlehem; and the grandmother suspected that it might even be made from an olive tree...So a great "ta-do" was made over it when it was presented to the child, until finally he lay it on a pile of clothes and went out to play. And there it stayed for a long, long time...until, finally, his fairy godmother took it (and the pile of clothes) up the stairs to put it away.

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"Where shall we hang this?" she asked the child. "Over the bed?...It'd look pretty on this wall..."

But the child took the cross and slowly walked around the room. Finally, he looked at his fairy godmother and asked, "Where is Bethlehem?"; and she answered, "What do you mean?"

"Where is it from here?" asked the child.

And the fairy godmother thought for a moment and said, "It's in the East...towards the rising sun."

And the child took the cross and hung it on the eastern wall and said, "Then that's where the cross should be...closest to Jesus."

"So if they say to you, 'Lo, he is in the wilderness,' do not go out; if they say, 'Lo, he is in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of man."

[Matthew 24: 26-27]

So they all turned...like the little child...in the direction of the rising Son, for

"I am the light of the world" [John 8:12]

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said Jesus; and, therefore, they lived happily ever after.

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