

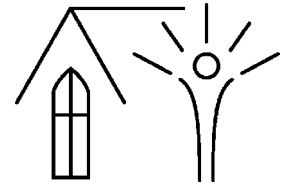


ROSELLE
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Our Mission Statement:

*"To Know Christ,
To Grow in Christ,
To Show Others Christ"*



March 26, 2006

“Weird Laws”

John 3:14-21

Reverend Thomas Kim

You always obey the law, right? You follow the rules and respect police officers. However, there are quite a few old, outdated, or unusual laws that are still on the books in various states. Here is a sampling of America’s weirdest laws.

In Alaska, “You can’t wake up a sleeping bear to take its picture.

In Florida, “Unmarried women may not parachute on Sundays.”

In Hawaii, “No placing coins in your ears.”

In Idaho, “You can’t fish from the back of a camel.”

In Houston, Texas, “You can’t sell Limburger cheese on Sunday.”

In Lexington, Kentucky, “You can’t carry an ice cream cone in your pocket.”

In Marion, Ohio, “You can’t eat a donut and walk backward on a city street.”

In Myrtle Creek, Oregon, “No boxing with kangaroos.”

In New Orleans, Louisiana, “You may not tie an alligator to a fire hydrant.”

In Wynona, Oklahoma, “You can’t wash your clothes in a birdbath.”

In Oklahoma, “You can’t sleep on a refrigerator outdoors.” The weirdest law of all is the following one, “Whaling is illegal,” because there aren’t any oceans, let alone any whales in Oklahoma. ([Scholastic Book of Lists](#))

Most odd laws are just old laws that haven’t been repealed.

I think I shared this story before about my own experience in this country. When I came to this country in November of 1987, I stayed with my parents for awhile. After we went to church, my brothers and sister gathered at my parents’ house, and we had lunch together. We usually watched the Bears game together during and after lunch.

In Korea I heard that American Football was weird, much different from football which we in America call soccer. The weirdest part of the game happened after a kicker made a field goal. Behind the goal post, a person was holding a sign, Jn 3:16. I asked my brother who had come in America 10 years before than I, “What is Jn 3:16?” He laughed and said, “3 is the number of points the kicker receives for getting the ball between the two bars. 6 is the points for a touch down, and 1 point if the kicker makes an extra kick after a touch down.” I replied, “Hmm, that’s weird. I thought it was 3.16, like the point system for diving.” Then he laughed so hard that his face turned really red, as he couldn’t control himself.

After he settled down, my brother, Tony, told me, “Bro, I am sorry, I was joking, it was not related to the game at all. Actually it is an action of an aggressive American Christian’s evangelism.” “What? I don’t get it. Why is that so?” He said, “Jn is for The Gospel of John, and 3:16 is Chapter 3 verse 16. Most Americans know it, so the guy believes the sign could bring people to Christ.”

Let me read it again, “*For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.*” I believe that it explains to us one of the weirdest laws in the Bible that we should remember. How could we be saved because a person died two thousands years ago? How could it be relevant for us today? The problem we might have is we stop there at the verse 16. However, we have to continue reading the rest of the passage. When we read John 3:16, we must also read verse 17 as well because it tells us the purpose of God’s mission. They are matching verses. Verse 17 lets us know why God sent the Son. “*Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to*

condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." It is weird. God does not want to punish us as many Christians think, but wants to save us. The purpose of God's mission is to save us.

One of toughest news we have today is about Abdul Rahman, a 41 year-old-Afghanistan. He faces death because of his faith in Christ, the weirdest law of God's love for us.

As you know I just came back from my trip to N. Korea yesterday with five other clergy members and three lay members. Six out of nine had family members or relatives in N. Korea. During our mission trip, we had a short meditation in the morning.

Two days later we arrived in Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea, Rev. Yeo, from Atlanta, Georgia shared with us an incredible story. He is originally from N. Korea. As he finished his elementary school in 1951, he got the best graduation test score in the county, and he was honored to take a trip to Pyongyang, and Mount Myo-hyang since he was one of the best students. However, he was denied to be part of the trip because he was a Christian which was a bad credential. And he and his family escaped to S. Korea later.

He said, "God brought me to Pyongyang where I was denied to go fifty-five years ago, and God led me to Mount Myo-Hyang as well." That's God's patience for me, that's God's mystery for me, that's God's incredible gift for me. I give thanks and praise for that. I worship God, and praise God in Pyongyang where I escaped for my religious freedom. That's God's weird love and grace." It is weird love of God he said.

He shared his testimony with tears. As I heard his testimony, we all were in tears. It was a sad story, but we could see hope for the future. He said, though he hates his home country, though he was a victim of the communist government, he praises God now, because he knows love of Christ, because he knows God loves the world even North Korea. Jesus says the weirdest law of God this morning, "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." Rev. Lee knows the weirdest law of God. When we know God's purpose for us, there is hope.

In the Voice of the People section of the *Chicago Tribune*, (March 10, 2003) I read a story of hope written by a grandfather.

"I was sitting on a park bench, looking out at my grandson playing. His words were all too familiar: "I will get you, bad man-zap, zap, zap."

I drifted back in time: "I'll get you, Black Bart-bang, bang, bang." "This is my planet, you bad man-zap, zap, zap."

"This is my town, Black Bart-bang, bang, bang." Since the beginning of man, it has been bang, bang, bang, or zap, zap, zap. I smiled at him when he came my way.

"What is your name?"

"It's Space Ranger. I am here to protect you from the bad guys," he replied.

"Did you kill all the bad guys with your ray gun?" I asked.

"Gee, Grandpa, don't you know? Old people's guns kill. My gun turns bad men into good ones."

(Lou Novinson, Oak Lawn)

I don't know if the boy knew John 3:16 and 17, but I can say we can see the hope for the future from him. God wants to save us. The purpose of God's mission is to save us.

Know God's weirdest law from John 3:16 & 17. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." Amen.