The Burden of the Anti-Christ 2024 0524 Thomas R. Cuba

I've written recently about the concept and reality of the Anti-Christ. There are many theories and many prophecies. There is even one religious order that claims that the Pope is the Anti-Christ. For myself, that might be a bit of a stretch, especially since we keep getting a new one. But the concept that the Papacy is the Anti-Christ is actually somewhat consistent with my thoughts as expressed in *The Anti-Christ*¹.

In order for the Anti-Christ to succeed, he must remove our ability to engage our free will. One of the core concepts of Christianity is that it is the choices that we make which make us either more Christ-like or less so. These arise from Free Will. In Christianity, we get to choose to do the right thing or the selfish thing, because that choice expresses and exposes who we are as a person. And that choice, that person, is the reason God chooses us to live with Him in eternity. That choice must come from the core of our being, not from some accountant's ledger of our life.

So, to undermine Christ, the Anti-Christ must eliminate Free Will. One tactic to do that is to make us more and more reliant on others and less reliant on ourselves. I view free lunches for school kids and free grocery vouchers for seniors as a tactic in that strategy. Everything that is offered to us for free reduces our reliance on ourselves, our families, our friends, and on our faith.

With each governmental free service comes a loss of independence, a loss of self-reliance, and, eventually, a loss of self. With free lunches for kids, we lose the ability to choose what our children will have for lunch. With free allotments for food for seniors, we lose the ability to eat what we want. Those programs come with a restriction on what food a senior can purchase. The government decides what is healthy. With free health care, we lose the ability to choose which doctor to see and we could eventually also lose the ability to have the free care. If we eat the wrong food, the government might cancel our insurance just as it cancels our home insurance if we don't have the right kind of roof.

With free cell phones, comes the fact that we accept the phone that is supplied along with the features and apps installed. Free bus passes allow us to get around town, but we will naturally patronize stores close to the stops, limiting our choices.

The strategy of the Anti-Christ becomes clear when this is understood. When we are deprived of, or talked out of, making our own choices, we are no longer the builder of our own character.

¹ https://tomcuba.net/images/The_Anti-Christ.pdf